

CAREERS BULLETIN

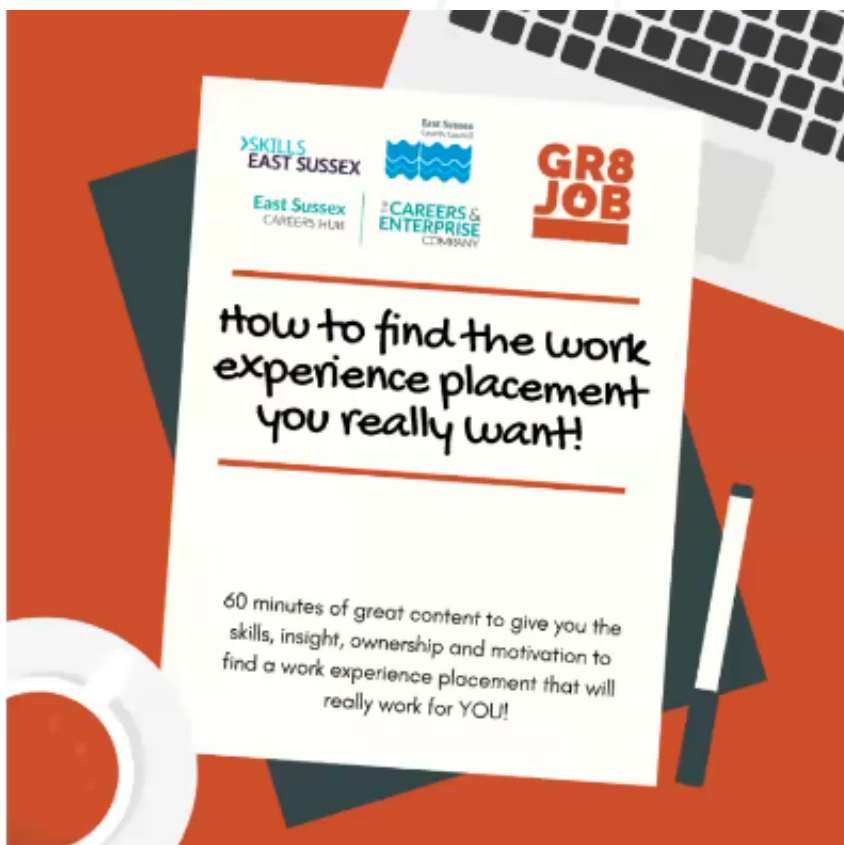
MARCH 14TH 2025

Welcome to this week's Careers Bulletin.

With the deadline for Year 10s and 12s finding work experience fast approaching, this week's bulletin focuses on what students, parents, carers, teachers, activity leaders, and even neighbours can do to help.



Deadline: Friday 4th April



All the advice in this week's bulletin is taken from Dale Willis, the founder of [My Great First Job](#), a non-profit organisation that helps young people navigate their way from education to employment. Dale has over 30 years' experience helping young people find a great first job!

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Who can help Students to find Work Experience?

PARENTS/CARERS

TEACHERS

RELATIVES

NEIGHBOURS

YOUTH LEADERS

FRIENDS' PARENTS/CARERS

Students often don't realise it, but they already have a strong adult network of parents, carers, older siblings, other relatives, friends' parents, neighbours and youth leaders.

We encourage students to identify 4 or 5 people in their adult network and use them as their '**agents**' to help them find opportunities.



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What can Parents and Carers do?

Put a post on social media

- With your child's permission, you could use your existing social media network to help. For example, you could put a post on Facebook, something like the post below, and ask your contacts to share.
- You can also post in local Facebook groups e.g. Harrogate Mumbler, explaining what your child would like to do and asking for suggestions of anyone they might be able to talk to who does that job, or works in that industry.



Hey everybody! Dylan is looking to find out more about working in ACCOUNTANCY, (I know, I know....how is he even old enough, but it seems he really is 17!) and I wondered if anyone in my network might know someone he could talk to?

It would be great if he could spend a few days in July shadowing and getting some experience before his university application gets started.

Can any of you suggest people he could contact or help him get the ball rolling?

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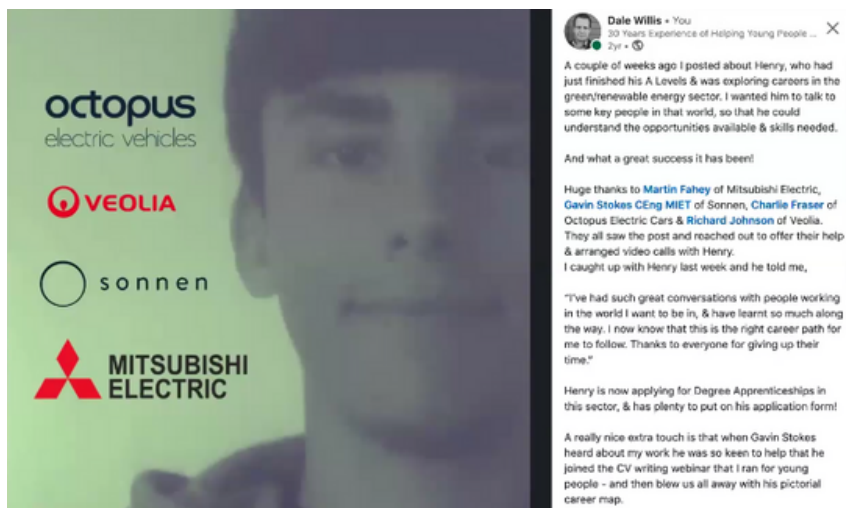
What can Parents and Carers do?

Post on LinkedIn

If you are on LinkedIn, this can be a quick way to find people willing to provide advice, insight, and even work experience for your child.

You can also tag in companies of interest. Someone from the company will see it and be able to respond to you, even when you are not connected.

The post below demonstrates the results of a LinkedIn post tagging relevant companies (without any prior connections to those companies). Henry (pictured) was invited to set up video calls with senior members of the companies of interest and subsequently used the information and insight he gained to apply for a Degree Apprenticeship. Henry commented: **“I’ve had such great conversations with people working in the world I want to be in, and have learned so much along the way. I now know this is the right career path for me to follow. Thanks to everyone for giving up their time.”**



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How could your Neighbours help?

If you have lived in the same place for a long time and know your neighbours well, they can also be a great agent.

They may have babysat for you when you were little, watched you grow up, regularly ask how you are getting on at school, but do you know what they do, or used to do for a living?

You could try putting a note through their door:

“Hey, it’s _____ at number __. I am in Year ____ now and thinking about going into _____ as a career. I really need some experience, so I am putting this through your door in case you know anyone in industry I could speak to.

Many thanks!”



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How can Everyone Else help?

Your Friends' Parents or Carers

You may have known your friends' parents for years, but do you know **what** they do for a job and **where** they work?

Find out!

Could you do work experience with them or at the same company? Do they know of anyone who could help you find out more about jobs of interest? Could they email someone in their company on your behalf e.g. the Director of Finance, HR, Health and Safety, Sales and Marketing etc?

Ask your Teachers!

Do they have any contacts in their professional or social circle who could help? They might not be able to offer work experience, but they might be able to offer insight, advice, and recommendations of places to try.

Ask Youth Leaders

Do you attend activities outside school? Sports, a drama group, volunteering, cadets, Duke of Edinburgh, martial arts? Tell your coaches or course leaders what you would like to do and the kind of work experience you are looking for. Many people coach in the evenings alongside another job so they will have **many** contacts!!

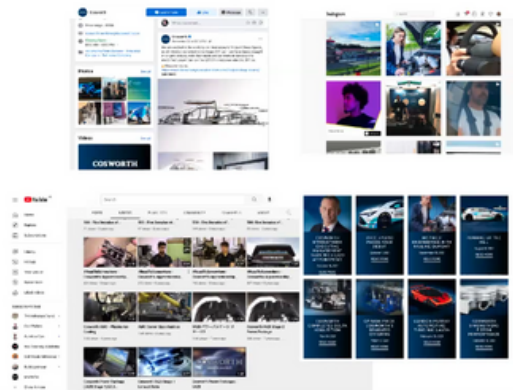


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What if None of that works?

Okay, so you have exhausted all your contacts and their contacts, and their contacts. So now what?

- **Research local employers of interest** (Google, Yell.com, Thomson Local).
- **Go on their website and socials and find out one fact about them** that genuinely appeals to you e.g. a project they are working on, a client they are working with, their focus on sustainability, etc., and use this to get in touch and explain why you would like to get work experience with them **specifically**.



- **Think about what you bring to the table** - Are their socials a bit lack lustre? Could you get more content on Instagram or TikTok for them? Do you bring enthusiasm and new ideas? Are you happy to muck in?



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Ask for 15 minutes of their time instead...

Approaching employers you don't know and asking for a week's work experience is hard going. Some immediately see the value in it and are open to being contacted by people they don't know, others may take a bit more convincing.

Try Adapting this Email

Subject: Could you help me with some careers advice?

Hi, my name is _____ and I am __ years old. I am hoping to be a _____ and would love to talk to someone doing that job already. I wondered if you could spare me 15 minutes of your time to talk about it either on the phone or a zoom call or I could pop in at a time to suit you.

They said Yes!

If they agree to 15 minutes, make sure you prepare!! An employer has given up some of their valuable time so don't waste it. Dress smartly, ask meaningful questions, and make notes.

Worst Case Scenario: You end the conversation with greater insight and more information than you started with.

Best case scenario: they have now got to know you, and they are so impressed that they offer you work experience!

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GREAT QUESTIONS

What do you actually do on a day to day basis?

What do you love about your job? + least favourite part

What do you wish you'd known when you started out?

How did you get here - your career journey

What skills do you think I should be learning?

What books/socials/websites would you recommend?



WHO ELSE SHOULD I TALK TO?

If you are really stuck...

If you have tried all of these tips and are still getting nowhere, please contact your Careers Adviser, Emmi Wainwright at wainwrighte@rs.rklt.co.uk

You can watch the full webinar from My Great First Job on how to find great work experience [here](#)