

Old Park School

Work related learning and 'Lunch on the Run'



Why we see work related learning as important

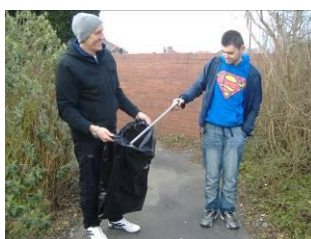
We see working towards independence, participating in a range of job related learning and taking more responsibility for themselves as core activities for our students: an essential part of our curriculum and fundamental to our school values.

We believe that that the more work opportunities that we know about and can access the better the chances that our school can deliver our school philosophy of 'Towards Independence'.

What our work related learning includes

Within the 14-19 curriculum all students have the opportunity to access varying aspects of vocational learning appropriate to their level of understanding and individual skills. Examples are as follows:

- Work related learning tasks are included in students' Individual Education/Learning Plans and are discussed at Annual Reviews with parents/carers, Connexions Personal Advisers and Transition Social Workers.
- All 14-19 students access National Accreditation via OCR Life and Living Units.
- All students have the opportunity to become members of a Mini Enterprise or Team Enterprise Company.
- Working through OCR students can all gain credits within Foundation Learning as they progress to Post 19 provision.
- During each year we ensure all students engage in a Work Related Learning Week where they experience a range of vocational jobs around the school site or in some cases our older more able students are offered a work experience placement off-site.



Lunch on the Run

Lunch on the Run has been a great placement opportunity for our students in recent years. It is a registered charity that supports adults with learning difficulties to experience a real job in the catering world.

In the past we have placed up to two students for one day a week into their company. Two years ago one of our students made such a good impression that another charity, The Retreat Café in Dudley, took on this student as part of a vocational package with a local college. He developed skills in simple meal preparation and catering and how to work as part of a team. When he came back to school he was able to demonstrate to other student's elements of good hygiene in the kitchen.



The work experience he received helped not only to improve his learning, acquisition of skills and improved confidence but formed a base for him to secure a placement at a local Post 19 college with courses in catering and food preparation.

Benefits to our students

The outcome of these work related learning opportunities has a huge impact on the development of our students. Their self-esteem and confidence improve to higher levels as does their communication skills. We feel that the more opportunities that we know about and can access the better the chances that our school can deliver our school philosophy of 'Towards Independence'.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the work we do, have a look at our school [website](#) . [Lunch on the Run](#) is featured on the BBC website, so please take a look. For further information please contact Gill Cartwright, Head Teacher, on 01384 818905 or at office1@old-park.dudley.sch.uk .