



# Sandwell Academy

Employers' Newsletter

June 2018 Issue 1.

*Circulated to over a hundred businesses across the region*

## Introduction from the Headteacher

I am extremely proud to introduce you to the first edition of our Employers' Newsletter, sharing the outstanding partnerships that we have with both local and national employers. Sandwell Academy has always taken great pride in the relationships developed with industry that enable our students to maximise the skills and qualities that they can develop to ensure that they are work ready. We are always looking for new opportunities to work with employers to maximise our business links and enhance our students' experience in the world of work.

## Message from Careers

This is a truly exciting time in the world of careers, with the launch of the National Careers Strategy in December 2017 heavily citing the strong links needed between education and employers to ensure that students are ready for work. Here at Sandwell Academy, we have a strong history of employer engagement, working with both local and national businesses to ensure that our students have a broad and varied careers curriculum. We are continually working hard to build on our existing links with business to increase the opportunities for our students.

## Employer Activities This Year

During the academic year there have been a variety of employer engagement activities taking place, some at the Academy and others off-site. Here are a few examples of the organisations that have been involved in a wide range of trips and projects;

**A.F. Blakemore & Son Ltd** are one of the largest and most forward-thinking family-owned businesses in the UK, they are a marketing-leading retailer, wholesaler and distributor of food and drink.

A F Blakemore & Son worked with the Year 7 students as part of **National Road Safety** week during November to highlight the dangers when crossing the roads. Students were made aware of the "blindspots" on Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) vehicles and how to keep themselves safe especially when travelling to and from school. The students also took part in a workshop where they designed a road safety poster to highlight the dangers



**KPMG** are a global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory Services.

Two "Cyber Champions" from the Birmingham office of KPMG visited the Academy to deliver an interactive session to Year 7 students on the dangers of social media and online gaming. The session was part of their e-safety learning safety workshops being offered to schools. The students left the session with a greater understanding of both topics, not only gaining a wealth of new knowledge to help keep them safe online but also increasing their understanding of careers within the professional services sector.



## Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospital

A group of students from the Academy visited City Hospital for a Healthcare Science taster day. The day was fantastic and provided students with invaluable information and insight into Science based careers. In the morning students took part in a Science 'Speed dating!' Session. This was an opportunity to find out more and ask questions about the various departments including: Respiratory Physiology, Radiopharmacy Neurophysiology, Nuclear Medicine, Medical Engineering, Cardiac Physiology, Audiology, Pathology and GI Physiology

Sandwell and West  
Birmingham Hospitals   
NHS Trust

# Employer Spotlight

Dave Salt

## Sandwell Council Neighbourhoods Co-ordinator

**How have you been involved with Sandwell Academy?** For the last 8 years I've been working with the Careers Team at the Academy. I have been offering work experience placements for Year 10's and 12's and also delivering careers workshops with Year 10's both at school and on site.

**Why do you and your organisation get involved?** We have a corporate and a moral responsibility to help and support all Sandwell schools and their pupils in as many positive ways as possible. We also feel that the support we give at this point will hopefully help pupils make positive life choices and help them contribute to the Sandwell community. And it's part of my job and I absolutely love doing it.

**What would your advice be to other organisations considering engaging with the Academy?** The schools in Sandwell have a difficult job in tackling a number of issues including deprivation and worklessness. Getting the balance right between attaining good levels of qualifications and helping the students to become "work ready" is very difficult. Sandwell Academy, in my opinion, are doing it right and if more organisations were to get involved then this would only improve.

A full version can be found on the Academy website in the Careers section



## Volunteers – We Need You at Sandwell Academy

There are a number of ways to support the staff and students including:

- **Mock Interviews**
- **CV Workshops**
- **Work Experience Placements** for Year 10 and Year 12 students
- **Dragons Den** -  
*these can take place at the Academy or the Businesses premises when students will pitch their ideas to a panel of judges as a part of their Business course*
- **Inspirational Speakers**
- **Curriculum linked projects** -  
*help students to explore and respond to a problem or a challenge over an extended period of time*
- **Curriculum linked workshops** -  
*support the staff to enhance their lessons by supporting a workshop related to your Industry.*

## Upcoming Events

The next Employers' Breakfast will take place on Wednesday 24 October 7.30am – 9.30am

To discuss how you can get involved in shaping the next generation of employees, please contact Sue Timms, Employer Engagement Officer [stimms@sandwellacademy.com](mailto:stimms@sandwellacademy.com)