

# Careers and Work Experience

## Work Experience

At Keelman's Way School we believe in the importance of daily living skills and the promotion of independence. In line with the Preparation for Adulthood outcomes of Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health our Work Experience platform prepares our learners to live as independently as possible in the future. The benefits of work experience as part of a life skills curriculum are numerous.

Work experience gives our learners the opportunity to

- experience the world of work
- improve communication
- increase aspirations
- build upon existing levels of independence
- link real life experiences to in school studies
- develop new skills and understanding
- improve employability chances.
- uncover hidden talents and abilities
- cultivate relationships

We work closely with local businesses and providers to carefully nurture opportunities for our young people, to get a real taste for employment and the skills required to best prepare them for entry into the world of work.



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## KWS Programme and Future Routes Internship Programme

Each academic year during the first half term, the students in Key Stage 4 & 5 participate in class based Work Related Learning lessons focussed on preparing them for their upcoming placements. The lesson content covers relevant vocational skills e.g. interview technique, CV creation, practical exercises, dressing for the workplace etc.

For a number of our students, the thought of going out into the community for the purposes of employment is a daunting prospect. These lessons act as a stepping stone to prepare students for the expectations of the work place. For those learners not yet ready for a community based placement, we run an on site work placement based around horticulture and gardening.

Every Wednesday from October to May the students at Keelman's Way access our Future Routes Internship Programme. The Future Routes Internship Programme is tailored to the students individual needs/ability and helps the students access the world work. Each student is set personalised Employability targets, they are supported to achieve these goals by mentors, school staff, peers and employees.

The students learn valuable new work skills, develop professional relationships and experience the world of work. Pupils have a number of placements that are accessible including Souter Lighthouse, South Shields library, South Tyneside Homes, Bilton Hall, West Boldon Lodge, Ocean Road Community Centre and South Tyneside College.

In the final half term they consolidate the learning that has taken place whilst on placement. The students obtain external accreditation through the completion of ASDAN and Equals units each tailored to their individual level of ability.



## Careers Information and Guidance

Connexions South Tyneside provides impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people aged between 16 and 18, and up to 25 if they have a special educational need or disability.

Connexions Advisers are welcomed into school to attend EHCP meetings, meet families and to contribute to class based activities on vocational aspects of learning. They can support young people to make positive choices about their future with information about college courses, apprenticeships, Post 16, Post 19, employment and training as well as a range of other options depending on needs and interests.