

Workshop 3:

Vocational Training in Frome

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Vocational Training: England

Out of formal schooling:

Traineeships - 6 weeks to 6 months, unpaid

Apprenticeships - 1 year / full time, £3.30 per hour

In formal schooling:

BTEC Qualifications - 1 year, alongside academic courses, unpaid

Vocational Training: Frome College

Context:

- 1300 students
- 13 - 19 years old
- Comprehensive education
- Rural, with cities close by

OUR BELIEF

At Frome College, we know real life experience is beneficial.

It helps to build character and, it helps to develop the attributes necessary to achieve beyond the school gates.

THE PROBLEM

As a school our success is determined by all of our students' ability to meet the required academic standards imposed by the government.

Increasingly, the assessment of this success comes in the form of an extended written assessment at the end of two years of study.

At the same time, funding for careers advice and work experience has been cut, and vocational learning has been devalued in favour of more traditional academic learning.

OUR VIEW

Though we are bound to deliver these highly academic outcomes, and we do, at Frome College, we see success differently. We value academic learning, but we also value experience.

But, how can we provide opportunities for vocational learning in the current educational climate AND continue to achieve high academic outcomes for all of our students?

OUR SOLUTIONS

1) Create opportunities for students through partnerships within the town.

Frome Town Council

Jointly appointed an Apprenticeship Co-ordinator to help create and fill vacancies within the town

Local Businesses + Employers

Working with local businesses we have set up the following:
Work Experience Program, Mock Interview Program, Careers Café Program, Employer Mentoring Program (students and subjects), Employability Program, Work + Study Program

OUR SOLUTIONS

2) Embed vocational learning in to the every day fabric of what we do

‘Next Steps’ Program

- On-going C.V. Project
- Develop and reward employability skills
- Entrepreneurship Program + Focus Days
- Partnership work with Frome Town Council + Local Businesses