

School: Riversides School

Event: Visit to Heart of Worcestershire College's Mechanics Centre

Number of pupils attending: 3

Aims of the activity

Increasing employer engagement.

Raising industry sectors profiles and appeal to students.

Experience of further education.

Aspiration raising.

Linking to Gatsby Benchmarks- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Overview of Activity

As part of their developing understanding of mechanics, pupils have been engaged in a practical project dismantling a car. To build on this and support their next steps, a visit was arranged to the Duckworth Centre at HOW College to explore post-16 pathways in vehicle mechanics.

The pupils, two year 10s and one year 11, were welcomed by the lead member of staff, who delivered an informative tour of the workshop environment. They were introduced to a range of industry-standard equipment and developed their understanding of how these are used within a professional setting. Pupils visited the classroom provision and gained a clear understanding of the course structure, including the balance between theoretical learning and practical application. Entry requirements were clearly explained, including pathways through Functional Skills and GCSE qualifications. The students also examined a selection of motorbikes, where they discussed key differences and demonstrated curiosity and engagement in how different vehicles operate.



Impact of Activity

The visit effectively supported pupils in making informed decisions about their future pathways, raising aspirations and linking current learning to real-world opportunities. They were able to explore vehicles in different stages of repair, applying their prior learning and deepening their knowledge of mechanical processes. The students were able to see first-hand how their interests can link to a job sector and a post-16 pathway. It was also beneficial for them to gain an understanding of practical-based courses at college. The students demonstrated genuine interest and curiosity in the site and the projects they were shown which supported a positive mindset towards their upcoming post-16 pathway journeys.

Quotes From Students

“They've got loads of good equipment”

“I can imagine coming here”

“The course sounds interesting”

Teachers Feedback

This visit was a very positive experience where the students could see how an interest could become a future career pathway. The college’s mechanic's centre and the setup of the course appealed to the students and could be an option for them as a post 16 placement. This will hopefully have inspired the pupils to continue working on their qualifications to attend a course within the college’s mechanic's sector, as this is something that it seems they would enjoy.

