

# News Update

# Enfield Work Experience



**Enfield Work Experience** continues to enjoy increasing demands for its services. The need for conventional two week work experience for 14-16 year old students is ongoing and the area of specialised work experience is growing.

Many vocational courses now require one day a week extended work experience. Examples of vocational courses that we have supported this year include:

- BTEC 1st Creative and Media
- GCSE Health and Social Care
- GCSE Leisure and Tourism
- BTEC 1st Diploma in Business
- BTEC Performing Arts

Despite the demand for work experience we are not complacent and are always looking for ways to improve our service. You can read about some of our new initiatives overleaf.

## Who Are We Working With?

We work with 15 secondary schools, 4 special schools and Southgate and Enfield Colleges. Our team's expertise is widely recognised and this year Latymer School asked us to carry out the health and safety visits for their work experience programme.

The newly formed College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London have approached us to help them deliver their Young Apprentice programme next year.

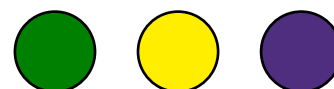
Another new course we supported was the Team Programme - a 12 week Prince's Trust course for unemployed 16-25 year olds that includes two weeks' work experience.

Central Michigan University returned to us for the 3rd year running to organise their Student Placement programme. 15 final year teaching students came from the USA to spend 6 weeks gaining experience in schools in Enfield.

Enfield Youth Support Service asked us to provide work training placements for young people as part of the September Guarantee programme. One participant's placement led to full time employment.



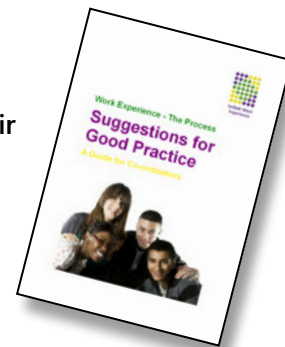
Prince's Trust



## Co-ordinating Our Co-ordinators

In May we organised an event to give school and college co-ordinators the opportunity to come together and share good practice on how they organise their work experience.

Members of the Enfield Work Experience team led group discussions and the results were fed back into a Guide of Good Practice which was distributed to all co-ordinators. The event was very popular and productive so a follow up event is planned for next year.



## Entertaining Our Employers

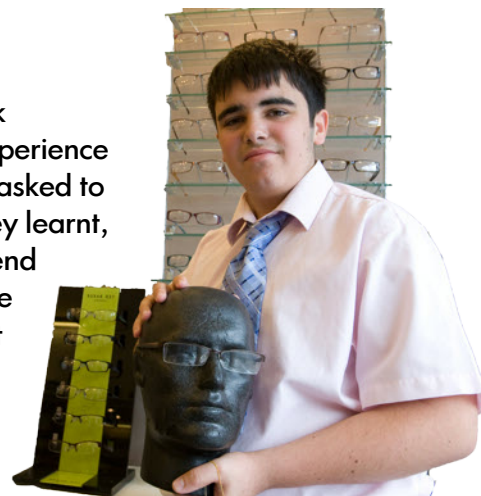
In line with the 'recruit, retain, relationship, reward' model of employer engagement, we wanted to reward our best employers who had consistently taken students on work experience and create an opportunity for them to meet the team at our offices.

During our workplace visits we had identified a need for more trained First Aiders, so as a reward to our employers and to improve the safety of our students we offered free First Aid training for the workplace. This proved more popular than we expected and a number of extra sessions had to be booked. Employers were invited to Enfield Business Centre for the training and it was a good opportunity for them to network and meet the work experience team. We are planning to offer a more advanced two day First Aid training course next year.



## Listening to Our Students

We began a pilot project this year to get students' views of their work placements. When the students returned to school from their work experience we provided the co-ordinators with evaluation cards. Students were asked to rate their placement in terms of the friendliness of staff, how much they learnt, how interesting the placement was and whether they would recommend it to other students. We were encouraged to read one student enthuse "It was the best week of my life!". We don't expect them all to be that positive but the feedback we are getting is really valuable so we plan to roll it out to more schools.



## Getting a Life



The Life Channel is a community TV Network installed in a growing number of schools. Dedicated screens are installed around the school delivering a combination of health and community messages along with content generated by the school itself. Enfield Work Experience is piloting a trial to use this channel to remind students to contact employers and arrange an interview before their work experience begins. We have produced a short video message which will be played at regular intervals in the school during the month leading up to students going out on their placement.