

Careers and Work Experience Pathways

2025 - 26

Intent:

At Aurora Chaldon, our Careers and Work Experience programme is designed to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to thrive in the world of work. Our intent is to offer meaningful, inclusive, and aspirational experiences that reflect individual strengths, interests, and future goals. We deliver this through three structured pathways:

Pathway 1: Supported Work Experience Through Enterprise Projects

This pathway focuses on developing key employability and enterprise skills through carefully structured, staff-supported projects. Students engage in planning, producing, marketing, and selling goods or services, fostering a real sense of responsibility and achievement.

Pathway 2: Internal and External Work Experience Placements

Students gain hands-on experience through placements within local businesses or through meaningful roles within our school setting. These opportunities are tailored to individual interests and support students in developing workplace behaviours, independence, and communication skills in real-world settings.

Pathway 3: Vocational Experiences

We offer a range of practical vocational sessions that support students in exploring specific career sectors and developing transferable skills. Our current vocational experiences include:

- Manor Farm – Animal care and land-based work
- How to Construction – Basic building, maintenance, and trades skills
- Home Cooking – Culinary skills, kitchen safety, and nutrition
- Hair and Beauty – Personal grooming, customer service, and salon skills
- SOLD (School Outdoor Learning and Development) – Outdoor learning focused on teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving

Through these three pathways, Aurora Chaldon ensures all students have access to a personalised and progressive careers journey, preparing them for further education, training, or employment.

Implementation of Pathway 1

All students at Aurora Chaldon engage in timetabled enterprise sessions as part of their weekly curriculum offer. These sessions are designed to build core employability skills such as teamwork, creativity, communication, problem-solving, and responsibility.

As part of this structured programme, students participate in supported enterprise projects where they explore the full cycle of product development—from design and creation to marketing and sales. These experiences provide students with real-life contexts in which to apply functional skills such as literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy.

Students also benefit from access to an offsite enterprise provision at the local Vineries, a dedicated space equipped with:

- A range of tools for crafting and production work
- A heated print press for textile and product design
- A Cricut vinyl cutter for creating professional-standard graphics and personalised items

This hands-on environment allows students to take pride in producing high-quality goods while learning about production processes, quality control, and customer service. The combination of in-school and offsite experiences ensures a varied, engaging, and authentic enterprise learning journey for all students.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM			KS4	KS4	
PM	KS3	KS3	KS3	KS3	

Implementation of Pathway 2:

At Aurora Chaldon, students accessing Pathway 2 are offered tailored work experience opportunities that align with their individual interests, strengths, and potential Post-16 destinations. These placements are designed to provide real-world insight into the workplace, supporting the development of confidence, independence, and employability skills.

Work experience is offered on a flexible, needs-led basis and may be provided either internally within the school environment or externally through partnerships with local businesses and organisations.

Internal Work Experience Opportunities may include:

- Office and Administration Roles – Supporting with filing, photocopying, and basic ICT tasks
- Teaching Support Assistants – Assisting with classroom preparation and pupil support
- Catering Support – Helping with food prep, serving, and hygiene routines
- Sports Leaders – Assisting in the delivery of physical activity sessions and events

External Work Experience Opportunities may include:

- Primary School Assistant – Supporting teachers and younger pupils in local primary schools
- Barbering or Hairdresser Assistant – Helping in local salons with customer service and preparation tasks
- Hotel Roles – Exposure to hospitality tasks such as housekeeping, reception, or kitchen duties

(Refer to community link section).

These placements are risk-assessed and supported appropriately, ensuring students are safe, encouraged, and able to reflect on their experiences. The aim is to provide meaningful and motivating experiences that broaden students' understanding of the world of work and support informed choices about future pathways.

Implementation of Pathway 3:

Pathway 3 at Aurora Chaldon offers students a wide range of **practical vocational sessions** designed to introduce them to specific career sectors while developing key **transferable life and work skills**. These sessions are embedded into the curriculum and provide structured, hands-on learning experiences in realistic settings.

Our current vocational provisions include:

- **Manor Farm** – Students take part in animal care routines and land-based activities, developing responsibility, routine-following, and an understanding of animal welfare and environmental awareness.

- **How to Construction** – A practical programme focused on basic construction, maintenance, and trade-based tasks such as woodworking, painting, and repairs, building both skill and confidence in manual work.
- **Home Cooking** – Sessions focus on cooking techniques, kitchen safety, meal planning, and nutrition, equipping students with essential life skills and an introduction to the food and hospitality sector.
- **Hair and Beauty** – Students engage in personal grooming, customer service, and salon preparation tasks, building communication and presentation skills in a creative, people-focused environment.
- **SOLD (School Outdoor Learning and Development)** – This outdoor education programme helps students build teamwork, resilience, leadership, and problem-solving through a range of physical and nature-based challenges.

These vocational experiences are delivered in supportive environments with clear progression routes, helping students make informed decisions about future education, training, and employment.

Impact:

At Aurora Chaldon, the Careers and Work Experience programme is having a tangible and lasting impact on our students' readiness for adulthood. Through our three distinct but interconnected pathways Enterprise Projects, Work Experience Placements, and Vocational Experiences students are gaining the confidence, skills, and insight needed to make informed choices about their futures.

Students are developing a wide range of employability and life skills, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, self-management, and resilience. They are learning to take responsibility, meet real-world expectations, and reflect meaningfully on their personal strengths and areas for growth.

Whether through creating products in enterprise sessions, contributing to real workplace settings, or engaging in hands-on vocational learning, every student has access to a personalised, aspirational, and progressive careers journey. These pathways are carefully designed to align with individual interests, needs, and potential post-16 destinations—preparing our learners for a successful transition into further education, training, or employment.

The result is a student body that is more engaged, empowered, and equipped to take their next steps with clarity and confidence.

Community Links:

Name of Establishment	Website	Contact	Telephone Number	Email
Cups and Co	Local Community Coffee Shop Cups & Co. England			
Patchwork Garden Project	Patchworking Garden Project - Patchworking Garden Project			
Surrey Wildlife NOWER Educational Nature Reserve (Week placement in Summer Term check website for information in September)				
Burford Bridge Hotel Dorking				
Sebastians Hair	https://sebastianshair.co.uk/			