

“ Work experience has taught me that you get nothing done without communication and teamwork – teamwork’s really important. ”

Hopeton Rose

Students sample the world of work

In times past, work experience might have been seen, by employers and students alike, as something of an imposition – things, though, have changed.



Jack Allen at Stubbs Mead: “It’s all about encouraging people to be greener.”



Hopeton Rose (right), with Alan Hiscutt: “This has made me feel much more confident.”

Work experience is an important facet of education.

Knowing what to expect in the workplace, where most students will spend the following five decades of their lives, is a good way to provide the motivation they need to stick to their studies.

Placements are organised by Croydon Education Business Partnership on behalf of secondary schools across the borough, and they include opportunities to work with Croydon Council, one of the borough’s largest employers.

Recently, Year 10 students from Selsdon High School have been getting to grips with the work in some of the council’s many departments, and both

sides have been favourably impressed with each other.

What the students said

Lilian Arnold spent time at the council’s Taberner House headquarters and its training centre at Heathfield, in South Croydon, as part of a placement with the human resources department.

She said: “The experience has motivated me to achieve a degree in psychology.”

What the council said

Janice Joannou, head of organisational development, said: “I was very impressed with the calibre of the Selsdon High students. It was great to watch them grow in confidence.

“I would absolutely recommend employer engagement to other organisations.”

Adam Day, of human resources, said: “There have been so many positive comments. The business performance unit has never had a work experience student before – this has been the most successful placement of all.”

Judy Pevan, from the department for adult services and housing (Dash), said: “I’d certainly take another student. They have amazing IT skills – one made lots of appointments with clients for us, and used the Google map to work out the most efficient visiting order.”

What each said about the other

Alan Hiscutt, a supporting-people manager for Dash, said: “I’d definitely take another work

experience student.

“They get an invaluable understanding of the real world – it’s a great way to build their self-confidence and independence.

“We all liked Hopeton – he was a joy to have around.”

Hopeton Rose, Alan’s student, enjoyed being placed with Dash. He said: “I’ve been answering the telephone – this has made me feel much more confident.

“Work experience has taught me that you get nothing done without communication and teamwork – teamwork’s really important.”

Jack Allen spent his work experience at Stubbs Mead recycling depot, in Waddon.

He said: “I thought it’d be dirty work, but I’ve discovered it’s all

about getting feedback from customers and encouraging people to be greener.

“I enjoyed myself. The days went really quickly – they’re more exciting than school days.

“Being treated as an adult is really good.”

Julie Daubeney, depot manager at Stubbs Mead, said: “At first, there was slight resistance to having a student here, but after working with Jack we’d definitely take another one.”

CEBP would like to hear from schools and employers in the Croydon area who wish to take advantage of the benefits of work experience placements.

Please call Tony Slonecki, partnership manager, on **020 8395 3311**.

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