



Last week, our Year 8 students took part in our annual Work Shadowing Day, spending the day with a parent, family member or family friend to experience the world of work. The day gave students a valuable opportunity to explore different careers, develop workplace skills and see first-hand what employers are looking for.

Work shadowing at this stage is an excellent way for young people to begin thinking about their future. By experiencing a real workplace, students can make links between what they learn in school and the skills they will need in later life. It also helps them to discover new career possibilities and build confidence by meeting and talking to professionals.

The feedback from students was extremely positive. An impressive **93%** said they were able to help with workplace tasks, while **66%** spent time observing professionals carrying out their roles. **61%** spoke to different employees about their jobs, and **59%** had the opportunity to use workplace equipment and technology. Perhaps most importantly, **73%** said the experience had influenced their future career ideas or plans.

Students also reflected on the key skills they saw in the workplace. The qualities they identified most often were **patience, kindness and hard work**, highlighting that positive attitudes and personal qualities play an important role in every workplace

Some of our students shared what they enjoyed most about the day:

"I enjoyed learning about making animatronics and coding." – **Ethan**

"I helped out with social media at the equestrian centre." – **Amber**

"I enjoyed learning how to do surgery on rodents." – **Emma**

"When you do activities with the elderly in the care home, they have fun." – **Sheema**

"I was given an introduction to how data, mathematics and technology are used to support decision making at the bank." – **Manahil**

A huge thank you goes to all the parents, relatives, friends and employers who welcomed our students into their workplaces and made the day such a worthwhile experience. Their support has helped inspire the next generation as they begin thinking about their future careers