

Suffolk New College HOW INDUSTRY CAN WORK WITH SUFFOLK NEW COLLEGE

# WHY WORK WITH EDUCATION?

Social value is important when helping to raise social mobility, learner's knowledge of the world of work and developing their confidence and skills. But there are also many benefits for the employer when working with education.

When industry works with education they help to develop the learner's knowledge on industry and important employability skills, this helps to decrease the skills shortage within industry and employers get to shape future talent. This also helps to raise learner's aspirations to work within different roles and industries they may not have known about, which helps to increase a diverse work force.

Employers also get to have access to the talent pipeline and can share opportunities within the college. When the employers have already worked with the learners (for example industry placements) they can have greater confidence in the applicants applying for their roles.

## **ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS**

#### • CAREERS WORKSHOPS

Using your experience of industry to deliver a workshop to learners which is linked the curriculum modules. Help them to develop a richer knowledge of their chosen industry. A careers workshop normally includes:

- An introduction of your role and company, your careers journey, pathway into this role and training.
- Knowledge on a specific subject linked to the module, delivery of a task for the learners to carry out and feedback

### ORGANISATION VISITS

You can help learners gain more industry knowledge by holding visits to your organisations. Within these visits you can give the learners an opportunity to see all areas of the business and the different roles within the company. This helps learners to see what the working environment is like, what they can expect in their working day, hear about different roles within the company and gain more industry knowledge.

#### EMPLOYER LED PROJECTS

You can lead on an employer project, this helps our learners gain employability skills, providing them knowledge of the world of work and developing their skills within the industry they have chosen.

For example, construction learners at Suffolk New College followed the brief to design and build the new pig enclosure at Jimmy's farm. Another example is the welding learners, who have followed an employer brief designing and creating metal lanterns for a local organisation's need. These types of projects help learners to develop their skills and supports industry.





### **INFORMING THE CURRICULUM**

You can be a part of an industry advisory group which links with your career. These groups help our learners go onto their next steps with the relevant skills & knowledge for industry because the curriculum has been reviewed by employers; this helps curriculum to be up to date with the needs of the industry. You can be sent the curriculum and modules to feedback on to have an open line of communication with the course directorate to keep them up to date with any new industry news.

### **INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS**

Offering a meaningful industry placement is both beneficial for the learner and employer. An industry placement can be delivered over a time period that suits you. For example some employers hold a two week industry placement and some have the learner one day a week for a whole academic year depending on their time table.

An industry placement works well when the employer has a well-designed program for example:

- The learner has a meeting with the employee running the Industry placement where expectations of the learner is set, discussions around where the learner's development areas may be and targets are set such as to what would take place within a performance review.
- The learner may spend two days working with different members of the team to get an understanding of the different roles that make up the company.
- The learner is set a project that links with the company aims and their chosen career. This is great if it is a project that will support the company.
- Feedback is provided both throughout and at the end of the Industry Placement.

## **T-LEVELS**

T-levels are new, government-backed, career focused qualifications for 16- to 19-year olds. They're equivalent to three A-levels. They are part of a drive to strengthen the technical education system in England.

Each two-year course combines 80% classroom study with a 45-day industry placement to prepare learners and the skills they need for the world of work , or further study like a higher level apprenticeship or university.

Offering an Industry T-level placement give you a unique opportunity to help develop new talent in your industry, and get young people work-ready.

