

Bracknell Year 1 Focus Group

Bridge to Employment



A bit of context..

- Focus group conducted on Wednesday 3rd April
- Facilitated by myself
- 10 students participated



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Recalling past BTE activities

Students recalled a number of activities including:

- Isle of White trip
- Debates
- Job applications and workplace skills (e.g. CVs, handshakes, eye contact, elevated pitch).
- Guest lecturers
- Visit to the Johnson and Johnson site

What BTE activities did you enjoy the most?

Students found most activities useful and enjoyable, particularly:

Isle of White Trip

'The Isle of White trip taught us a lot of skills such as team building, listening ability, and adaptability'

'Wetsuits are hard to put on'

Job applications and workplace skills

'I personally found the elevator pitches useful and the handshaking because it taught us quick speeches that you can do in a short space of time and also like making eye contact – even this today I probably would not have been able to do six months ago, so it has been useful to me'

'I found the CV writing session useful. We all brought in our CV's and we would edit them as a group – point out what was good and what was bad. I never realised how bad my original CV was'

What BTE activities did you enjoy the least?

Guest Lecture

'I enjoyed most of them except the lecture on the race car – it was just a guy talking to us for ages and personally I didn't find it useful. He was talking for an hour or more and made no sense, I don't think it had a point to it. I enjoyed the practical ones more'

'There have been one or two but the ones that have been were mainly about engineering (STEM) which I don't think many people were interested in'

'I think it would be a little bit better [if they were on a more relevant topic] – but I like to do something and get involved. I think people enjoy the practical stuff more'

What have you liked most about BTE this year?

It develops skills

‘It has given us a lot of useful skills that we wouldn’t be able to get elsewhere. For example, there was the CV [session], team building at Isle of White, meeting new people at J&J and speaking to them’.

It builds confidence

‘The programme has improved our confidence to network and interview. We did a session where we networked and walked around and spoke to people which helped with our confidence. I wouldn’t have gone up and spoke to the random people and J&J before we the programme’.

What have you liked least about BTE this year?

Making real world connections

‘It helped bring us together more and to speak to people we wouldn’t normally speak to’

‘One thing I find particularly useful is when the Johnson & Johnson employers talk about their experiences of finding jobs. They can condense their journey from our age to where they are now and how they got there which gives a realistic insight’

How has BTE helped you to think about your future career?

Job searching and preparation

'I think it has influenced the manner in which I conduct myself when searching for a career'

Job applications

'The CV writing has definitely helped because it made me realise what you should actually put in them and what an employer looks for rather than just random stuff'

Awareness of skills

'It has helped me find my strengths and weaknesses. The team building showed me I am not a good leader but I can follow really well and that will help me identify my career in the future'

Any Recommendations?

‘It would be good if we could go off school site more. Some are done at their site but I prefer it when we leave school’

‘More practical sessions as opposed to lectures’



Any questions?



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