

engage¹⁶



Summer 2011 sees record number of internships

This summer over 200 employers hosted over 800 Career Academy students across the UK. This fantastic achievement is a result of the hard work of our supporters, Local Advisory Board members, Career Academy staff in schools and colleges and the Career Academies UK team. It proves once again how powerful an experience a good work placement can be for both employers and students alike.



Maia and Maryam at BBC Worldwide

"I have learned how to manage my time better and deal with professionals, so I feel more prepared for going into the working world when I do leave school." *Katy on her internship at Plymouth University.*

"Sophie has made a real contribution to our hospice. We hadn't expected so much work to be completed but Sophie has really helped." *Elizabeth Wheeldon, Business Director, Katharine House Hospice, Oxfordshire*

"This placement has really broadened our view on what charities do. They are very business-like and professional". *Matt on his internship at Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service*



(L-R) Dr Karl McQueen, intern Matt and Senior Pilot - Captain Dan Martin at Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service

"We were delighted to find the students were mature and very capable. They worked with minimal supervision and added real value by producing excellent work for us". *Alexandra Pope, HR Manager, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service*

"As a result of my internship I've grown in confidence and feel it's really helped me to decide what I want to do for a career. I really enjoyed building the staff intranet and want to be a web designer when I've finished studying." *Stephanie on her internship at Moneyline, Blackburn*

"The working environment here in Canary Wharf is amazing and has made me even more determined to work hard and ensure that I end up working in a place like this." *Courtney on her internship at Barclays, Canary Wharf*

"Roan has been a fantastic intern, and has really become a member of the team here at the Bank." *Adrian Innes, Senior Partner, Clydesdale Bank, Financial Solutions Centre, Edinburgh*

"Adrian developed a structured six week plan for me, to enable me to obtain a real insight into the world of business banking. I've been able to work on a range of tasks including financial research and company projections." *Roan on his internship at Clydesdale Bank, Financial Solutions Centre, Edinburgh*



Samantha, Luke, Saziye, Yasin and Jasmin at Bank of New York Mellon in London

"I feel this programme has really helped to boost my prospects and provided me with the tools to go forward into further education and ultimately a job in the future."

Christopher, on his internship at World Class Mail, Royal Mail, Peterborough

"I have learnt how to prioritise and manage my time, how to work well with colleagues and I really appreciate much more, how businesses really operate and the sensitivity of customer relationships."

Amir, on his internship at Vagdia and Holmes Architects, Coventry

This issue of engage is printed with the generous support of GE Capital



Staff in the spotlight

Nicola Moss Regional Manager, London and South East



Nicola joined us in July 2011 as a Regional Manager for London and South East after relocating from Manchester. Prior to joining the team, Nicola was a project manager for Talent Recruitment Ltd where she was responsible for managing Flexible New Deal and employability skills contracts across a number of London boroughs. Nicola spent seven years as a senior delivery manager for the Commission for the New Economy in Manchester, where she most recently managed a Future Jobs Fund programme in partnership with the ten local authorities and other public and private sector partners.

Ian Nichol Regional Manager, North West



Ian spent the last two years as the North West lead consultant for an education charity, the Personal Finance Education Group, working with teachers to develop children's money management skills.

Prior to this he spent over 25 years working in further and higher education holding management responsibilities for human resources, staff development, curriculum and business development. He is a qualified lecturer and is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Kevin Oliver Regional Manager, Yorkshire and Humber (maternity cover)



Kevin has over 30 years experience in secondary education, including ten years in senior management as curriculum deputy and headteacher of a Business and Enterprise college. He has managed business education links, careers information and guidance, and work related learning projects within a local authority. Kevin has also worked in the not for profit sector on a national personal finance education project with schools and local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber.

Logica Executive Committee inspired by Career Academy students

On Thursday 26 May, 13 Career Academy students from Lambeth College enjoyed a working lunch with the Executive Committee of Logica at their head office in Reading.

A speed networking session gave students the opportunity to quiz the executives about their careers and aspirations. Following an icebreaker the students presented their ideas in response to the question, 'What will the Logica employee of the future look like in 2050?' The Committee were unanimously impressed by the quality of presentations.

In their thank you note to Logica the Career Academy students wrote, "The majority of us are all nervous when it comes to talking to those who are more senior than us. From this



Photo: Lambeth College

experience, Logica has helped us to overcome our fears and feel more comfortable and relaxed when talking to others."

The exchange didn't just have an impact on students, Amanda Mesler, CEO of Logica Business Consulting, said, "They have some different perspectives on issues that businesses like ours face and some good ideas on how to deal with them".

Richard Rose Federation launches eight new Career Academies!

On Wednesday 7 September, The Richard Rose Federation in Carlisle, invited local employers to join them to help celebrate the launch of an incredible eight new Career Academy themes at their brand new multi-million pound Morton Campus. The event attracted great interest and was attended by over 40 local employers including Cumbria Police, Sellafield, Pirelli, CN Group, Virgin Trains and Carlisle City Council.

Kate Holt, Sixth Form Principal at the Morton Campus said the link with

Career Academies UK was the next logical step in developing the 'adult-world' focused sixth form.

"Once again I have been impressed and encouraged about Carlisle employers' enthusiasm for developing young people, and I am very excited about working more closely with them in the weeks and months ahead", she said.

The eight themes will include medical, health and social care, public services, enterprise and retail and digital industries.

Career Academies UK announces STEM initiative

Career Academies UK is delighted to announce that we have secured three years of funding from AstraZeneca to develop our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) strategy. "We hope our partnership with Career Academies UK will inspire the next generation of scientists and position the pharmaceutical sector as a worthwhile career choice" said Caroline Hempstead, Vice President Global Corporate Affairs, AstraZeneca and Career Academies UK National Advisory Board Member.

Rhiannon Evans has been appointed as National STEM Manager and will lead on this project. The aim of the STEM initiative is to increase the number of Career Academies with a STEM theme and also the number of students engaged. We currently have 20% of Career Academies with a STEM theme and hope to grow this to a third by 2015. If you are interested in getting involved, either as a Career Academy Coordinator or supporting employer, please contact rhiannon.evans@careeracademies.org.uk



Mark Rogers, CEO of Solihull Metropolitan Council and Chair of the college's Local Advisory Board addresses the audience.

Photo: Bev Bishop, Sixth Form College, Solihull

The Sixth Form College Solihull celebrate excellent first year

On 4 July The Sixth Form College in Solihull held an evening celebration event at Arup's fantastic offices to recognise the achievements of their first year Career Academy students. Principal Paul Ashdown is so pleased with the success, which he mainly credits to the hard work and enthusiasm of coordinator Ranjit Hayer, that he has decided to introduce Career Academies in four new subject areas – science, public services and sport, media and IT.

The event was well attended by both existing and new supporters and the highlight, as always, was hearing from the students about their experiences. All were enthusiastic about their Partner in Business relationships and several were able to secure an internship at their mentor's place of work. Others were looking forward to the prospect of internships at employers such as Chiltern Railways, Coventry Building Society and BDO. Visits have taken place to West Midlands Police, Grant Thornton, HMRC, npower and Solihull Borough Council.

Each student proudly showed a scrapbook with photos and highlights of their visits, and all attendees received a record of the Career Academy year produced by the students to take away.

My role as a mentor.....

Jonathan Freestone, Senior Underwriter at GE Capital shares his thoughts on his role as a Partner in Business.

Trying to make a recommendation for becoming a Partner in Business is very easy. Just do it!

I am a mentor to Brian, my second mentee from South Thames College in Wandsworth. I continue to find the experience of mentoring a student particularly fulfilling and rewarding.

I am not sure that I am expertly skilled to be a mentor – there are no exams. It's a case of just being yourself and ensuring that you can listen and reflect, remembering what your own thoughts and concerns were at that age and then trying to relate your own experiences to a student's environment.

When I meet Brian at our monthly meetings, you have to turn your mind off from the pressures and demands of the working

environment and change your focus. It's not easy to do but it's an extremely good discipline and routine. It makes you think you have to concentrate and give 100% of your time to somebody who needs it - you owe it to them.

So what does Brian get out of it? Firstly it's a healthy change of environment. Wearing work clothes and travelling to corporate offices to meet up should be an enjoyable experience. It's an opportunity to ask any questions which may not always be possible in the normal day. We spent one session running through accounting concepts and records – that certainly tests your aptitude!

More importantly it is about forging a friendship, creating the origins of a network of people who perhaps can advise and guide as that student travels through their own career; becoming aware that communication with different people is an important part of the business environment.

Where are they now? Catch up with our graduates



Pete Wilson graduated from the Career Academy at Lambeth College in 2007. He undertook his internship at Bloomberg, and is now working at Barclays Wealth in London.

Pete says, "Over the two years, I gained knowledge of how businesses operate and the aims and objectives of different organisations. This has been very useful since I started working. Understanding what an organisation is striving to achieve has not only given me direction but has also been instrumental for me in setting my individual objectives and career path."

"I would recommend that employers get involved in the programme. It is a very good opportunity to spot young talent. The interns can offer fresh ideas and new perspectives if given the right opportunities. It also offers employers the chance to mould young talent into a future employee."

"I would also recommend the programme to potential students; it is simply an excellent opportunity for anyone, especially given the current economic climate and competition for jobs. It can easily be what sets your CV apart and gets you an interview. Also in terms of personal development, there is no better way of gaining workplace experience and learning on the job."

From the Chief Executive

Over 800 Career Academy students have just completed their internship and are starting their second year of the programme.



The question is, when these young people graduate next year, what effect will the Career Academy have had on their future? Will more of them decide to go straight into employment because of the higher tuition fees or decide instead that university is still the right option in order to help boost their career prospects.

The bottom line is that there is no right answer, but as I travel around the country talking to students from as far afield as Plymouth and Carlisle, the rise in student fees is by far the most popular topic of conversation and one which will not be going away any time soon.

Our employer supporters are also concerned, worrying that there won't be such a wide pool of talented graduates in a few years time, whilst others are taking the opportunity to do a complete review of their recruitment policy.

Two high profile national companies have been talking to us recently about how we can work together to improve future talent in a cost effective way. They realise that through our programme students are more work ready and have a better understanding of what is expected of them. They also realise that through the internship they will have a risk free opportunity to 'cherry pick' the best potential candidates.

Exciting times ahead? Challenging certainly, but whatever the decision after school or college, it's not easy out there and the better prepared students are, the better chances they'll have. We're working with our employer supporters and doing all we can to give young people the tools to maximise their potential, in order to stand out from the crowd and make a vital difference, whatever route they choose.

James McCreary
Chief Executive

We would like to acknowledge and thank just some of the new supporters who have recently joined over 900 employers as part of the Career Academy movement.

10 Downing Street, Accord Housing Group, ADS, Andy Givens, Anglian Community Enterprise, Apollo Services, Artemis Executive Consulting, Banbridge District Council, Belleek Pottery Ltd, Belmore Court Motel, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Blackbridge Communications, Black Pepper Design, BLC Property Services, Brooks Macdonald, Buller Jeffries Solicitors, Callcredit, CHI Premier, Chiltern Railways, Circle Group, Climate Change Solutions, Cunningham & Lindsey, Daly Heating, Department for Culture Media and Sport, Donnelly Brothers, Eagle Plant, Ecolab, Enspirita, Exasoft Ltd, Feref Limited, FleetMilne Residential, Friends Of Bright Eyes, Hastings Direct, Insight Investment, Interserve Engineering Services Ltd, Katharine House Hospice, LeapCR, Magill Mortgages & Financial Services, Michael Page, Mills & Reeve LLP, Mind, Newton Investment Management, North East Newspaper Group, Optomen Productions, Pearsalls Ltd, Peterborough City Council, Pett, Franklin & Co, Pielle Consulting, Poppleton & Appleby, Prospectus Vehicle Solutions, Ricoh Arena, Shopzilla, S M Vint & Co Banbridge, SpecSavers, SP McKeown & Co, St John Ambulance, Surrey County Cricket Club, The Training & Recruitment Partnership Ltd, Think Jam, Unlisted London, Vagdia & Holmes, Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, Waterways Ireland, West Midlands Fire Service Academy, Wood Mackenzie.

Diary dates and future events

For full details of events, including those happening in your local area, please visit the Career Academies UK website.

Career Academy Development (previously YOI training)

7 October 2011 – Cobbetts, One Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6AJ. 10am to 3pm

Career Academy Training (previously YOP training)

3 and 4 November 2011, Hilton Hotel, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HL.

From 11 am on 3 November to 2:30pm on 4 November including an overnight stay.

Career Academy Training for Coordinators and Administrators (for schools and colleges in their Year of Planning)

20 March 2012 - Clifford Chance, Canary Wharf, London, E14 – 10am to 4pm

14 March 2012 – DLA Piper, Princes Exchange, Princes Square, Leeds, LS1 4BY
10am to 4pm

Midlands (date and venue to be confirmed)

Graduation Ceremonies

London – 3 May 2012. 2pm and 5pm starts

Manchester – 9 May 2012 (for students in North West and North East and those who can't attend on 3 May). 5pm.

National Conference – June 2012 (date and venue to be confirmed)

Find us on:



www.facebook.com/careeracademiesuk

www.twitter.com/CareerAcadsUK

www.linkedin.com/company/career-academies-uk

WE WELCOME NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please email: victoria.sutton@careeracademies.org.uk

Career Academies UK leads and supports a movement of over 900 employers and 120 schools & colleges, working together to raise the aspirations of 16 to 19-year-olds.

Chair: Dr Heather McGregor

Chief Executive: James McCreary

Career Academies UK

25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5LB

T: 020 7986 5494

F: 020 7986 5497

E: info@careeracademies.org.uk

www.careeracademies.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1092891

Registered Company Number: 04428178