



Sandwell Academy



Employers' Newsletter ~ Issue 2 ~ April 2021

Circulated to over 300 businesses across the region

New Employer Contacts

We have recently made new links with some employers, some of whom attended our recent virtual Employer Breakfast meeting.

West Midlands Police

The second largest police force in the country, covering an area of 348 square miles and serving a population of almost 2.8 million. The region sits at the very heart of the country and covers the three major centres of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton.

Morgan Parkes Recruitment

Has a unique approach to recruitment, with a focus on creating a thriving business by building effective working relationships with candidates and business clients.

Intralox

The leading conveyance solutions provider helping move the world's most critical products.

BOA Stage & Screen

Part of the BOA Group, BOA Stage & Screen Production will provide an industry-led approach to developing the skills and experience of young people who are passionate about working in film TV, online and theatre production.

Please share this newsletter with your networks to enable us to make other employer links!

Message from the Careers Team

This term we have been faced with another lockdown, moving our Careers provision online once again. We have met with Year 11 students and parents on Microsoft Teams about their post 16 options and also with Year 13 students looking for apprenticeships. We have hosted online events and presentations for students and parents, as well as the first virtual Employer Breakfast meeting! Year 13 students have also been receiving their university offers.

Employer Engagement Success Story

Congratulations to Sandwell Academy Alumni, Surjun Kaila, who has recently started as an Apprentice Commercial Clerk at VINCI Facilities in their Sandwell offices. Surjun left sixth form in the Summer of 2020 and since the pandemic has been looking for an apprenticeship role. When Phil Clee, Commercial Manager at VINCI Facilities and also the Academy's Employer Adviser (EA) working closely with the Careers & Enterprise Company, contacted us about a role he was recruiting for, we thought Surjun would be a great fit.

Six weeks on from starting his role, Surjun said "I am really grateful for the opportunity to join VINCI and to have the chance to progress and develop a career with a major construction company".

Phil said, "I am delighted that through my relationship with Sandwell Academy, via my role as an Enterprise Ambassador, we have been able to give an apprenticeship opportunity to a local ex-student. Surjun joined our long-established Sandwell team on 1st March and is progressing well in his new role as our Commercial Clerk".

Our congratulations to Surjun and we hope this is the start of a long and happy career for you at VINCI Facilities!



Employer Presentations

National Careers Week took place from 1 – 5 March. The week is a celebration of careers guidance across the UK. Here at Sandwell Academy we provided some interesting and engaging virtual talks for all interested students to attend after school during that week.

aat

The first session was from AAT about their qualifications and routes into Accountancy roles. Danielle Smith, Midlands Regional Account Manager at AAT said, "It was a pleasure to be invited to talk to the students to share my own experiences and raise awareness of the opportunities that studying an AAT qualification can provide. I hope that it inspired those considering to pursue a career in Accounting and Finance".

We then held a session with West Midlands Police about what it is like working as a police officer and the apprenticeship routes into the force. PC Delmar Brown who gave the talk said, "It was an event whereby a lot of thought was given and it was an opportunity for us as an employer to engage with students."



Amazing

Apprenticeships

Finally, Amazing Apprenticeships presented to students and parents about the apprenticeship route and the wide range of roles and career paths available.

Thank you to the employers for giving such engaging presentations and giving our students and parents an insight into different routes and professions they can take. If you would like to be involved in sessions such as this, please contact our Employer Engagement Officer, Clair Drummond at cldrummond@sandwellacademy.com

Questions from our students

Some of our Year 13 students are looking at apprenticeships when they leave Sixth Form. Due to the current climate, they have submitted questions which we thought we would pass on to some of employer contacts. Thanks to BAM Construction, Dudley Council and Clover HR for their answers, which we have passed on to our students.

Is your company still planning to recruit apprentices?

BAM: We recruit annually for our Level 4 programme in the Midlands as part of the annual National Apprenticeship recruitment process which also includes opportunities in Construction management, Quantity Surveying and Civil Engineering.

Clover HR: We will soon be advertising for a Social Media Apprentice.

Dudley Council: Most apprenticeships can be all year round, but construction posts are advertised from Easter with a September start.

Do you have any tips for online interviews?

BAM: It is widely agreed that it takes 7 seconds to give a first impression – use this initial time wisely! Always ensure that you are ready, right from the outset of the interview.

Clover HR: Smile. Be prepared. Do the Research. Have questions ready. Look at the camera.

Dudley Council: Check your connections and camera before the interview. Do some research on the company. Dress for the online interview as if it were face to face. Have questions prepared for the end of the interview.

How can I stand out from the crowd?

BAM: From an interviewers perspective, what does the candidate understand about the role and the company, please remember this phrase – 'Fail to prepare – then prepare to fail' - If someone has taken the time to 'Prepare' for an interview, this will often show throughout the dialogue – it does not take much time to research a company online and information about apprenticeships in construction is readily available online too.

Clover HR: Be yourself, show your personality.

Dudley Council: Research the apprenticeship you are applying for, be clear why you are keen to join the company you are applying to.

Sectors our students are interested in

We have a group of Year 13 students who are looking at apprenticeship roles when they leave sixth form. Some of them are also applying to university and are keeping their options open. Some of the sectors the students are interested in are:

- Business Management
- Marketing
- Accounting & Finance
- Law
- IT/Software Development
- Cyber Security
- Project Management
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Police Force
- Digital Technology
- Mortgage Advice
- Property Management

If you have any apprenticeship roles in these business areas that you are recruiting for, please let us know, as we may be able to help. Please also share this with your networks.

Please contact
Clair Drummond

Employer Engagement Officer
cldrummond@sandwellacademy.com

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Social Media

We are on LinkedIn and Twitter!

Find out more about activities in the Careers Department by following us.

Twitter:
[@SandAcadCareers](https://twitter.com/SandAcadCareers)

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/in/sandwell-academy-511780ba