

## Work Experience

Dear Parents/Careers,

One of the topics of national debate over the last eighteen months has been the role of 'Work Experience' in students' education. Over the last few years, all schools were required to ensure that all students received a minimum of one week's 'Work Experience'. This meant that each student would be placed with a local employer and would undertake a range of duties and activities designed to give them a flavour of 'working life' in a particular profession or field of employment.

The government's recently commissioned 'Wolf Report' suggested that a 'Work Experience' programme would actually be more productive for the vast majority of students and better educationally if placed in the 16 – 19 phase of education. All schools have also had to manage the economic realities of a significant cut in funding for 'Work Experience' and a fourfold rise in the direct cost to schools per student for facilitating a 'Work Experience' placement.

Along with all schools nationally we have had to look at how to address the needs of students, whilst working with significantly reduced funds. For the foreseeable future we are not offering 'Work Experience' placements for an entire year group. We are directing available funds to supporting students' education that would most benefit from some skill and experience development beyond the school curriculum. At the same time we are looking to develop links with local employers, businesses and industry to help secure substantive 'Apprenticeship' programmes, which we hope will serve our students' needs in relation to gaining long term employment and career progression. We are working with the local MP, Fiona Bruce, to help to strengthen the provision we can offer in this area.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss this matter.

Mr A. Turner

Careers Coordinator