

## Work Experience at WHSG – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: *Can I complete my work experience at another time?***

A: Only work experience during the designated weeks will be authorised by the school; because we already dedicate a week of term-time work experience, we cannot allow students to miss further time off school.

### **Q: *What happens if I find a work experience placement which is in the school holidays?***

A: That's great! Finding an extra placement during school holidays is a really worthwhile thing to do and that additional experience will help you to make some more informed decisions about your future career. However, because your placement is not during school-time, all arrangements need to be made privately between yourselves, your parents and the employer. This means that your parents will need to be responsible for checking the health & safety standards and insurance arrangements. *You will still need to look for a placement during the school work experience week in addition to anything else you have done/will be doing.*

### **Q: *What if I can't find anything relevant to what I want to study/do?***

A: Is it time to ask for some help? Mrs Boyle is available via email to help point you in the right direction – [jboyle@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:jboyle@wallingtongirls.org.uk) She has details of where all our students went on their placements in the last couple of years and this might be a good starting point for you. Try to utilise any family contacts you might have – including family of your friends. The important thing is to be pro-active in looking for placements: write emails and give people a ring. Also worth a look is ULAS (all Year 12 students will have a login and password) for work experience opportunities. Just be careful to check the dates as they may be during term-time.

There will be some industries for which it can be difficult to get relevant work experience: medicine for one. Most hospitals do run a work experience programme, but applications are very competitive and close early – have a look round to see what is available as soon as possible. If you're unsuccessful, then don't panic - it's time to think outside of the box. For example, getting some work experience at a care home will be a good way of demonstrating that you have experience in interacting with people with medical needs, that you are a good listener, responsible and empathetic.

### **Q: *I'd like to do my work experience abroad – is this possible?***

A: Yes, this is absolutely fine – and what an experience!! This would also need to be a private arrangement between yourselves and the employer. If this applies to you, please see Mrs Boyle as soon as possible and she will give you a different form to complete.

**If in doubt about anything to do with your work experience, then please speak to Mrs Boyle or Mr Parkinson and we will be able to clarify this for you.**