

Year 10 Mock Interview Day

Tuesday 26th April 2022

As a follow on from Interview Preparation Day in March, where all pupils had to apply for a fictitious job, produce a CV, and a covering letter, Year 10 were then given a Mock Interview. This was conducted by visiting employers, all of whom were used to conducting interviews, so this was as close to a real-life job search and interview process as possible.

The school hall was sectioned off into separate areas so that individual interviews could be more private. With so much concentration it was easy to forget everyone else in the room and to focus on the questions and answers at the interview. Some of the pupils found the time went very quickly and were glad they had prepared their CVs and letters so well, as many of the questions were based on them.

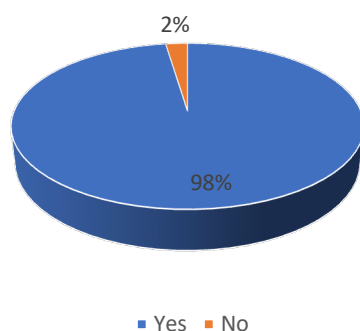
Just before their interview time was due; each interview candidate arrived at reception and waited to be called in. Pupils had to remember everything they had been taught over the last few weeks....how to shake hands, how to sit, remember not to fiddle with anything, keep eye contact.... and that was before they had even been asked a question!!!

Although some pupils were very nervous, most left the interview smiling, feeling relieved and confident that they had done well. Hopefully this will alleviate any fears they may have had and ensure they enter their next interview with a newfound confidence and a better understanding of what is expected of them.

Once the interview was over pupils were asked to complete a feedback form on their interview experience while it was still fresh in their minds. Employers are also asked to complete a feedback form for each of the pupils they interviewed. Both feedback forms are given back to the pupils to see how they compare. Pupils are surprised at how well the interview went when compared with how well they thought they did!

Pupils were asked if they now had a better understanding of how to write a CV and covering letter and apply for a job?

Do you feel the CV workshop and Covering Letter lesson has given you a better understanding of how to apply for a job now that you have written and created your own CV/Letter?



Those pupils who said “No” felt they needed more help as the session was not quite long enough.

Help to complete their CVs was offered after the workshop. Our Careers Adviser offered to support them further to understand fully and complete their CVs.

Pupils were asked to mark themselves on a scale of 1 – 10 (1 being poor) on how they thought the interview went: over 75% of pupils were given a higher mark than the pupil gave themselves. This goes to show that our pupils are better than they think they are they just need to have more confidence in themselves.

We are grateful to local employers for giving up their valuable time to support Mock Interview Day. It has given pupils an experience they would not otherwise have had. The feedback employers have provided to the pupils will help ensure that real job applications meet the standards employers look for.

What did our pupils think of the experience when asked the following questions: Here are a few of their responses

How do you feel the interview went?

I learned about things I've never heard of and have a better understanding of interviews
I feel it went very well and it gave me a better understanding on what it will be like in the future
I think it went really well. I was a bit nervous, but he was lovely
Went well but I feel I was a bit reserved
I think it went alright
Really well, nice guy. Felt as if I answered the questions well
It went well, but I got stuck on a few questions
Very good, bit better than I expected, well planned out
Quite well, but nervous
I feel like it went well. I managed to learn a lot from what is involved in the job from my interviewer
I think that me and the interviewer thoroughly enjoyed the interview
I had no confidence
I feel that there was good communication during it and questions were answered to the best of my ability



What do you think you would change if you were interviewed again?

I would have more confidence and speak louder
The things I know about the job
I would be a lot more prepared
I would understand I need to express myself more
Edit my CV to be more academic
I would go over my skills and achievements and evaluate them more
Speak more and ask the interviewer more questions about the job
Nothing, but I would add a questions "Tell me about yourself"
Revise and plan more
I think I would change the fact that I was worried before which made my focus not the best, but when I settled it got a lot better
Be more prepared with questions for the employer.
Remain eye contact, focus better, formation of words
Prepare 2 or 3 questions for the end of the interview
I could have responded in more detail
I would bring up my key skills and that I need to show I have them

What was the most difficult question to answer?

What my biggest achievement was
My weaknesses

What I wanted to do when I'm older
 What do you enjoy in life
 The project I was most proud about
 How would your family describe you / Describe myself
 What am I most passionate about
 What would you do if you don't understand an instruction?
 How have I showed team leader skills
 What inspired me to teach
 How I will deal with a situation under pressure



What did the interviewer suggest you could improve for next time?

Speak louder and ask a question
 The interviewer said I was very confident
 The letter has to be perfect
 Being less reserved
 Think of responses if they ask "what do you know about the company"
 Try not to repeat myself too much
 Giving examples and explaining more in depth

What did you get out of the interview process and how do you think you could improve for next time?

Interviews aren't that bad, but I need to be more confident and not repeat myself
 To know more about the job
 Not to be nervous and prepare more
 Use better words and explain myself better
 I could be more prepared and get better at being under pressure
 A level of confidence
 Have more confidence
 Learnt what I should do when going for a real job
 Got a good experience out of it and an idea of how it works. Take time when answering questions
 Improve my focus
 I know what I have to change which is good so I just have to make sure I apply what he said to me
 I learnt what type of questions are involved and how you can answer them
 I got a real insight into the world of work, what a real interview could be like. If feel I should have been more confident
 I feel more confident and next time I will plan my answers
 I am more calm about it and will be more confident
 I realised that I am quite confident but need to keep eye contact
 Got experience of being in an interview. Improve by not hesitating
 Be able to say more and be less awkward
 I learnt to show that I am enthusiastic and curious to learn



General Employer feedback from one of our interviewers from the WIN Bath University:

My experience today has been heartwarming. Each young person I met was polite, articulate and self-aware. Many showed great insight and determination to succeed. Considering that all students have spent 2 years being taught remotely (ie stuck at home), they've shown resilience, confidence, awareness of their school community and the support they've received and can give to others. I've no doubt they'll go on to reach their potential.

What did the Interviewers think?

Very good paperwork which showed that the pupil had done their research thoroughly

Very enthusiastic about the job. Good communication skills

I would employ this young person as a Nursery assistant!

Very confident and able candidate. Very articulate – answers very clear

Covering letter well written.
Good first impression

Friendly, confident and well presented. The job wasn't important in this case, but what was important was the manner of this young man – open, honest and engaging. I would employ as he has the right mindset

Paperwork was informative and neatly presented. *** has clearly thought out his future and is very committed to his study path. He is very articulate
10/10

Very well presented, polite and engaging. Clearly enthusiastic about the role/discipline – 9/10

A delightful, engaging, impressive young man. If I was an employer I would be absolutely offering him a job there and then! It was an absolute pleasure to meet and talk to ***. A real credit to the school – Congratulations. I wish you the very best for the future

Very good first impression – even though you were nervous! You came across confident, polite and smiley. Positive and enthusiastic attitude! I enjoyed speaking with you

Excellent CV & Application letter
– 10/10

**** Was very confident, noticed by good eye contact, clearly spoken with a smile throughout. Smartly dressed in uniform, polite, positive
Well done - 10/10**

Very articulate and spoke confidently – 10/10

Excellent on all accounts, able to expand on his experience. He has great personal skills – I'm sure he will be an asset with whoever he works with – Well done

Enthusiasm and passion for teaching. Clear focus and thoughtful answers. * will make a great teacher, clear already!**

A real delight to meet – smiley – well dressed and relaxed. Excellent eye contact and relaxed body language. He will be an outstanding interviewee
10/10

I enjoyed our interview, once *** has completed his schooling I feel he should easily gain employment based on his performance today. I would have hired him had this been a real interview - 10/10

**** showed great empathy for others and is very focused on making a difference in their lives. I would willingly employ *** in my nursery, she is a very well-rounded student 9/10

Excellent CV. Very well presented and clear. All key skills are demonstrated with examples..... 9/10

Nervous at first, but young gained confidence! You came across really well, smiled lots and were clearly so passionate about art and fashion! Good eye contact and enthusiasm. I had fun chatting to you

I was in awe of **** - her command of English was excellent. She was self-aware, resilient, and determined. Look out world!