

Meet Your Future: Virtual Workplace Safari Case Study

Employer: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

School/College: Oulder Hill Community School

Opportunity: workplace safari for 6 students

Background

Oulder Hill Community have been looking for a way to deliver workplace experiences differently and has seen virtual options as an opportunity to do this. They wanted to develop a 'Blueprint' and understand how virtual workplace safaris can happen so they could then approach their network of employers to offer more virtual workplace safari's.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer wanted to partner with a school within Rochdale to offer a virtual workplace safari to year 10 or year 11 students. They wanted to demystify the workplace for young people and inspire them about the opportunities in Law. Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer wanted to target students that would be interested in a career in law but may not have existing connections or have had an opportunity to experience the workplace before. This helped Oulder Hill target students who would benefit the most from the opportunity.

Workplace safari

Six students from Oulder Hill attended the virtual workplace safari and it took place in one of their classrooms, the schools careers leader attended the whole virtual workplace safari and ensured that the students were prepared beforehand.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer ensured that they were hosting the workplace safari on the platform (MS Teams) that Oulder Hill uses as this smoothed out any potential technical issues on the day.

The timetable of the workplace safari is outlined below:

9.30 – 9.45am	Welcome
9.45 – 10.15 am	Introduction to Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
10.15 – 10.45 am	A Day in the Life panel discussion (including business services and legal staff)
10.45-11.00 am	Break
11.00-11.30 am	Commercial awareness group activity – students worked in two groups & had a couple of volunteers from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer who supported them with the task
11.30 – 12.15pm	Employability skills and personal brand awareness workshop
12.15 – 12.25pm	Wrap-up and feedback
12.25pm	Close

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Oulder Hill worked together to design the timetable of the day and ensure that the activities were relevant to young people, for instance the commercial awareness group activity was about TikTok, students were sent information beforehand to read to ensure they were prepared for the task. Both of these supported students' engagement with the workplace

safari and the impact of this was demonstrated through students' feedback that the commercial awareness activity was the most enjoyable.

Outcomes

- Students understanding of careers and the skills needed in the legal and consultancy sectors developed
- Students understanding of how aspects that are in their everyday life relate to careers education and job roles
- The Careers Leader developed more of understanding of how they could implement a virtual workplace safari with another organisation
- Using the learning from this workplace safari Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer have since offered more virtual workplace safari opportunities to other schools/colleges in Rochdale
- Students have had a meaningful experience of the workplace virtually