



Noadswood

April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 10 Work Experience

During Year 10, all students participate in work experience – a week's placement in a work environment. Current Year 9 students will complete their work experience placements throughout the week commencing **Monday 5th July 2027**.

We are very committed at Noadswood to the value of this opportunity; furthermore, work experience is a statutory requirement in education. In the Gatsby Benchmarks against which we must work, number 6 includes the following definition:

'A meaningful experience gives the young person the opportunity to explore what it is like to work in that environment, what skills are valued in the workplace, their recruitment processes and what it takes to be successful. This could be achieved through visits to workplaces, work shadowing and/or work experience.' – Gatsby Benchmarks

Work experience plays a crucial role in students gaining an insight into the world of work developing fundamental skills they will be able to build on to be successful working adults in the future.

To give students the best chance of securing placements at places of work that are most relevant to their interests, and to allow for as much time as possible to process the paperwork to confirm everything, we are encouraging students to begin looking for placements now and over the summer.

To do this, students will need to approach places of work, introduce themselves with an expression of interest to complete work experience there and provide them with the work experience dates.

When students return to school in September 2026, we will invite you to attend an in-person work experience briefing one evening. During this briefing, we will explain further details about work experience alongside other Careers provision students will engage with next academic year.

As the placement paperwork is online, this will not be available to complete until September. However, you can have a placement agreed in principle with a workplace beforehand and complete the paperwork at this later date.

We should note: it has become apparent to us over recent months, from intel we have received ourselves and from other schools, that securing work experience placements is becoming more challenging. We genuinely believe work experience is powerful and invaluable in supporting students as they begin considering their next steps and future career pathways, so we urge everyone to enquire about placements early. In doing so, we are likely to increase chances in securing placements that are most suitable for the type of experience each student hopes to have.

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Furthermore, if your place of work, or a workplace you know of, can support us in providing placements for students, it would be brilliant to hear from you, please. The support we already receive from the community is hugely appreciated and has such a positive impact on our young people. You, too, can play a role in supporting students prepare for the modern working world.

Should you have any questions or concerns about work experience, or you may be able to help or signpost us to someone who can, please do not hesitate to contact our Careers Advisor, Gordon Lewis, at glewis@noadswood.hants.sch.uk and me, at jclews@noadswood.hants.sch.uk.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Clews
Careers Lead