

January 2012

Dear Year 10 Parents

Year 10 Work Related Learning

Following the recent Government Wolf Report concerning work experience and work related learning, we have reviewed our own arrangements at Townley. In this we have been informed by our own and other national research. As a result we have come to the conclusion that we need to change current arrangements to better meet the needs of our students.

In previous years we had found that year 10 students' experience of placements was mixed, with opportunities often limited by health and safety requirements affected by their relatively young age. Considering that nearly all of our students progress to university education, a work experience placement in year 10 seems of limited value. In contrast, year 12 students have determined their path and have greater opportunities for a more meaningful placement.

We are committed to providing all year 10 students with a rich work related learning programme to prepare them for the world of work. However, we feel this will be better achieved through an extended and focused programme throughout year 10. It will also ensure a greater consistency for individual students who might otherwise have suffered from the variable nature of placements. Details of this developing programme can be seen on the website.

Students have been advised to arrange their own Work Shadow Days during the holidays so that they can learn more about the world of work. The school is happy to support the students when applying for these placements but please be aware that they will not be covered by the school insurance. The placements must be arranged by the students or parents and cannot be endorsed by the school.

We have already begun the first stages of this programme and seen a very positive response from the students. We are confident that this will provide a unique and innovative work related programme for all. If after viewing the details on the website you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely



Julia Reed
Director of 14-19