

PROGRAMME: TEACHER INSIGHT

ACTIVITY: INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

SCHOOL: SECONDARY

## TEACHER-INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

Each academic year, DYW West Lothian Regional Group offer one-day industry placements to teachers within West Lothian, which primarily take place during the months of May and June. The placements are designed to support the challenge of teachers to bring the world of work into the classroom and they provide a CLPL opportunity for teachers to develop an up to date understanding of current industry practice, as well as having the potential to develop sustainable links between school and industry.

In the academic year 2019/20, 10 teachers from 3 secondary schools in West Lothian – West Calder High School, St Margaret's Academy and The James Young High School - undertook an industry placement. The employers who agreed to host the placements were from a diverse range of industry sectors and included the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Witherby Publishing, Morton Fraser, Schuh, Visit West Lothian, Q2 Solutions, NHS Lothian, Lonza and The Improvement Service.

The placements provided teachers with the opportunity to develop and enhance their classroom teaching in relation to how their subject relates to the world of work.

Findings from the post-placement teacher evaluation showed that:

- 86% of respondents agreed that participating in a placement improved their knowledge of the particular industry sector
- 100% of respondents agreed that their pupils would benefit from placement learnings in the classroom
- 100% of respondents agreed that, due to going on placement, they felt more informed about the skills and qualities that employers were looking for

Findings from the post-placement employer evaluation showed that:

- 100% of respondents agreed that hosting a teacher placement was worthwhile
- 86% of respondents agreed that the placement allowed them to find out more about the school curriculum and the careers advice provided to pupils
- 86% of respondents confirmed that the placement had resulted in ongoing links between their business and the school

*"The content of the courses that I teach in my subject are very relevant to working in business- I will be giving my pupils examples of the tasks/roles that were covered in my work placement. Linking skills and knowledge developed with the world of work is so important in providing pupils with an understanding of why we are developing skills and how we could use them in future."*

**GRAEME SIMPSON, TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY, WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL**



*"The placement enabled us to showcase the type of work and careers available and to learn the challenges that teachers have within the school environment. Such placements allow for relationship building opportunities, being able to showcase our brand and understand education in practice."*

**MICHELLE REID, HR DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE**

To contact DYW West Lothian please email: [INFO@DYW-WL.COM](mailto:INFO@DYW-WL.COM)

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