



Diocese of St. Albans



ST MARY'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

26th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a pleasure, during the week before half term holiday, to hear about the many successes our Year 10 students, your children, had during our Work Experience Week.

Work Experience is not a requirement of schools now, and many do not do it because of the cost. I am proud that we give the young people a chance to experience something of work life and see this as an important part of 'education' in its widest sense.

Some of the comments that the young people made on work experience were:

- 'It improved my organisation skills'
- 'My confidence is building daily'
- 'I gained a lot more independence'
- 'I learned about school from an adult's perspective'
- 'I am more open minded and interact much better with other year groups'

One young person commented that Work Experience 'made me realise I need to work harder at school to get a good job and not end up in a boring job'. Whilst I would not want this to be the *only* lesson a young person takes away from the process, Work Experience can be a salutary lesson in the realities of work and strengthen the link between education and career in a way we cannot do at school or at home!

The employers were equally positive, with just a few of the quotes being:

- 'A pleasure to have in our branch...very engaging and has a lovely way about him. He was inquisitive and keen to grow his knowledge, always showing interest and understanding'
- 'I would happily take them on if they were applying for a job.'
- 'They have done everything asked of them without complaint'
- 'Extremely pleased with their attitude and performance'
- '...has been very polite and hardworking'
- 'Excellent work ethic'
- '...has been a real asset to this work placement'
- 'They have settled in and I would love to give them a job after this placement'

Take some time to talk with your son/daughter about their experiences on their work placement and let them know how pleased and proud I am of their achievements.

They are back in school now and we are mindful that they have just over a year to their GCSEs. On Monday next week we have a group called Positively Mad (www.positivelymad.com/Secondary) coming in to run workshops with the Year 10 students. We have previously run these with Year 11's, but are very keen to invest the money in the Year 10 students at an earlier stage to help them.

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Head Teacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

'A good school' Ofsted May 2018
'An outstanding church school' SIAMS May 2015

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Mr Flores has organised Form Time sessions this half term to be focused on developing revision skills and giving the students time to do some revision in preparation for the Year 10 examinations. The revision skills will be directly picked up from the Positively Mad workshops on Monday. Again, please talk to your son/daughter after the session on Monday and over the coming weeks to keep the revision techniques, as well as the need to revise, alive in their minds.

We expect great things from the students in Year 10 and the experiences over the last few weeks has only strengthened that expectation. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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