

Year 6 Workshadowing Project 2016

What is Workshadowing?

It is an opportunity for pupils to go to work with a parent/guardian or family relative or friend for a day and get a real-life insight into the world of work. The job they workshadow can be anything from window cleaning to accountancy, broadcasting on a radio station to flying to a law meeting at the other end of the country, training with a fire crew to a day with a vet – whatever is involved in a day of work.

Why Workshadow?

Pupils get a hands on experience of the world of work away from the classroom environment. Workshadowing encourages pupils to appreciate the distance people have to travel to work, the inter-relationships formed in a business environment, the variety of skills that a job requires and how technology is applied. After a day of workshadowing, pupils frequently comment that they would rather go to *school* than go to work!

Aims and Objectives:

The main aims and objectives of workshadowing are for pupils to:

- Appreciate what is involved in a day of work.
- Recognise the importance of self-organisational skills.
- Engage with a new initiative across all the schools, “Learning Habits” and “Language for Learning”.
- Recognise how work in the classroom relates to developing their academic and personal skills for future employment.
- Form an appreciation of the different vocational areas within the world of work.
- Recognise the importance of recording activities to assist in preparing reports and exhibition materials.

Workshadowing will also:

- Encourage pupil/parent communication in career development.
- Support Year 6 pupils in preparing them for the transition to secondary school.
- Assist teachers in keeping up- to- date with vocational areas and skills in the world of work.

How does it work? – Five phases:

1. **Preparing and planning the day** – The key to workshadowing success is in the preparation. Make sure you give your child a taster of as many aspects of your job as possible. Prepare a programme for the day and discuss the tasks that you will be working on with your child in advance. It might also be useful to have a colleague on standby in case something unexpected disrupts the day. Remind your child that a working day is longer than a school day.
2. **Workshadowing Day** – Encourage your child to jot down as many details of the day as possible and include information about what tasks they did, where they went for lunch, what they ate, how they were feeling, who they sat with, people they spoke with, and how they travelled to work. Photos can act as a good visual reminder, so encourage children to take photos during the day. A diary and questionnaire are provided as support material for your child.
3. **After the day** – Each pupil prepares a storyboard (size A1 – Portrait) reflecting their experience of the day. Check with your school (before the day) if this will be an in class or a home activity. Whichever approach your school adopts, it is important that soon after the day,

you set aside some time to talk to your child about the day. This will help them in preparing their story board.

4. **Coming together at Tring School** – All participating pupils come to Tring School for a morning prior to the Exhibition evening. Here they get the opportunity to sit with pupils from another school and work with staff from Tring School on several additional activities designed to explore their understanding of their experience. They will be asked to draw a poster reflecting their understanding of one of the “Learning Habits”. Prizes are awarded during the Exhibition evening for the best fifteen posters. Staff from the primary schools will mount pupils’ storyboards on display panels ready for viewing on the Exhibition/ Presentation evening at Tring School.
5. **Exhibition/Presentation Evening** – Pupils, parents and staff are invited to Tring School to view the Exhibition. Following the exhibition pupils from each school will give an oral presentation reflecting their experiences of workshadowing. These presentations are the highlight of the evening, the creativity and delivery is truly outstanding. All pupils will be presented with a certificate on the evening to acknowledge their participation and act as a reminder of their workshadowing day.

Handy hints and tips:

Try and stick to the programme – that way everyone knows where they are. Take your child on a tour of your place of work and introduce them to some of your colleagues – children are very curious about where their parents/guardian work. Encourage your child to ask questions, make notes and collect leaflets and handy items to use when making their ‘storyboard’. They will also have been given a diary to complete, so make sure they have enough time to fill it in. Ensure they are not exposed to any hazards. Above all, try and make the day interesting, hands on and fun.

Documents:

- Participation letter
- Employers notes – aims and objectives
- Check list of employer risks covered

Schedule for the project

- Monday 19th September Workshadowing Information evening for parents
6-7 pm Desborough Hall.
- Monday 24th October to
Friday 28th October Workshadowing Day during half term.
- Monday 21st November Coming together at Tring School
Desborough Hall, Tring School Session for students and year 6 teachers.
Session from 1-3 pm
- Tuesday 22nd November Exhibition/Presentation Evening at
Desborough Hall, Tring School Tring School – presentation of
7 to 9pm certificates and prizes (students and parents)