

engage

aspire... accelerate... achieve...

The newsletter of the Career Academy movement

INTERNSHIP NUMBERS RISE DESPITE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Despite the recession, more than 250 employers around the UK hosted over 673 Career Academy students on their six-week internship this summer – a 25% increase in the number of placements compared with 2008. This fantastic result is testament to the hard work of our supporters, Local Advisory Board members, Career Academy staff in schools and colleges and the Career Academies UK team.



Student Claire from Sheffield Community Academy in Walsall, on her internship at Finning International

"I felt part of the team from day one and have really gained in confidence over the past six weeks. I have learnt to use my own initiative and to ask if I need help. My IT skills have developed too and I would really like to thank the team at Finning for giving me this great opportunity."

Claire, on her internship at Finning International, Cannock

"Sobia has been a very good asset to the branch. Whilst operating a till, she has balanced every day and was a great team player. She has learnt a lot in a small space of time and has matured well which will provide her with a great platform for the future. We will miss having Sobia around and we look forward to her joining us as a full time employee once she graduates."

Rosemary Lister, Branch Manager, Yorkshire Bank, Sheffield

"We found the presentations the students gave at the end of their internships incredibly professional and useful to us as a team and to MITIE as a business. We would be delighted to host students again next summer but they will need to be as good as Sara and Gus!"

Jade Wiseman, Office Manager, MITIE, London

"Having an intern at Cadbury has been a positive experience from both sides. We have benefited from Christopher's fresh view and it has made us look at our processes and challenge why we do things. This scheme has been so successful that the site has agreed to take two interns next year".

Rachel Eagle, UK Export Finance Manager, Cadbury, Sheffield

"Before I started the internship I was really nervous, but I soon realised that I could do the job well and that I really liked the people I was working with. I now definitely want to go to university and Lloyds TSB have offered me further work next summer when I complete Year 13!"

Tom, on his internship at Lloyds TSB, Bristol

"The young people who have been placed through the Career Academy programme have often exceeded expectations and have proven to make a real contribution to the organisation."

Lisa Walton, HR Consultant, BUPA, Salford Quays

"Will's engineering internship was very successful for the authority and I'm sure for Will. He experienced first hand the breadth of local authority work and we were very pleased with the enthusiasm and interest he showed from day one. If all interns are as determined to succeed, there will be many good candidates for future posts."

James O'Loughlin, Network Asset Manager, Tameside MBC

"We're used to having students in clinical areas asking questions about why we do things and bringing fresh ideas. We are less used to having them in largely administrative areas such as education. Richard made us think and the team loved having him."

Jo Hall, Associate Director Organisational Development & AHP, Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust

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Student Lukman from Christ the King Sixth Form College, on his internship at The Bank of New York Mellon

OLSWANG

BOURNVILLE LAUNCHES TWO NEW CAREER ACADEMIES IN SPORTS AND SCIENCE

Following on from the success of Career Academies in Finance and Media, Bournville College in Birmingham has decided to expand the programme to include those studying sports and science courses.

On 17 June, various organisations such as HMRC, the University of Birmingham and Aim Higher, attended a launch, with a view to supporting the college in its quest to provide relevant and up to date training for young people. Mark Arnott-Job, Career Academy Coordinator at Bournville College said: "A Career Academy is a fantastic opportunity for businesses to influence the curriculum. We are constantly seeking organisations willing to provide Guru Lectures, internships or even something as simple as a visit to their organisation."



Solomon Williams, a student on the Career Academy programme in Finance explained what it meant to him: "I have really enjoyed the extended curriculum activities that we have been involved in. They have enabled me to understand the business world much better, and I have gained so much from this. I'm looking to go to university next year and have been fortunate enough to win a bursary from Career Academies UK to help me with my university studies."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? CATCH UP WITH OUR GRADUATES

Ellis Weeks attended Thomas Tallis School where she studied for a BTEC in Finance. She did her internship at Talkback Thames and now works for Ascent Media, the world's largest provider of integrated global services for the creation, management and distribution of media content.

I have always been a career-orientated person, so the Career Academy programme was a great opportunity for me to make something of myself and learn a lot about the workplace.

I was surprised when I got my internship at Talkback Thames, as there were only two media companies offering internships in my whole school and the rest were finance-based. I felt incredibly lucky to get a placement with such an amazing company.

I now work for Ascent Media, the company that own Discovery Networks Europe. Because of my experience at Talkback Thames I managed to secure a job in the

post room and have worked my way up rapidly from there over the past few months. I now work in media management, making sure voiceovers and graphics are all in place and soon I'll be taking up a new role, looking after the technical side of audio content for all the channels.

I realise that I'm privileged to be where I am now, and I put my success down to taking part in the Career Academy programme. I would definitely recommend it to others as it has helped me so much. Even if they don't follow that particular career path, the workplace experience is invaluable for any student and will prepare them well for the future.



Over 700 employers now support the Career Academy movement. We would like to acknowledge and thank all the organisations who have joined the programme recently, including:

Accounts and Taxation Agents Ltd, ACEVO, Actelion Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd, Bath Building Society, Best Kept Secrets, Blue Venture South Tyneside EBP, Brentwood Borough Council, Catlin Ltd, Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust, Citybus, Coventry City Council, DCT Civil Engineering Ltd, Equus, Finning, First Direct, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Hawke International, Hollybank Trust, Howarth Clark Whitehill LLP, Hull City Council, Knowsley Council, Lowe London, Marks & Spencer, Merseyside LSC, MITIE, New Charter Housing, NHS Blackburn with Darwen, NHS North East Essex, PEC Building Services, Plymouth Argyle Football Club, RAC, Ramada Hotel (Dover), Ricoh UK Ltd, Senior Aerospace BWT, Stena Line UK Ltd, The Hyde Group, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, Unicorn Jobs, Webliquid

"As a sponsor Governor at Archers Court Maths & Computing College I was delighted when invited to be a Local Advisory Board member for their Career Academy. I knew the students who joined the Career Academy would also be eager to engage with the prospects this opportunity provided, and am determined that Stena Line and myself (as their representative) can play an active role in whatever way possible. Archers Court benefits already from good management, and this partnership will only strengthen local community opportunities for everyone connected with the process – students and businesses alike."

Kevin Arman, Freight Reservations Coordination & IT Support Manager, Stena Line UK Limited

IN FOR A PENNY... OLSWANG'S CAREER ACADEMY JOURNEY

Bryony Cain tells their story. "Career Academies...perhaps they can help..." we muttered as we browsed Google, searching for a way to harness the burgeoning enthusiasm in our law firm for developing a pro bono initiative to be proud of. We had the enthusiasm, we had the resources, we knew what our end goal was, but we just weren't sure exactly how to get there. We needed guidance, and so, one early morning, we found ourselves braving the Jubilee line to attend a Career Academies UK conference entitled "Bothered? Does investing in the education of teenagers make good business sense?"

Just over a year on, and we certainly know the answer to that question is a resounding "Yes"! Having thought we would start with a small-scale trial, within a week of emailing our colleagues about the mentoring scheme, we were overwhelmed with volunteers, not only wanting to become mentors, but also to become involved in organising student visits to Olswang and paid internships. Far from the small-scale approach we had initially anticipated taking, we found ourselves able to offer mentors to 38 pupils in 16 schools in 14 different London boroughs. At our first student visit, it soon became apparent that us lawyers, even the most senior of partners, were far more scared of the students than they were of us! The students were confident, interested and asked astute questions which really tested us. The feedback, from Olswang and students alike,

was positive. Since then, we have hosted a further six successful visits for different groups of students from schools in London and further afield.

Through these visits we have built up a particularly good relationship with Haverstock School in Camden. One of our partners is now a member of their Career Academy Advisory Board and is working closely to develop further links between Haverstock and Olswang. Two students from Haverstock became Olswang's inaugural Career Academy interns this summer, spending six weeks working at the firm, impressing all those they met and producing an excellent presentation on a business project, which again left some of the senior partners quaking in their boots ("They got more applause than we ever do" one partner was heard to moan...)

Our enthusiasm for Career Academies UK continues to grow as we enter our second year of participation. We now have a waiting list of colleagues who wish to get involved with the various projects and are already planning next year's internships, with plans to offer three placements rather than two. We are working with Haverstock School to provide assistance to their new Media Career Academy and to commence a series of 'Guru Lectures' on specialist topics during the new academic year. Career Academy students no doubt learn a great deal through their participation in this fantastic programme, but what we as a firm have learnt must at least

THE BIG CONVERSATION



Shelley Williamson

On 15 September, 30 Career Academy students from across the UK met 100 chief executives, to share their views about work experience. The event, called The Big Conversation, marked the start of the Work Inspiration campaign, a movement of employers pledging more and better work experience for young people. Sir Stuart Rose, as chair of Business in the Community, is spearheading the campaign.



rival this; we have met a huge number of young people who have inspired us to step outside of our law-firm comfort zone and taught us that life really isn't all about the end goal, but rather the journey and the people who you meet along the way...

FIRST NATIONAL ORGANISATION TO BE RECOGNISED FOR BRILLIANT BUSINESS AND EDUCATION BROKERAGE

Career Academies UK has received the new Award for Education Business Excellence for its outstanding work in raising the aspirations of young people and preparing them for the world of work. Career Academies UK is the first national organisation to be presented with the Award which accredits bodies to the Department for Children, Schools and Families' National Standard for Education Business Partnership Organisations.

The Award recognises the continued efforts and high standards achieved by Career Academies UK in its ongoing work

connecting education and the world of work for the benefit of young people.

The rigorous assessment by the Institute for Education Business Excellence highly commended the work of Career Academies UK: "Career Academies UK is clearly a strong organisation: well lead and managed, effective, efficient and offering very good value for money to those who invest in it. It is valued by stakeholders both for the quality of its delivery, the professionalism of its staff and the creativity of its approach, and is clearly making a positive difference to the education and employment agendas."

Martyn Drain, acting Chief Executive of Career Academies UK, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to receive this national accreditation. It is a great tribute to the hard work of the Career Academies team and supporters, who work tirelessly to provide meaningful business experiences for young people and improve their life chances."

aebe
Award for Education Business Excellence

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In previous issues of Engage, John May has written a short progress update as Chief Executive. However, by the time you read this issue John will have taken up his new position as Chief Executive of Young Enterprise UK. No doubt some of you will continue to be in touch with John in this new capacity. Indeed it is possible that our two organisations may well cooperate on projects in the future as we both continue to drive forward improvements in education business partnerships.

John's contribution to the success of Career Academies UK since 2002 has

been considerable. He was our very first employee so has overseen every step of our growth. His energy and commitment has rubbed off on everyone in the network of participating schools and colleges and supporting employers. I am sure you will all agree that his vision for the work that we do and how we can impact positively the lives of so many young people has been unique. We all owe him a huge 'thank you'.

My fellow Trustees and National Advisory Board members and I want to stress that it is very much 'business as normal' and that we remain committed to our current growth plans. A successor for John is being sought and will be in place as soon as possible.

Until then I am very pleased that Martyn Drain has agreed to be acting Chief Executive. Together with the other staff, Martyn will continue to manage all the day-to-day activities, start off the new Year of Planning training programme for schools and colleges and continue to influence government policy on education business partnerships.

Thank you for your ongoing support of and participation in our movement which improves the opportunities of so many young people's lives.

*Sir Winfried Bischoff, Chairman,
Career Academies UK*

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Over 170 delegates attended the fifth annual conference of the Career Academy movement on 7 July. The event was kindly hosted by the Canary Wharf Group and held at the East Wintergarden in Canary Wharf.

Sir Stuart Rose, Chairman and Chief Executive of Marks & Spencer addressed the conference on 'The talent we need for the future'. He called for greater cooperation between education and business in order to address the skills gap. Miles Templeman, Director General of the Institute of Directors, spoke about

the increasing relevance of skills over academic knowledge, particularly when fast-growing nations, such as India and China, have much stronger skills bases than the UK.



Sir Stuart Rose speaking at the conference

Over lunch, delegates were entertained with a music recital from students at the Colchester Institute. 15 round table sessions included topics such as engaging public sector employers, and the shock of corporate life. The day closed with a lively panel discussion, where the audience had

the opportunity to question Career Academy graduate Adam Hopley; Principal of Lambeth College, Richard Chambers; Jacqueline Collins from Slaughter & May and Andy Powell from Edge.

Look out for details of the 2010 Annual Conference in the spring.

OLDHAM COLLEGE SHOW THEIR THANKS

This summer, students from The Oldham College held a thank you event for their Partners in Business and internship supervisors, in Manchester City Centre. Employees from The Bank of New York Mellon, MGP Employee Benefits Ltd, Innovative Technology Ltd and The Cooperative Bank all gathered to wish their students well. Paul McSweeney, Coordinator at The Oldham College Career Academy of Finance said, "The support has been fantastic, many of our Partners in Business have pledged to keep in touch with their students on an informal basis going forward and have also volunteered to partner students in our new cohort as well as encouraging others to get involved."



Student Matthew pictured with his mentor Gareth Palmer from the Cooperative Bank, Manchester

Diary dates & future events

Year of Planning: Career Academy Fundamentals. 10 and 11 November 2009. Forest of Arden Hotel, Birmingham. This one and a half day residential training event is compulsory for schools and colleges preparing to launch a Career Academy in 2010. At least two representatives from each school/college should attend, including a member of senior management team and the Career Academy Coordinator.

A Capital Experience: for all first year Career Academy students. 30 November 2009, London

Graduation Ceremony: 29 April 2010. Institute of Education, London. There will also be a ceremony in the North of England, in early May. Date to be confirmed.

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

WE WELCOME NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Career Academies UK leads and supports a movement of over 700 employers and 100 schools & colleges, working together to raise the aspirations of 16 to 19-year-olds.

Chairman: Sir Win Bischoff

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