



Sandwell Academy

Employers' Newsletter

May 2019 Issue 3

Circulated to over 300 businesses across the region

Message from the Headteacher

It is a great pleasure to introduce the third issue of our Employers' Newsletter. Sandwell Academy places a high premium on our close links to local and national businesses and we feel that these partnerships not only benefit our students but allow businesses to draw upon our educational and employment experience. I hope you enjoy reading about the Academy's recent activities and the outstanding work of our business partners.

Message from Careers

This is an exciting time within the department entering into the Summer Term as we continue to work closely with our Year 10; Year 12 students and business partners to secure high quality work placements this Summer. The Team are also working tenaciously to ensure that every student that leaves the Academy moves on to a positive destination, whether that be a university, sixth form or apprenticeship. Our first recipient of the Employer Charter, Tesco received their award in October 2018 and we now have a further five to present. This is a great way to recognise the contribution and commitment that our business partners make to the Academy and our students. If you are interested in working with us in any way, please do get in touch.

Recent Employer Activities

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:

BMW

Following a talk at the Academy by BMW about their apprenticeship programme, a group of students who are considering a career in engineering visited the plant at Oxford. The group were given a tour of the factory, an opportunity to speak to current apprentices and some hints and tips on the application process. The students found the visit useful and they gained a better understanding of the opportunities available and when and how to apply. BMW are continuing to develop this link to grow a talent pool of students who are interested in becoming their workforce of the future.



Lloyds Banking Group & University of Birmingham

A group of Year 9 students took part in a Digital Skills day held at the University of Birmingham run by staff from Lloyds Banking Group. The aim of the day was to look at the school curriculum and put a digital twist on the subjects using social media and online apps. The students had to present their ideas and findings to the whole group. The students left the day with a different view of their curriculum subjects and how they are used on a daily basis. Local branches continue to support our students with work experience placements and mock interviews, which helps them to build their network of students and meet their CSR objectives.



International Women's Day - IWD is celebrated on 8 March every year. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights.

A group of Year 12 students celebrated IWD this year by inviting female employees from a range of organisations into the Academy to share their career pathway and their experiences. The roles included a Senior Occupational Therapist, RAF Avionics Technician, Educational Psychologist, Project Manager in the power industry, Care Manager and a MEICA Manager in the water industry. The students left with a greater understanding of each of the roles and a new network of contacts for any future questions.



Employer Spotlight: Dodd Group

Mary-Anne Clayton
Group HR Manager

Dodd Group regularly work with the Academy students, taking part in a number of activities, to aid with the 'world of work' including assisting with the preparation of a careers advice pack, delivering a Social Media workshop with Year 12, employability boot camp for Year 13 students, mock interviews and supporting the MNA STEM project working with a group of Year 9 students. Also annually host a number of students for the Work Experience fortnight

How long have you been involved with Sandwell Academy? For 2 to 3 years personally, but the company has done work for the Academy before.

Why do you and your organisation get involved? We try to offer work experience, careers support and advice. With the current skills gap and the war for talent, we have untapped potential on our doorstep. We have already identified and are working with one of the students – who will be joining us as an apprentice following the completion of the final school year.

What do think are the benefits for students and your organisation? For the students, we hope it is an opportunity to see what 'real work' is like! To get an idea of what is expected, what to do and say at interviews, how to present themselves and how what they do now can affect them and their futures. Dodd are committed to supporting the workforce of the future and the more youngsters we can encourage – especially encourage into STEM related activates the better for our industry.

What would your advice be to other organisations considering engaging with the Academy? Go for it – it is hugely rewarding, great fun, utterly exhausting and totally worthwhile.

What do you think are some of the key considerations that organisations may need to make when deciding to work with Sandwell Academy? Time, location, what they can offer. What the students can offer and how you can work together for a mutual benefit.



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.

If you have any suggestions on getting involved, please get in touch stimms@sandwellacademy.com

New connections this term

The Academy are eager to grow our links with local business, the following have recently joined the group by offering our students work experience placements: Sandwell Accountancy Services, Kenneth- Jones Solicitors, Downing Dental, Beatdown Academy, Wallbrook Primary School, Select Lifestyles, Handsworth Golf Club, Blackheath Veterinary Centre.

Upcoming Events

The next Employers' Breakfast will take place on Thursday 16 May 7.30am – 9.30am and will be part of the Black Country Business Festival, to register your attendance please use the link below

<https://bcbf19.ticketleap.com/>