



Fitzwaryn School

Pathway through life newsletter

Term: Summer 2023

Edition Number: 1

What a wonderful year we have had at Fitzwaryn School this year. Our Pathway Through Life curriculum has really taken off, and we have had a wonderful first full year including pupils going off on various work placements. It is fantastic to see the pupils participating regularly in diverse and interesting work placements across our region. As ever, we would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved with our programme, without whom none of what we do would be possible. We look forward to working with many of you in the new school year, and equally would love to hear from any businesses who are interested in working with us going forward. We hope you all have a wonderful Summer!

For the first time in many years this year, some of our Year IIs went out for a full week of work experience in Term 5. Lucy went to the Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. She was asked to muck out stables, feed the donkeys, weed the public paths and she learnt how to put on a bridle. Lucy says "It was so amazing and I learnt so much!"



Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary: [Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary \(donkeyrescue.co.uk\)](https://www.donkeyrescue.co.uk/)

ACS Construction: [Our work | ACS Construction Group | UK](#)

We are delighted to be working with ACS Construction Site on the new Kingsgrove development for the first time. Charlotte and Rio were supported by Lee to run health and safety checks across the site for a whole week, and they absolutely loved it! *"Charlotte and Rio were both courteous and polite and pleasure to have on site. Their enthusiasm, and attention to detail was second to none! Charlotte and Rio assisted me with site inspections, daily checks and site admin. They picked up whatever I asked of them straight away and to be honest made my working day a little bit easier"*



Pine Class visited a Volkswagen garage for their employer encounter in Term 2. They were able to go to the workshop, had a tour of the different departments and had the opportunity to ask the staff different questions about their jobs. The pupils engaged really well with this and loved the opportunity to go under a car and have a go at aligning the wheels.

The pupils say:

"I remember that day and had so much fun. I loved going under the cars!"

"It was the biggest garage I have ever been to!"



We started our new Work Experience model this year, and this included internal work experience for our Year 10s. For 2 hours, every Monday for 4 weeks, Year 10s have been visiting different areas of the school to take part in Work Experience. They have been TAs, Site Managers and Office Staff! We would like to say a huge thank you to the following staff members for helping to support our young people in their pathway through life learning. They are:

- Alison Brennan (Office)
- Jo Evans (Office)
- Dawn Broughton (Finance)
- Mike Charlton (Site Manager)
- Becky Allen (Teacher)
- Orsi Winton (Teacher)
- Louise Cobb (Teacher)
- Rachel Wenham (Teacher)



Pupils in Maple and Beech had a fun day in Term 4 with Mrs Bun the Baker! She came into school and the pupils made cheese scones and raisin bread. They had so much fun, and I think the footprints of flour from the cookery room back to the classrooms said it all!



We are always happy to introduce new organisations to our programme, and this year we would like to say a huge thank you to Martin Dobinson, and primary schools in Longworth, Ashbury and Faringdon. Martin comes into Fitzwaryn every Friday and is a sports coach. He leads sessions with the Senior School and is a firm favourite with our pupils! Martin's support increased when he offered us a work experience placement for Ben. They travelled around the county to visit the primary schools with Martin, and taught younger pupils different sports, such as Cricket, Basketball and Tennis! We are grateful to everyone involved who helped to support Ben have such a brilliant week!

The pupils asked where Ben was when Martin returned the following week.

The head of one of the primary schools said "Ben is welcome back to join us again at anytime!"



Leonardo Royal Hotel were another organisation who jumped at the opportunity to support our work experience week this year. We had 3 boys go there from Year 11 for the week, Joseph, Thomas, and Liam. They all had a mixture of activities to complete through the week including, guest relations, being on reception, setting up the conference rooms, clearing the conference rooms, cleaning up after breakfast, setting the tables ready for dinner and even got the opportunity to work in the coffee shop! They all learnt so much!

"It was a pleasure having Thomas, Liam and Joseph at our hotel for work experience. Their enthusiasm, passion for learning and excitement about our operations was infectious and had such a positive impact on our teams. On behalf of Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford, we would like to thank them and wish them all the best with their future aspirations."



Volkswagen Garage (Didcot): [Marshall Volkswagen \(South Oxford\)](#) | [Volkswagen UK](#)

Mrs Bun the Baker: [Cookery Classes](#) | [Mrs Bun the Baker Cookery School](#) | [Oxfordshire](#) | [Online](#)

Martin Dobinson: [Martin Dobinson - Owner - MJD Coaching @ Fitness](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Leonardo Royal Hotel: [Oxford Hotels](#) | [Hotels in Oxford City Centre](#) | [Leonardo Hotels](#)

Over the last decade, the Skills Builder approach has transformed the teaching of essential skills in education systems and classrooms across the world. Essential skills like communication, collaboration, creative problem solving, and self-management having long been called for. New evidence shows that these skills unlock learning in the classroom, boosting academic outcomes, perseverance, and self-belief. They halve the likelihood of being out of work and increase earnings across a lifetime. They even boost wellbeing and life satisfaction. This year, Fitzwaryn were awarded the Silver Award for all the work we have done towards embedding Skills Builder within our curriculum. The pupils work on the essential skills termly, and we even share work related to the specific skill we are working on, in assembly. There are 8 skills in total.



Pupils focus on these skills during the school day across a variety of lessons. It has been really successful, and we will continue to build the pupils skills to enhance their chances of employability.

As previously mentioned we started our new Work Experience model this year, and this also included internal work shadowing for our Year 9s. Year 9s spent an hour with someone within the school, and got to see what their job entailed, and had a go at some different activities too. The pupils took part in learning walks, filing invoices, photocopying, inputting data, making phone calls and in the school kitchen! We would like to say a huge thank you to those that supported the Year 9 Work Shadow Day and they were:

- Mike Charlton (Site Manager)
- Alison Brennan (Office Staff)
- Dawn Broughton (Finance)
- Clare Offill (Admin)
- Tracy Gardiner (Deputy Head)
- Chris Slatter (Deputy Head)
- Stephanie Coneboy (Headteacher)
- Jo Lambert (Catering Manager)



Enterprise in the Student Centre – written by the Student Centre.

This year we have been really busy with our Enterprise projects, and we would like to share them with you.

Hanging Baskets:

We started the year with making hanging baskets to sell. We had to send out order forms and work out how many plants, compost, hanging baskets we would need. We went out and bought the things we needed. We then followed instructions to make the hanging baskets. We also made summer hanging baskets. This time we worked well as a team and followed instructions really well. We really enjoyed making the hanging baskets. You can see how good they look as we made the ones that are hanging outside the Pupil Entrance. They will be on sale next year.

Present Palace:

At Christmas we asked for donations of unwanted gifts, we then set up a present palace and pupils came and chose a present for a family member. We then wrapped the presents and wrote a tag for them. It was very popular, and we made lots of money for the RNLI.

Coffee Morning:

On the last Friday of every month, we run a coffee morning. We make cakes and sell them. We invite parents, carers and families. We charge £2.50 for a drink and a slice of cake. They are always very busy. When we run the coffee morning, we always have different jobs that we have to do.

Park Run:

When Fitzwaryn took over the Grove Park Run, we ran a cake store. We made lots of different cakes and the enterprise was really successful. The cakes we made and sold were lemon drizzle, tray bakes, loaf cakes, brownies and lots more. We made £400.

Enterprise Challenge:

We took part in an Enterprise Challenge. Gill came in who runs her own candle company. She made different candles and fragrance sprays and melts; we did not know what the fragrances were. We had to then guess different smells. We then had to think of a name, and a tag line for it. We planned an advert for our product. We really enjoyed the experience it was great fun.

We have developed our Skill Builder skills: listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership and teamwork in all our Enterprise projects.



Year 11s have been doing weekly Work Experience since January. They are all doing so well! Xander is working at Wantage Library and is now able to return books and find books which have been requested independently. Ella is at the Down to Earth community cafe where not only is she helping to prep food she is learning to use the coffee machine, serve customers and use the till. Skye is working at headmasters' hairdressers and her confidence is building every week! She washes client's hair, uses the till and supports the hairdressers whilst they cut and colour. They should all be so proud of themselves, just as we are of them!



Senior School trip to London – written by Senior School

On Wednesday 21st June, we went on a trip to London. We all got on the minibus and Mr sharp drove us to Reading train station. We had to use a lot of escalators to get to the platform, which was a lot of fun! We then took the Elizabeth Line from Reading to Whitechapel, this took around an hour. Whitechapel was extraordinarily busy as there was a market and lots of people! Our walk to the BT office took us around 25 mins. This is when our adventure really got exciting! When we all saw the BT office, we were amazed. It looked incredible! Mrs Taylor's sister, Morag, met us at reception and took us to the 15th floor to have our lunch. We got to go out on the balcony to look at the view. We saw the The Shard, The Gherkin and The Walkie Talkie! After lunch, Morag took us to a meeting room. We sat at a huge table with spinning chairs. We then took it turns to share our presentations and take part in mock interviews. We also got to meet a lovely lady called Julie, who was talking to us via zoom from Belfast! To finish our day, Morag took us on a tour around the building and we went to the 18th Floor, the views were amazing! On our way down, we got to travel in a glass elevator!! We had the best day and would love to do it again!



Down to Earth Community Café: down.to.earth (downtoearthcafe.co.uk)

Wantage Library: [Wantage Library | Oxfordshire County Council](http://WantageLibrary.OxfordshireCountyCouncil)

Headmasters Hairdressers: [Headmaster - Home](http://Headmaster-Home) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/headmastershairdressers)

We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our Pathway through Life curriculum through educational visits, virtual/face-to-face meetings, guest speakers and work experience opportunities.

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to get involved with us and our Pathway through Life curriculum, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more or if you have any questions.

Hannah Gordon – Careers Leader – h.gordon@fitzwarryn.oxon.sch.uk

Naomi Rudman – Work Experience Co-ordinator – nrud9397@fitzwarryn.oxon.sch.uk

Telephone: 01235 764504

Pathway through life – Recent Participants and Supporters



JOB COACHES!

We are also hoping to support our young people to start participating in Supported Internships.

What is a Supported Internship?

Supported internships are a structured, work-based study programme for 16 to 24-year-olds with SEND, who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. The core aim of a supported internship study programme is a substantial work placement, facilitated by the support of an expert job coach.

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for a team of people to become job coaches for our young people. We can offer you:

- A flexible approach
- A chance to be part of a great team
- Training to support our young people into the workplace within our communities

We need you to have:

- Empathy, but not an understanding of what it entails. We will provide all the relevant support.

If you think you have what it takes, or would like more information then please contact either the school office at: office.7027@fitzwarryn.oxon.sch.uk or Hannah Gordon at: h.gordon@fitzwarryn.oxon.sch.uk

**Supported
Internships**