



Noticeboard

Why should I offer work experience?

'Schools should help every pupil develop high aspirations and consider a broad and ambitious range of careers'.

Inspiring every pupil through real-life contact with the world of work can help them understand where different choices can take them in the future (DfE Statutory Guidance issued March 2015). We all agree that a good education is vital, but our young people can also benefit from opportunities to develop the all-important 'employability' skills and an understanding of the world of work which can only be obtained through first-hand experience. Employers regularly cite a lack of relevant skills in job applicants. However, the evidence shows that opportunities for young people to come into contact with the workplace are still limited. (Catch 16-22; UK Commission for Employment and Skills; 2015).

To try to address this the Department of Education is encouraging schools to forge working relationships with local employers to raise their students' awareness and understanding of the world of work. This can be done in various ways, including careers fairs and presentations within schools. However, one of the most inspirational ways is through the offer of work experience placements.

From a school perspective, we know that employers sometimes feel reluctant to offer work experience for various reasons, including concerns about the time and effort needed - both during the pre-placement organisation and the week itself; as well as finding that their student has no real interest or enthusiasm to spend the week with them. However, schools running well structured programmes go to great efforts to ensure that the preparation is not too onerous for the employer and that the student is carefully matched to their placement. We, like other schools, also ensure that pupils are carefully prepared to approach the week in a professional and courteous way. Our pupils regularly return from their placements full of enthusiasm for what in many cases has been a completely new experience. Not only are they more knowledgeable about the industry they have explored but they return with greater confidence in their abilities and strengths; something which they build upon in Sixth Form.

In addition to providing an invaluable experience for the student, there are tangible benefits for employers. Work experience:



- is a great way to access the local labour market and explore a talent pipeline
- aids staff development in terms of management and training skills
- sends a positive message to the workforce about the values of the organisation, and improves engagement in the local community

If you would like to know more you can contact any of the local secondary schools, most of whom offer work experience programmes. Likewise, Hertfordshire Youth Connexions, who liaise with employers and arrange placements for many schools, would be happy to provide further details (email: workrelatedlearning@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Our students are the workforce of the future and as part of their training for the world of work, employers are in an invaluable position to both inform and inspire the next generation.

Suzanne Santurri,

Work Experience Coordinator,
Bishop's Stortford College.

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Don't get 'Court' out!

Justice Minister Shailesh Vara was a busy man in the run up to the Parliamentary summer recess.

On 16 July, he announced the proposed closure of 91 courts and tribunals across England and Wales. The bulk of these are Magistrates' Courts, including Harlow, but 19 County Courts are included on his hit list, further to a more significant cull five years ago.

Savings in staff costs and raising funds by selling off the freeholds are at the heart of the plans, whilst it was also suggested that over a third of all courts and tribunals were empty for more than 50% of their available hearing capacity. The length of time it seems to take to get a hearing date suggests that the real problem is that there are not enough Judges available to sit in them!

On 22 July, Mr Vara completed his double whammy

for Court users by announcing proposals to double the maximum fee for issuing money claims to £20,000 and to increase the fee for a contested application to £255 from £155, amongst other similar measures.

What does this all mean for businesses?

Getting less for more does not sound like a great deal so it's going to be more important than ever to avoid ending up in a dispute in the first place by using watertight contracts and making effective use of credit control procedures.

Failing that, Alternative Dispute Resolution, such as mediation, could provide a cheaper, faster and less adversarial solution.

For the more entrepreneurial amongst you, is there another way? They wouldn't privatise the Courts - or would they?...

Justin Robinson, Partner, Tees Law, ijr@teeslaw.co.uk



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**Wednesday 21st
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Forthcoming Events

20th Aug. Social Evening of Golf at GHGC 6pm £10

NB. NO BREAKFAST MEETING IN AUGUST

8th Sept. Networking Breakfast at GHGC -
Tanya Curry of St Clare Hospice

11th Sept. *Chamber Business Lunch with...*
Karen Smart of Stansted Airport at
Manor of Groves

6th Oct. Networking Breakfast at Water Lane
Restaurant, Steve Boniface of Whitworth
Co-Partnership

15th Oct. Meet the Buyers - Stansted Airport

21st Oct. Bishop's Stortford Means Business - Rhodes

28th Oct. Quiz at Rugby Club with Paul Winspear

11th Dec. *Chamber Business Lunch with...*
Mark Prisk MP for Hertford and Stortford
at Water Lane Bar & Restaurant

BISHOP'S STORTFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



networking breakfast

SUPPORTING

ST CLARE HOSPICE

Great Hadham Golf & Country Club
Great Hadham Road, Much Hadham

Tuesday 8th September 2015
8am for 8.30am
Tanya Curry
CEO of
St Clare Hospice

£15 prebooked • £17.50 on the day
(Bookings cancelled after 5th September 2015 will be charged)

Welcome new members

Lorna Wright Memory Trips

Martin Budzinski Voucher Packs

Mike Carver M.Carver

Mary Parsons People for Places Group

Ransomware

Support your favourite cyber criminal

If you learn one thing about IT this year let it be this!

What would you do if all your data was deleted today and not just the data on your PC but across your network and all your back-ups too?

According to an industry study by The Diffusion Group, 60% of companies that lose their data close down within six months of the disaster and a staggering 72% of businesses that suffer major data loss disappear within 24 months.

You could easily find yourself in this situation simply by opening an email attachment!

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that restricts access to the computer it infects and demands a ransom to be paid for the restriction to be removed.

This is not a new phenomenon having been around in different guises for a few years, however when a new version or delivery method appears the effects are immediately apparent from the calls we receive.

The last and current version Cryptowall (and variants) is mainly delivered via email as an attachment. The most common is with a subject of "My Resume" with a .zip file attached. If the file is opened nothing obvious happens and the user normally continues to work away. In the background the program has been launched.

The virus will then attempt to encrypt all common files making them impossible to open. It will encrypt all files on the local computer, then attempt to spread across your network to other PC's, servers and backups. It can also spread to offsite backups.

Once it can find no files to infect it displays a pop up similar to the below.

This informs you what has happened and that you are to pay a ransom (amounts differ from a few hundred pounds to thousands) to receive an unlock code - the payment is untraceable.

There is normally a countdown on the pop up (very 1970's) and if you do not pay your data is permanently locked.

There is much dispute as to whether paying the ransom does allow you to unlock with stories of more money being demanded.

This infection is not fussy as to who it infects we are aware of at least one police force and a retired lady with a 6 year old PC.



What can you do? You could pay but there is no guarantee this will work after all the people who infected you are not known for their customer service. Seriously you must ensure you have a proper backup of all critical data and preferably on a son, father, and grandfather rotation. This allows you to delete all encrypted data and restore from your last backup.

This is assuming you have not allowed the infection to spread to your backups!

If you have insufficient backups or they are infected and paying does not work - that's it! No data, you may well find yourself back at the start of this article.

What can you do to prevent this? Discuss with your IT department or support company what backup routines you have in place and if insufficient change immediately. If unsure call a reputable IT company.

Discuss blocking of certain attachments at source on all emails - a good reason to use Exchange email.

Ensure all staff are aware they should not be opening any attachment they are unsure of. Just because the email came from a known email address does not mean it is safe, many of these viruses are from spoof email addresses so you will trust them. Email policies are highly recommended for many reasons and every company should have one in place.

Make it clear to staff that IF they do open anything suspicious they must inform IT support immediately - Just last week one of our customers opened one and it infected 16000 files in 20 minutes! Leaving it overnight or the weekend will result in all your data and backups being encrypted.

Unfortunately even the best antivirus programs will not pick this up so please do not rely on them. Antivirus software is rather like getting your jabs before you travel to an out of the way place - if you then jump off the plane and drink out of a puddle the likelihood of you becoming ill is very high despite getting the jabs!

Garry Moore, Managing Director Genmar (UK) Limited

BSCC 4th Annual Charity Golf Day

The Chamber of Commerce charity golf day was held at the Manor of Groves on Friday 3rd July with all proceeds raised going to help St Clare Hospice at Hastingwood, the Chamber's nominated Charity for 2015.

A field of 14 teams saw the course in superb condition and superb weather accompanied the day. Great golf was played on the day and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves, even if it was only laughing at other team member's mishaps.

There must have been a few of those during the day as the fines jug passed around in the evening raised nearly £200, including fines for misdemeanours such as hiring a buggy for the day and having a sneaky pint half way round. There was also the opportunity this year to purchase a mulligan on the nearest the pin hole and Mary Martin of St Clare was kept rather busy by players retaking shots having sent their first shot in to the lake in front of the green.

The team event was won by the Manor's Pro Team of Ben Goodey Golf with Auditel second and Pelly's third. An individual competition was run this year and Gareth Thomas of Team Auditel is now the proud owner, or certainly was on the night, of a case of Blind Pig Cider donated by Kevin Concannon of Water Lane Bar and Restaurant. Sam Faulkner won the longest drive and Gareth Thomas won the Nearest The Pin competition. Having been suitably refreshed by a couple of jars the



2015 WINNERS - BEN GOODEY GOLF

combatants sat down to a wonderful carvery, and then onto the raffle draws and prize giving. Richard Pond of Business Connected won the main prize of a fourball at the Belfry in the £20 draw in the evening. A large jar full of golf tees provided an interval of deliberation and wild guesses, culminating in the nearest guess being suggested by Simon Lloyd of Price Bailey, winning a wine hamper.

I would like to end with a few thank yous; firstly to Mary of

St Clare for her help on the day, the Chamber Social committee and Carole, for their help in organising as well as my wife and daughter for being official photographers on the day. A light technical hitch may mean however that these photos do not see the light of day as they refuse to download from the camera, maybe they know something we don't. Next to all our sponsors who donated various items for the raffle and £20 draw, Manor of Groves for hosting the event, and lastly to all the competitors for making it a great day.

Overall the day raised nearly £2,000 which is a fantastic effort and helps the Chamber in its quest to raise £6,600 this year for St Clare Hospice to purchase a hoist to aid patient care.

Next year's date is already booked so please put a big keep free for Friday 24th June 2016 in your diaries already. Happy Golfing!!

Lee Freeman - Chairman

Chamber Business Lunch with...

Karen Smart

Customer Services and Security Director, Stansted Airport

Stansted Airport post Davies Commission - growing from strength to strength

This is the first in a new series of lunches organised by the Chamber to keep local business people briefed by those who know.

**11 September
Manor of Groves.**

12.30 for 1pm. Price £25

**Places are strictly limited,
to book yours, please email
Chamber Secretary, Carole
at secretary@bschamber.org**