



EXPERIENCE OF WORK ENCOUNTERS: ASHGATE CROFT SPECIAL SCHOOL, GO! ACTIVE @ THE ARC AND GULLIVER'S KINGDOM THEME PARK RESORT

Ashgate Croft School is a designated Area Special School within the Derbyshire Local Authority.

Go! Active@The Arc, is a thriving leisure centre located in Clowne, Derbyshire, which offers a range of fitness and recreational activities.

Gulliver's Kingdom Theme Park Resort located in Matlock Bath, is a family friendly theme park on the edge of the Peak District National Park.

ABOUT EXPERIENCES OF WORK:

Our bespoke Experience of Work Encounters programme aims to introduce a cohort of students to inclusive, aspirational industries and employers.

Coupled with the Careers Information, Advice and Guidance that Direct Education Business Partnership (DEBP) deliver in school the objective is to motivate, raise aspirations, develop transferable skills and encourage positive progression into suitable pathways for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Two groups of students from Ashgate Croft Special School were welcomed by Jamie Bend, Duty Manager, and David Hall, Leisure Facilities Manager, at Go! Active @ The Arc, where they gained valuable experience of working in a busy leisure centre.

The groups then visited Hannah Marsden, General Manager, and her team at Gulliver's Kingdom to take part in a range of work-related activities within a popular family theme park.



VISITS

The first two groups visited Go! Active@ The Arc. They were welcomed by Jamie Bend and his colleagues, and were supported in a range of work-based tasks, including:

- A tour of the facilities.
- Cleaning and maintaining the café.
- Observing how the pool is cleaned and chlorinated.
- A tour of the gym.
- Participation in exercise classes.



The same two groups of students then visited Hannah Marsden and her team at Gulliver's Kingdom. During their time at the theme park, Hannah and her colleagues provided them with a range of experiential opportunities, some of these included:

- A tour of the theme park.
- Watching a show by the 'Hard Luck Bears'.
- Maintenance and litter picking around the park.
- Catering, which involved making pizza and salad for lunch.
- Visiting locations in the park such as the 'Haunted House' to clean and prepare for visitors to the park.



EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

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The day went very well and we look forward to welcoming the next group on Tuesday.

One of the students is an absolute star! I have told her to get in touch when she is a school leaver.

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Hannah Marsden, General Manager,
Gulliver's Kingdom



SCHOOL FEEDBACK

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The visits were invaluable for our students to experience and understand the world of work and raise their aspirations of employment.

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Richard Windle, Head of Careers,
Ashgate Croft

