



THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Thursday 14th October 2021

Re: Year 12 Update

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

Work shadowing: 18th – 22nd July 2022

The last week of the Summer Term in Year 12 has traditionally been allocated as a 'Work Shadowing Week' where students in Year 12 complete a self-arranged placement to support their Beyond 18 aspirations. 'Work shadowing' is important as it helps your son/daughter to evidence certain skills in their Beyond 18 applications; indeed, several students even go on and secure future employment with their placement providers. It is with profound regret, however, that we have decided that the work shadowing cannot formally take place next July, during the week planned. This decision has been taken for a range of reasons:

- On a risk assessment basis, we do not believe it would be appropriate to promote a programme of work shadowing. With so much uncertainty in place currently we feel it would be disingenuous to ask your son/daughter to attempt to arrange a placement which may not be possible next summer. We feel a clear decision now provides clarity for all stakeholders.
- We believe that your son/daughter will find the process almost impossible given the current situation to secure a 'work shadowing' placement. This is evidenced by the research published by The Sutton Trust which highlights as little as 14% of physical work experience placements still take place nationally. Employers are increasingly retracting from offering 'physical' work experience placements, and many are moving their offering to a virtual platform instead.
- With so much uncertainty and previous disruption to education, we feel that your son/daughter will benefit from the additional time in school. As such, I can confirm that your son/daughter's last day in school will therefore be Friday 22nd July. Further information about the provision in place for the last week of the academic year will follow in 2022.
- We do not feel that your son/daughter will be at a disadvantage. The decision we are taking is being mirrored at educational providers across the UK and so your son/daughter will not be at a competitive disadvantage. Indeed, with a dedicated Head of Careers at the school, we feel we are well-placed to support your son/daughter with the various 'virtual' offers in place and have been promoting these opportunities to them already. We would ask that you encourage your son/daughter to regularly check Google classroom as this is the platform we use to advertise all of these opportunities. We always want to provide you with the very best



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resources and strongly recommend that all parent(s) and carer(s) take the time to look at the new 'Virtual Work Experience' section of our school website. This page will sign-post students/parents to the latest opportunities available – please [click here](#)

- With the introduction of formal 'PSHE' teaching into the school for the Spring Term of 2022 we have specifically created extra curriculum time in June and July to ensure that our careers advice is strengthened as part of our 'living in the wider world' unit of learning.

Obviously, if the nature of the global pandemic changes dramatically in the coming months, we will review this decision.

It is also important to note, that if your son/daughter is able to independently arrange work shadowing, we would ask that this took place during the school holidays, where possible, not in term time. We would recommend August 2022 as the perfect time for this to take place.

We are sure you understand the reasons and logic behind this decision which is being mirrored at schools across the UK. We are sharing this information with students in an online assembly that they will be watching in their Form Rooms.

If you have any questions, please contact one of us at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Marshall
Head of Year 12

Mr R Bell
Deputy Head/Director of 6th Form