



Year 10

Work Experience

Student Information Booklet

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June
2026

Key Dates

October/November

Students will receive a work experience introductory assembly and will be encouraged to start looking for a placement. Families will be emailed with further work experience information including how to guides for using Unifrog..

November/December

Students research possible work experience placements and make contact with employers. Make sure you list your skills and achievements and what sets you apart from other students.

January

Contact companies to ask for placements addressing your email to the specific person in charge of work experience if you can find it on their website. Chase employers if you haven't heard anything within a fortnight.

February

Complete your section on Unifrog using the screen shots in this guide to help you. parent/carer will need to agree for the placement to go ahead.

March

Employers and parents complete the relevant section on Unifrog using the guides available.

Deadline for placement forms to be complete is 27th March

April/ May

Work Experience team complete health and safety/ safeguarding checks and confirm your work experience. Assemblies to prepare you for your placement.

June

Enjoy your placement!

Students will complete a Work Experience journal during and after the placement.

Afterwards, we encourage students to send a thank you to their placement contact. Both students and the employers will receive, via email, a short questionnaire to complete about the placement.

Welcome to the Year 10 Work Experience Programme for 2026!

Please read this booklet carefully as it contains important information about the process.

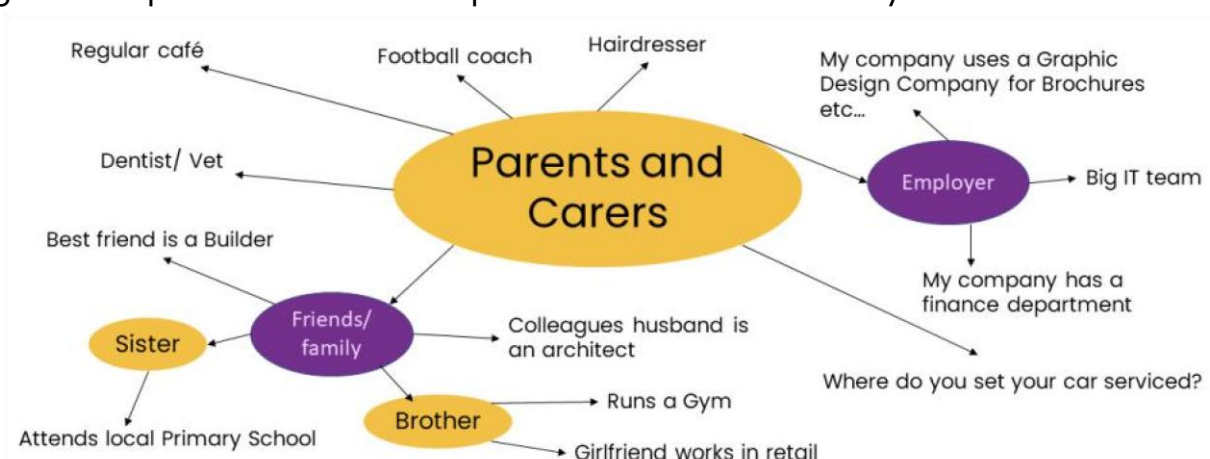
Why do we do Work Experience?

Work experience forms an important and interesting part of your Year 10 education. It is an opportunity to learn valuable skills which cannot be taught in school.

- You will gain experience of how recruitment and job searching works.
- It is an opportunity to see how the working world relates to your school studies.
- It may be your first step into the adult world and wider community.
- You will develop your communication skills, independence and team working.
- You will be exposed to working environments, different work patterns and workplace etiquette, dress code, time-keeping, regulations and responsibilities.
- It may be an opportunity to gain a better understanding of possible future career pathways.
- It is a valuable experience to be able to put on your CV, improving your employability.

How do I find a placement?

Students are required to find their own placements. This can be a challenge, but it is important to see this as an opportunity to learn about job seeking and the recruitment and employment process. **Please do not rely on your parents to sort out your work experience**, students who make contact in person are more likely to be given the placement than if a parent makes contact on your behalf.



Things to Think About When Looking for a Placement

If you have a specific industry, company or role in mind for your placement, it is important to start looking as early as possible. Placements are in demand and our work experience days often coincide with other schools and colleges. There can be a lot of competition.

If you don't already have a placement in mind then think about what you could imagine doing as a future career; which subjects do you enjoy most at school; or hobbies that you enjoy, and how these might link to a career.

But remember whilst it is great if you can find a placement that matches your career aspirations, work experience is not necessarily meant to be a career taster and **valuable experience can be gained in all placements.**

Think about who you know. Talk to friends, family, neighbours and older siblings. They may know someone who can help you with a suitable placement or provide advice.

Think about where you live and what forms of transport you have to get to your placement.

Some organisations offer more formal work experience schemes which may involve filling out an application form and attending an interview. These are all valuable learning experiences.

Placement companies/organisations will require Employer Liability Insurance in order to be eligible for inclusion in the Sharnbrook Academy Work Experience Scheme.

Students who have a placement in horticulture/agriculture or with animals will need to have an up to date tetanus immunisation.

What is the Best Way to Contact an Employer?

You will need to think about what the best way to approach an employer will be; in person, by telephone, email, or social media? This may differ depending on their industry.

If you are wanting to work in retail, food or an animal related industry it would be best to go into the establishment and ask to speak to someone about work experience.

It is important that when you are communicating with employers that you do not use slang or text type language, first impressions count!

Preparing to Contact an Employer

Before making contact with an Employer, you should make sure you are prepared.

- Shortlist a few companies who you are going to contact.
- Prepare notes and be clear about what you are asking for, how long the placement will be and what the dates are.
- Make sure you know about the company and can explain why you have chosen to contact them.
- Share any experience that you have that might be relevant to the placement.
- Think about what skills you have that maybe useful: problem solving, good team player, eager to learn.
- And be prepared to answer any questions!
- You may be asked to attend an interview, so give some thought to when you are available—discuss this with parents/carers BEFORE you make the call to avoid transport issues.

Final Things to Consider

In Person

- If you are visiting in person, choose a time when the employer is not busy and be prepared to come back at a time that is more convenient for them.

- Think about your language and clothing. You could wear your school uniform.

Email or Social Media

- Think about the title you give your email, choose something professional that also makes your email stand out.
- Take time to check your email /post for spelling and grammar mistakes.
- Ask someone to proofread it for you.

Keep a list of who you have contacted and if you don't hear back, follow up with a telephone call. You can refer to your email or letter which can be a good opening to the conversation.



How to Get Your Placement Approved

Once you have been offered a placement make sure you inform the employer that you wish to accept it. You can then start the process of getting your placement approved:

1. You need to upload the details of your placement to Unifrog. Information on how to do this is provided on the next pages.
2. A form will then be emailed to your employer for them to complete.
3. Once your employer has completed their form, details will be emailed to your parent or guardian for their approval.
4. Finally we will carry out Health and Safety checks. Once these have been completed your placement will be approved.

We are not able to authorise a placement until all these steps have been completed. The deadline for submitting the initial details of your placement, the employer's form and your parent/guardian's approval is **27th March 2026.**

Uploading Your Placement Details to Unifrog

Before you start the process of uploading your placement to Unifrog you will need to make sure that you have the following information:

- Name of the placement business –The name of the company where you will be doing your placement.
- Employer placement lead name –The name of the person who has offered you the placement.
- Email address of the person who has offered you the placement.
- Company address and postcode.
- Your parent or guardian's email address.

You can then log into Unifrog at www.unifrog.org/sign-in

Unifrog Placement Tool

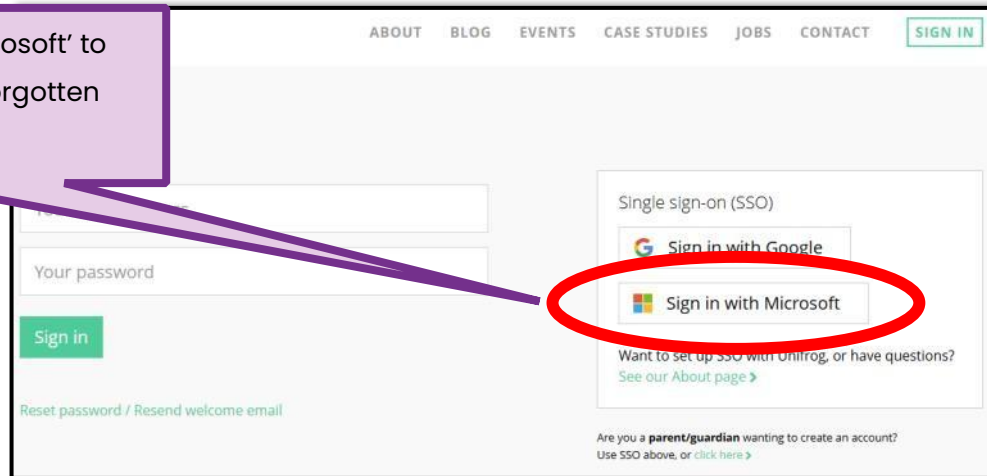
Unifrog have uploaded a variety of help guides to their website to provide further information including:

- How to use the placements tool
- The legal details
- How to run a successful placement for employers
- Communicating online professionally and safely
- How to find placements and be successful on them for students

Click on the picture below to go to the page of help guides:

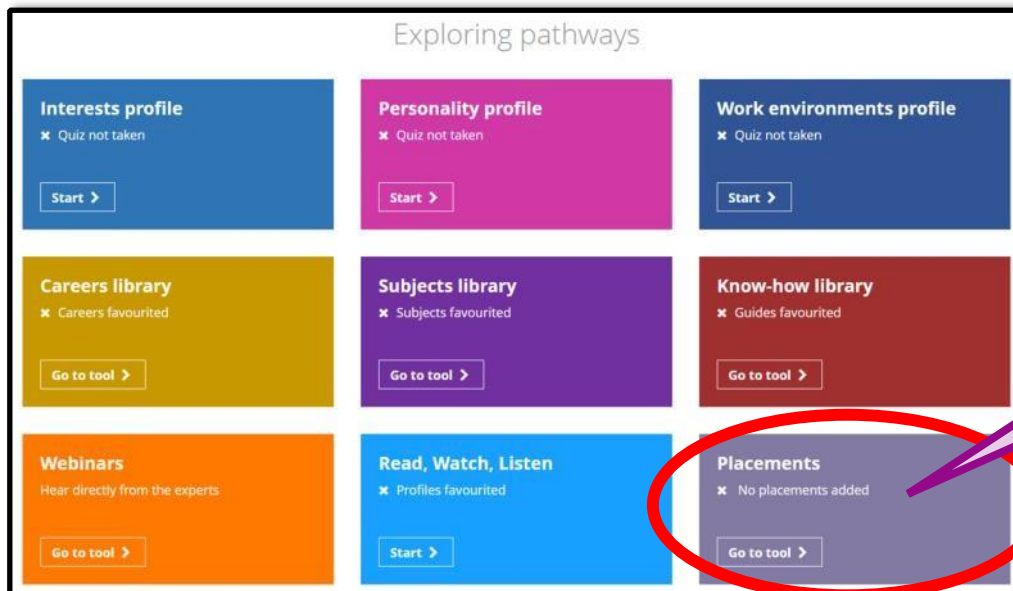


You can now 'Log in with Microsoft' to Unifrog, meaning no more forgotten passwords!

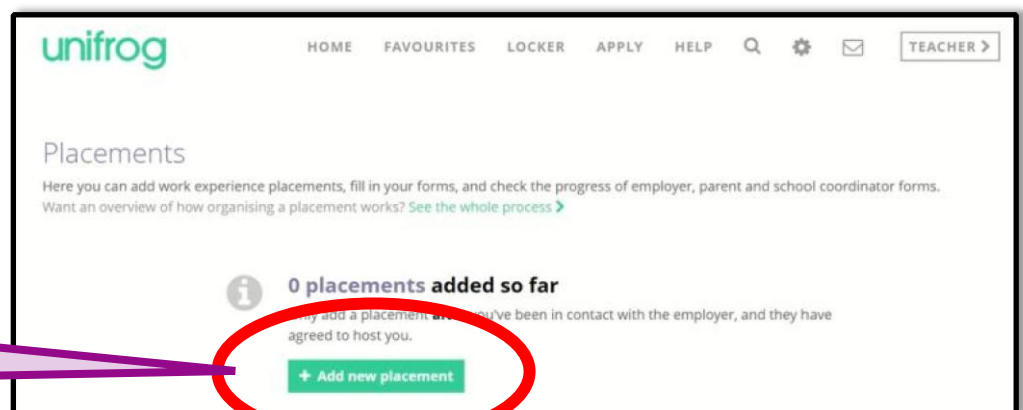


The image shows the Unifrog login page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: ABOUT, BLOG, EVENTS, CASE STUDIES, JOBS, CONTACT, and a SIGN IN button. Below the navigation bar, there is a login form with fields for 'Your email' and 'Your password', and a 'Sign in' button. To the right of the login form, there is a 'Single sign-on (SSO)' section with two buttons: 'Sign in with Google' and 'Sign in with Microsoft'. The 'Sign in with Microsoft' button is circled in red. Below the SSO buttons, there is a link: 'Want to set up SSO with Unifrog, or have questions? See our About page >'. At the bottom, there is a link: 'Are you a parent/guardian wanting to create an account? Use SSO above, or click here >'.

Once you are logged into Unifrog, scroll down the page to 'Exploring Pathways' and select the 'Placements' option.



Then select 'Add new placement.'



Important! Make sure you select **Mrs Dunn** as your Placement Coordinator!

unifrog

HOME FAVOURITES LOCKER APPLY HELP

1 Student initial 2 Employer initial

Student initial form

You're adding a Student initial form for a placement

Fill in the information below carefully. When you're done tick 'finished' at the bottom of the form. Afterwards we'll ask the placement lead at the employer to fill in the next form.

* In person or Virtual: ---- select ----

* Placement coordinator: Miss Leaney (WEX Coordinator)

This is the **school / college** staff member who will be coordinating the placement from your school's / college's side.

* Name of placement business / organisation: eg Lottie's little bakery

* Placement start date: -- day -- -- month -- -- year --

Vicki's Photo Shop

Scheduled for: 29 September 22 - 29 September 22 Type: In person

- 1 Student initial form Completed on 28 September 2022
- 2 Employer initial form Completed on 28 September 2022
- 3 Parent / Guardian agreement
The next stages are for: your parent / guardian needs to agree for it to happen, and the placement coordinator needs to give permission for it to happen.
We have sent an email to your parent / guardian, but they have not yet completed their agreement
- 4 School permission
- 5 School during-placement check-in
- 6 Employer review form
- 7 Student reflection form

If you have any problems uploading the details of your placement, please contact Mrs Dunn in SS6 or email RDunn@sharnbrook.academy

Year 10 Work Experience Email Template

Dear Sir/Madam [or name],

I am a year 10 student from Sharnbrook Academy, studying [list of subjects].

I'd like to enquire about a potential work experience placement at [company name], from Thursday 25th June – Friday 26th June.

I'm keen on gaining some practical work experience in [chosen field of work], because [reasoning for pursuing a placement with this specific company and field].

I'm a [relevant skills and attributes], which can be shown in my [real-life examples that demonstrate your skills].

In my spare time, I like to [list relevant hobbies and interests], and I've also had some experience in/am a member of [list any groups/clubs/other work experience].

As an enthusiastic student with a keen interest in what your organisation does, as well as a passion to progress within this industry, I would be very grateful to be considered for an opportunity at [company name].

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours [sincerely/faithfully]