

# WHY HOST VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE WITH SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS



## WHO ARE SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS?

Speakers for Schools is a charity that was founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor Robert Peston, and supported by the Law Family Charitable Foundation, with a mission to level the playing field for young people.

It aims to end educational inequality by giving access to the same networks as the top fee-paying schools in the UK through inspirational talks and work placements.



## WHAT IS VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE?

Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) is essentially a remote opportunity offered by employers to share experiences of the world of work which can be accessed by schools, colleges, students and young people online without having to travel to the employer's office or base.

Speakers for Schools can facilitate three forms of virtual work experience: Discovery Days (shorter taster sessions), Insight Days (one day taster placements) and 3-5 day placements.



# 8 INSTANT BENEFITS TO YOU FOR HOSTING VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE WITH SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS

**1** Easy way to meet ESG, CSR and DEI targets that also develops your early talent pipeline

Demonstrates your company's commitment towards aiding social mobility and improving diversity of your talent pool.

Enables you to clearly signpost your different early career pathways to the right target audience at the right time (apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and graduate schemes).

**2** Easy to host and ideal for the current environment where in-person is not possible

Minimum time and resource commitment required as we train your staff on Google Classrooms and/or Google Meets.

**3** More scalable than traditional work experience so increases your reach

Enables you to offer more placements (current employers have doubled the placements on offer this year).

Increases your geographical reach with option to tailor placements to be UK-wide or region-specific. We have witnessed an increase of 1,950% in UK-wide placements in the last year.

**4** More accessible to young people making it an easier first step for more 14-19-year-olds

Removes economic barrier for student participation so more likely to attract young people from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds from this age demographic.

**5** Higher application success rate than traditional work experience

Scales up the number of available placements, so applicants more likely to secure a placement, which incentivises young people to apply and means you can attract more young people.

6

Can enhance your traditional in-person outreach activities

Gives you the choice of a blended model for work experience. 100% of our surveyed active employers said they would look to run a hybrid model for work experience, with 2/3 of the time virtual and 1/3 on-site.

7

Can be objective-led to deliver meaningful outcomes

Gives you the opportunity to get more diverse input into solving a current business improvement issue.

8

Can present an ideal CPD opportunity for junior staff and/or activity for employee volunteering schemes

Assisting with Virtual Work Experience delivery can be used as a measurable value-added activity for junior staff or employee volunteers that requires little supervision and can be easily delegated. We can provide best practice guidance and support you with training your staff.



# WHAT MAKES OUR VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE THE BEST ON OFFER?

## **Our support levels**

We offer four levels of support: Access, Core, Enhanced and Managed so that you can choose the level of support you require based on your requirements and budget.

## **Our reach**

We already support over 2,700 schools across the UK and can recruit young people direct. We also have representatives in every region across the UK, so we can offer local support.

## **Our online application process**

It is simple, but encourages a higher level of engagement. Applying for VWEX with us requires the young person to invest time in their application, which means they are generally more committed and less likely to drop out.

## **Our focus on high quality outcomes and impact**

Our VWEX meets Gatsby Benchmark 5 and 6 and is designed to deliver against the Skills Builder Universal Framework. We work with The Careers and Enterprise Company, the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education to ensure we provide a service in line with their guidelines for best practice.

## **No risk or additional safeguarding training/DBS checks required**

We offer high-level safeguarding and use platforms that provide full digital anonymity, tracking and protections. There is no direct one-to-one interaction between your staff and the participating young people, so no need for your staff to be DBS checked.

## **We have a proven track record**

We work with 500+ employers already and are on track to have delivered 63,000 VWEX placements by the end of August 2021.

## **We can support a hybrid approach to suit you**

We have the capability and capacity to offer a tailored blend of VWEX and in-person work experience in line with your business requirements.

# WHY SHOULD YOU SIGN UP TO HOST VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE RIGHT NOW?

The last 12 months have hit businesses hard, but they have also been particularly tough on young people. Millions of young people across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will complete their school studies this summer and be moving on from their current schools and colleges.

These young people are at a key stage in their personal development. They have experienced massive disruption to their education and have also missed crucial opportunities to gain vital insights into careers and the workplace.

According to evidence published by The Careers and Enterprise Company in partnership with the Confederation of British Industry, "Research from the charity Education and Employers shows that young people who have 4 or more workplace encounters while at school are 86% less likely to be 'Not in Education Employment or Training' (NEET) and on average will go on to earn 18% more than their peers who did not."\*

There is now a very limited window to help these young people before they leave their current place of education this July.

We need more employers to sign up before the end of May and commit to hosting virtual work experience placements to meet the current demand and give young people leaving school valuable experience of the world of work.

\* <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploaded/careers-enterprise-cbi-employers...>

**Register now to host virtual work experience this academic year**

Visit [s4snextgen.org/Sign-Up](https://s4snextgen.org/Sign-Up)

