

Survey – School Students 2010-12-22

7 schools participated in the survey over the summer, with 753 responses.

Firstly we asked students what they thought to the following 2 statements

'I think that work experience is very important in helping me to make choices about my future' and

'I think that work experience is very important in helping me to find out about the world of work.'

93% of students believe Work Experience is an important influence when making decisions about their future career.

95% commented that the process helped them understand the responsibilities of being at work.

We asked them about the preparation process in terms of Health and Safety, travel arrangements, and how to use the work experience diary.

86% felt they were well briefed and prepared in Health and Safety.

67% felt well prepared and confident with the logistics / journey to work

58% felt confident on keeping a log in their Work Experience Diary.

We then asked how they felt on their first day

Whilst one third of students felt confident and comfortable within the placement, the general feeling was one of uncertainty, excitement and nervousness about the placement but only 11% felt very nervous and 5% felt scared.

We asked about the induction process on placements and rather worryingly

63% could remember the Health and Safety induction, 36.5% could not.

We then asked how had the placement been for them

21% Not enough to do

64% felt they were kept busy

77% treated like an adult

36% were tired

56% learned a lot about the world of work

53% filled in their work experience diary.

66% enjoyed working with adults

75% enjoyed work experience

24% now feel they need to work harder in school

44% want to learn new skills as a result of their placement

77% remember being debriefed in schools

65% wrote the employer a thank you letter.

Findings

- Work experience has a significant impact on young people, in the main very positive, particularly with regard to gaining new experiences and assisting with career planning.
- There are also positive signs that it has an impact on some who were perhaps not working hard enough in school and a significant proportion felt motivated to want to learn new skills
- However there are issues to work on regarding the induction, or young people remembering their induction
- Just over half the students used the diary and this is an area to encourage as it could offer more structure and options for the employer to give them work around the diary.
- Encourage schools to debrief all students and write a thank you letter to the employer and assist schools to look for models of good practice to share with each other