

## Why Employer Engagement is Important

Local employers bring practical, real-world perspectives to students, helping them understand the current job market and the skills needed in different industries. This connection makes learning more engaging and relevant.

- By working directly with employers, students can develop essential skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. These skills are crucial for success in the workplace and are often hard to teach solely in a classroom setting.
- Meeting professionals and learning about various career paths can inspire students and broaden their horizons. Exposure to different roles and industries helps them set realistic career goals.
- Employer engagement allows students to build networks and make connections that can be valuable when they start looking for jobs. Networking can also lead to internships, work placements, and future employment opportunities.
- Employers can show how academic subjects apply to real-world jobs, helping teachers link what is taught in the classroom to career pathways. This makes learning more meaningful and helps students understand the practical applications of their studies.
- Local employers can offer valuable work experience or workplace visit opportunities, giving students a chance to explore different careers and gain hands-on experience. This practical exposure is crucial for helping students make informed career choices.
- By working with local schools, employers help develop a skilled workforce that can support the local economy. Investing in the future workforce ensures businesses have access to individuals who are ready to meet industry demands.
- Engagement between schools and local employers strengthens community ties. It creates a sense of shared responsibility for the education and future success of young people, promoting a collaborative approach to addressing local employment needs.
- Employer engagement provides opportunities for all students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to access high-quality career education and experiences relevant to their needs and aspirations. This helps level the playing field and promotes social mobility by giving every student a chance to succeed.
- Employers can offer insights into the specific skills and qualifications needed for various roles, helping schools tailor their career guidance to better prepare students for the job market. This advice ensures students are equipped with the knowledge and skills required for their chosen careers.

Involving local employers in career education is crucial for preparing students for the future. It enhances their understanding of the world of work, develops their employability skills, and inspires their future pathway aspirations. Building strong relationships with local employers provides students with valuable opportunities and supports the growth of the local economy.

We host various events throughout the year and always seek employers to support us. Engagement would include.

- Our Future Pathway Event (careers fair)
- Assemblies and Inspirational Talks: Share your industry insights with students and parents.
- Group Workshops: Offer hands-on sessions for students to explore your industry.

We greatly appreciate the time employers give, and our goal is to build lasting relationships so that you return year after year.

If visiting us is not feasible, we can bring students to you. Workplace visits can be incredibly inspiring and help students discover job roles they had not considered.

We are also open to your ideas on how you can engage with us. We aim to make collaboration easy and flexible to suit your availability and resources.

If you can provide any employer opportunities to Five Acre Wood School, please contact [dcurtis@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dcurtis@five-acre.kent.sch.uk).

