



SMJ/nmr

13 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Year 10 and 12 Work Experience

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Eliza Phillips has been appointed as our new careers coordinator. She is due to start after Easter and brings with her a wealth of experience working in schools locally and internationally.

As you may be aware, St Bernard's has previously offered work experience which takes place for one week during term time. Normally, arrangements for Work Experience would be communicated to parents during the Spring 2 term. Unfortunately, this has not been possible this year and we are using this opportunity to review whether Work Experience in its current form is still appropriate for Year 12 and Year 10 students. We are investigating the different models used by other local schools. For some students, Work Experience is a wonderful experience which helps to shape their future aspirations, but we are also mindful that not all placements are formative. Additionally, for students seeking highly specialised placements, such as Medicine or Dentistry, the placements often do not coincide with our placement dates and students end up missing out on additional schooling or an essential placement.

I know that many parents, especially those with older children at this school will already have been exploring options in relation to Work Experience; I thank you for your proactive approach to supporting your child and regret that I am not in a position to confirm our plans for work experience in 2024. As soon as we can confirm these arrangements, we will write to you.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Ms Sarah Jackson
Assistant Headteacher