

*EmployAbility is a joint internship programme initiated between Round Oak School and National Grid. It took its first cohort of Interns in Warwick in September 2013. The programme is now based in Warwick and Hinckley with plans to start up in Solihull and Wokingham in September 2015 also. The programme runs for an academic year and gives students the chance to work in different areas of the workplace and develop the skills they can use for future employment.*

## Edward Timpson Visit



On the 12 January 2015, Edward Timpson MP, visited Warwick House to interact with the EmployAbility programme and its interns. Edward Timpson is the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families which includes people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Edward Timpson visited some of the past and present Interns in their respective placements/jobs. Edward Timpson was very impressed with how the interns were developing and integrating into a working environment. Later Edward took part in a Q&A session that focused on the support Interns could get from the government, the criteria and longevity of this support. Free radio and Touch FM also attended Edward Timpson's visit.

Copy and paste the link to watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4i58LvVudM&feature=youtu.be>

Or alternatively type the following into Youtube: 'DfE's Supported Internship Scheme with National Grid'

## Work Inspiration Week (9-13 February 2015)

Work Inspiration Week is a key milestone in the programme and in February this year, around 50 students at four National Grid offices, got the chance to see what working life is like at NG. Giving students a taste of what they can expect from being part of the EmployAbility programme raised all of their aspirations.



It is predominately run by National Grid graduates but this year extra volunteers got involved also. The activities included team building games as well as a visit to a Meter Assessment Recycling Centre in Birmingham and Bishops Wood Environmental Education Centre. All students who participated gained an insight into different areas of the company and showed a presentation of their experiences at the end of the week to a large audience including Heads of their school, managers and Emma Fitzgerald, Director of Gas Distribution, who kindly opened the proceedings.

Emma Thompson, who co-ordinated the volunteers across four sites, said, "The week was not just inspiring for the students, but was a fantastic and rewarding experience for the volunteers. I would like to thank all of the volunteers for their efforts, providing life changing experiences for students. Thank you to all of you who got involved". Below are the different offices, schools and colleges that were involved in Work Inspiration Week this February 2015:

<b>National Grid House, Warwick:</b>	Round Oak School, Warwickshire College and Hereward College
<b>Operation Centre, Hinckley:</b>	Oakwood School and Dorothy Goodman School
<b>35 Homer Road, Solihull:</b>	Queen Alexandra College and Selly Oak Trust School
<b>St Catherine's Lodge, Wokingham:</b>	Addington School

## Warwick Site: Christmas Market



Alongside their work placements, the Interns complete a BTEC Course in Skilled for life, skills for work. This covers *Contributing to meetings*, *Preparing for an Interview* and *Running an enterprise*. Not satisfied with just running one stall for their 'Running an Enterprise' unit, Interns worked closely with employees from around the building to organise a Christmas Market. The December 18 Market covered two floors on the Street. It was opened by Neil Pullen and ran for four hours. Stalls included a tombola, jewellery stands, a mince pie stand and much more. The EmployAbility team raised £1350 (including match funding) for Round Oak School and Mcmillan.

## Warwick - Second Placements



**Chelsie M**  
Round Oak School  
Gas System Operation



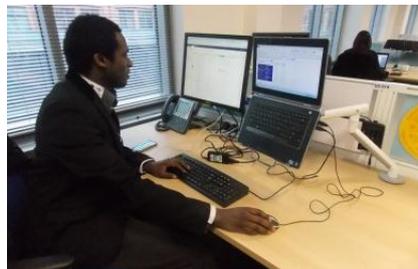
**George B**  
Warwickshire College  
GTAM BOSS



**Harry J**  
Round Oak School  
Customer Liaison



**Reg C**  
Round Oak School  
Canon Reprographics



**Kieran W**  
Hereward College  
Capital Delivery



**Siobhan M**  
Hereward College  
Mail Room

## Spotlight on:

**George:** I really loved my time in Capital Delivery (Ian Feltwell and Alvin Yiek's team) and I learnt so much as well as raising my confidence and self-esteem. I felt very proud to have helped Alvin's team organise their Christmas Party, which I also attended. Ian Feltwell also gave me the opportunity to work with some colleagues in Thorpe Park, Leeds which was a great experience. My current placement in GTAM is also going very well. I am currently working with metadata and an induction pack for the team. I feel very accepted and part of the team and am looking forward to taking part in the Away Day.

**Chelsie:** My first placement in Reception went better than I could have imagined. The team were very supportive and before long I was signing in visitors and answering calls independently. I'm really

enjoying my second placement in GSO, working with three different teams. The teams I'm working with are very helpful and friendly. My tasks include designing SharePoint sites, QMS and Excel work. I also had the chance to support an assessment day at the Holiday Inn with Stuart Hegarty's team.

## Hinckley Site

The Employability Programme has now been established at Hinckley Site since September 2014. The interns participating have increased in confidence and gained valuable work and social skills. They are currently in their second placements and due to begin third placements after the Easter Break.



## Hinckley – Second Placements



**Beth A**  
Dorothy Goodman School  
Catering



**Matthew K**  
Dorothy Goodman School  
CMAC



**Harry P**  
Oak Wood School  
Operations



**Mac W**  
Oak Wood School  
MI Team



**Megan M**  
Oak Wood School  
Pertemps

## Placement Manager Quotes:

‘When I see the interns going about their daily business life it brings a smile to my face. They are developing confidence in their abilities and daring to dream of what might be possible in the future. I am proud to be part of this programme and of everyone who has helped make this a success. It’s definitely the highlight of my 37 year career.’ **Carole Preston, Business Assurance Manager and Employability Lead.**

‘The transformation of **Megan** throughout the programme has been remarkable, her confidence is growing daily. She approaches all work tasks with an interest to learn and make valuable contributions. She takes great pride in her work and she’s a valued member of our team – we are all very impressed

with her attitude and approach to her placement. Megan truly demonstrates the essence of Employability, she's making it a personal and meaningful experience into the world of work." **Lisa McGuigan, Pertemps Placement Manager**

"The Employability programme offers great opportunities for young adults to get hands on work experience and I have been fortunate to be involved as a Placement Manager. **Matthew** joined my team for his second Placement and has done a fantastic job! He was able to apply the skills he already had as well as learn new skills, which has helped Matthew develop. I can thoroughly recommend the programme". **Jessica Allen, CMAc Data Assurance Manager**



## Christmas Fundraising Event

On Fri 5 December 2014 we held a tombola stall in the Restaurant. We raised £372 for Macmillan cancer. All the interns were involved in planning and running this event as part of their BTEC work skills qualification. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication skills and promoted The Employability programme as well as raising money for a good

cause.

## Future EmployAbility events for your diary

On 25/26 March 2015 members of the EmployAbility team will be attending the UK Leadership Conference in Birmingham. They will be on the 'Skill based volunteering' stand promoting the programme so pop by and say hello!



On 1 April 2015 Target Jobs, in partnership with National Grid, are hosting the largest graduate recruitment awards in Europe. It will take place on Wednesday 1 April 2015 at Grosvenor House with 1,500 distinguished guests attending. During the evening two of our graduated interns will be telling their personal stories as part of an engagement campaign to inspire more businesses to provide supported internship schemes. To find out more check out the website: <http://targetjobsawards.co.uk/>

On 30 April 2015 employers from locally based businesses have been invited to visit the EmployAbility team at Hinckley. This is a great opportunity to build relationships with local businesses and give them an understanding of what EmployAbility is all about at the same time as showcasing the talent of our interns. The event has been organised by Pertemps Recruitment Agency and is a result of EmployAbility's growing partnership with Pertemps at National Grid offices where EmployAbility is up and running. Royal Mail, R R Doenelley and Diam Ltd are just some of the companies who have already confirmed their attendance.



On 8 July 2015 the Hinckley EmployAbility team will be hosting a graduation ceremony for the Hinckley Interns in the Restaurant between 1600-1800. Invites will be sent out nearer the time.

On 15 July 2015 the Warwick EmployAbility team will be hosting a graduation ceremony for the Warwick Interns in the Conference suite between 1600-1800. Invites will be sent out nearer the time.