

Transition Year Work Experience 2022

From the 28th of March to the 6th of April, transition year students participated in work experience. In this article, we will showcase some of our different experiences.

My Work Experience Placement 2022

The Book Centre

Report by Molly Holden



From March 28th to April 6th, I was lucky enough to get a work placement in The Book Centre Wexford. It was an incredible two weeks and I enjoyed every second of it. The staff were so helpful and welcoming. I was busy working in the cards department, organising them and putting them away. I also got to write some reviews for my favourite YA books downstairs.

I spent a lot of time pricing and putting out items in the shop, which I really enjoyed, as well. I spent the majority of my time, however, working in returns, where I catalogued books, de-stickered them and sent them back to the publishers. This was my favourite part of the job as it was really satisfying. It was an amazing two weeks; I have gained so many new skills and feel more confident in the world of work.

My Work Experience Placement 2022

Oxfam and Danone

Report by Clodagh Doyle



For my work experience I went to two very different places. I spent my first week in Oxfam and the second week in Danone.

In Oxfam I worked on the till, priced books and bric-a-brac along with creating a bric-a-brac display and I also sorted through donations.

On my second placement in Danone, I worked with the OT (operational technology) and IT (information technology) departments. I was brought to the low care and high care to see how the lines were operated and how the baby food products are made from start to finish. On the lines I was shown how Poca is used to store documentation for the different machines and to access it you just have to scan a QR code.

While in Danone, I worked with two other TY students to create a presentation which we presented to two people; one from I.T and one from health and safety. While in Danone I was also taught how to use Power BI; I got to go to a meeting on how to use Power BI and I also learned about the company Danone itself.

My Work Experience Placement 2022
Secret Valley Wildlife Park
Report by Orla Banville

I did my TY Work experience for two weeks at Secret Valley Wildlife Park. Secret Valley is a wildlife park and zoo in Coolnacon, Clonroche. I have my heart set on studying veterinary medicine after I leave Loreto. For this reason, I eagerly sought a placement that would allow me to work with animals. Secret Valley has a wide variety of animals, over forty different species and was therefore the perfect opportunity for me to get some hands-on experience. I got to work side by side with some amazing zoo keepers who were very knowledgeable and passionate about the animals.



My work at Secret Valley was varied and plentiful, which meant I was never bored while working there. I was regularly given the task of cleaning animal enclosures. This involved removing all the sawdust from the enclosure and bedding it with fresh sawdust. In order to keep animals free from disease, regular cleaning is essential. Each time an enclosure is cleaned, it is written down in a journal, in order to keep track of the work. I also helped out with general upkeep of the park, such as cleaning the windows of the enclosures and sweeping the floor of the animal encounter house.

Feeding the animals is a huge responsibility for the zoo keepers, which they put a lot of time and effort into. There is a meal plan for each animal that the keepers must stick to, in order to ensure that the animals receive a nutritionally balanced diet. I helped the keepers to prepare these meals by chopping fruit and vegetables. Then, the food was either scatter fed or left in a food bowl in the enclosure. A huge amount of effort is put into the animals' diets, e.g., a large bucket of bramble leaves is collected at the start of each week to be fed to Secret Valley's tortoise, Toby. The bramble leaves are cut from a hedgerow on the farm and they must be completely green.

I had certain responsibilities, such as feeding nuts to the rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas and hedgehog each morning. I refilled the animals' water bottles with fresh water each morning. I helped a worker on the farm to lead the

horses and Shetland ponies out to a paddock each morning, so that they could graze throughout the day. One of my favourite jobs at Secret Valley was bottle-feeding the baby goats. The goats were 4 weeks old and were bottle-fed goat's milk formula four times a day.

I used an infrared thermometer to take the maximum and minimum temperatures in the enclosures each morning and evening. Every temperature taken is written down on a chart to track the data, to ensure that the enclosures are at the optimum temperature for the particular animal that is living in it.

After my experience at Secret Valley, I am certain that I want to pursue a career that involves working with animals. I loved learning how to care for the various species of animals, my favourites were the cotton-top tamarin monkeys. I enjoyed the wide variety of animals that I got to work with at Secret Valley, I played with guinea pigs and got to hold a rainbow boa constrictor. A slightly less pleasant experience was when I was bitten by a macaque monkey while feeding him. Luckily, it was through a couple of layers of clothing, but he did manage to break my skin. This reminded me that there are dangers involved when working with animals and that it is important to be very cautious.

The staff at Secret Valley were very friendly and willing to teach, which made my work all the more enjoyable. I learned a huge amount about caring for animals and got the experience that I had been looking for. My mind was opened up to the huge amount of effort and responsibility that this type of career involves. I would highly recommend Secret Valley for other young people who would like to do their work experience with animals.