



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Work Experience**

As part of our commitment to your child and to government guidance we are keen to reintroduce work experience for our Year 10 students. However, we would be very grateful for your feedback and thoughts on our proposal for this before we make a firm decision about how we should enable this to occur.

**What is the purpose of work experience?**

The purpose of work experience is to give students an invaluable chance to start to understand what it means to be in a place of work and how to behave in a professional environment. Whilst we hope that our students are able to have experience a placement in something that they are interested in; this is not as important as the skills that they will be developing such as learning to communicate with adults in a work setting, learning time and self-management skills, how to problem solve and how to work together in a team.

**What is your proposal?**

We are hoping to run work experience for Year 10 at the beginning of July in 2022.

In previous years, students have either sourced their own work experience through their family, friends, applying by themselves to places of work or using an online portal provided by an external company who liaises with local companies to offer work experience placements for our students. The external company will come in and provide a presentation of how to source their own work placements or use of the portal. Unfortunately, this year, the company are only able to offer a maximum of 35 placements. This is due to the Covid-19 pandemic and companies being reluctant to offer placements in the current climate. This would mean that in the main, students would have to seek and source their own work placements.

We are keen to know and understand whether this is a viable option for families, and we would be keen to take your feedback before we make any further decisions. Please could you provide us with your feedback on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/SGrXK99BMi> You will have until

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September** to let us know.

**Principal - Claire Taylor**

**Oasis Academy Mayfield**

Ashley Crescent, Southampton, SO19 9NA

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## What can I do to support my child with their understanding of Post-16 options?

Your involvement is crucial to ensuring that your child makes decisions that are challenging, aspirational and most importantly, right for them and their future. We would strongly encourage you to begin talking to your child about colleges, apprenticeships and careers and we have listed some resources below that you can access for free which will support your conversations with your child:

- **Oasis Academy Mayfield Website** – Our Careers Guidance page has information about the ways that we can support your child to be successful. There are also links to a variety of websites which will help facilitate different conversations. This can be accessed here: <https://www.oasisacademymayfield.org/curriculum/personal-development/careers-guidance>
- **Oasis Southampton Careers Facebook Page** – Our Facebook page has lots of information about opportunities that you and your child can access e.g. open events at colleges, virtual work experience, apprenticeship events. Please like and subscribe.
- **To Infinity, choices and beyond! A Parents' Guide** – This is a handy online booklet which explains every step of education from Year 9 through to University. This can be accessed here: <https://www.sunoutreach.org/parents/resources/sun-parent-and-learner-guides/>
- **What is an apprenticeship?** – Apprenticeships, although not new, have significantly changed and your child could undertake an apprenticeship any time from 16. Some apprenticeships offer diplomas and degrees whilst paying for university tuition. To find out more about apprenticeships: <https://www.sunoutreach.org/parents/resources/apprenticeships-2/>

Yours sincerely



Miss Claire Taylor  
Principal

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