

LSC Urges North West Teenagers to Skill Up for Summer

Parents across the North West are bracing themselves for the beginning of the boredom season as thousands of teenagers fail to make the most of their summer break.

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That's according to the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) in the North West, which is urging the North West's youngsters to use their free time wisely this summer to improve their future job prospects.

Robin Goddard, Young Peoples' Learning Director from the LSC explains, "Young people are often tired by the end of the school year, particularly if they have been studying for exams before the end of term. However six weeks is a long break and they could be using some of that time wisely to get some valuable work experience. It will not only improve their future career prospects but could also help them make important decisions about the direction they'd like their career to take."

Young people can work part-time from the age of 13 and full-time from the age of 16 and just a few weeks work during the summer can help them take on board valuable skills, experience a real workplace and try out careers that they may want to pursue in the future.

"Whilst academic qualifications are important for many careers," Robin continues,

“employers are looking for mature and motivated candidates with genuine workplace skills. To give them an edge in a competitive job market later, young people need to start building their workplace skills and experience now. Often they not only enjoy the variety and responsibility of their work experience, but are motivated to do well at school or college the following term because they have clearer career goals.”

In addition, to help young people make the most of their summer break, the LSC has put together a list of ten top tips for finding summer employment and gaining new skills:

1. Choose a job that interests you and find out as much as you can about the company before you start - they'll be impressed by your knowledge and enthusiasm
2. Use your contacts - if you have family or friends that may be able to provide some work experience it will cut down on the legwork
3. Keep it local - too much travelling to work will make for long days
4. Dress the part – you don't need to invest in a whole new wardrobe but you do need to know their dress code
5. Agree terms and conditions in advance – be clear how long you want to work for and if you are being paid, agree a figure
6. Be enthusiastic – the more you demonstrate you want to learn the greater variety of tasks you are likely to be given
7. Be professional – respect the rules of the workplace, like turning up on time and addressing colleagues politely
8. Ask for feedback – it will help you learn and the employer may even give you a written reference that will help you get future summer jobs or work experience
9. Chat with colleagues – they can give you a real insight into what it's really like to do the job and what skills you'll need

10. Build a relationship – if you've enjoyed the placement, discuss opportunities for the next school holidays now so that you can continue to build your skills

For more information about careers and future options young people in the North West can call Connexions on 080 800 13 2 19.

Ends

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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