



"It is because of these positive behaviours displayed that makes the Work Experience programme great for not only our volunteers, but for [students'] peers. As such, it puts us in good stead to continue to extend our work experience programme next year." - Vivian

**Youth unemployment remains a large barrier for young people in our borough. Our Work Experience programme aims to combat this through introducing students to the world of work, raising their aspirations, and developing key employability skills.**

**The initiative was relaunched in 2022-2023 after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and in July 2023, Ipsos hosted some of our students.**

The Work Experience programme gives young people across the borough an invaluable insight into the world of work. It is vital for young people to begin to understand the workplace from a young age, in order to achieve their career goals and aspirations.

In 2022-2023, The Switch worked with 115 employers to deliver Work Experience to over 800 students across the borough. Ipsos hosted 6 of our students, and 2 in particular really stood out!

Vivian Lo, Head of Future Talent at Ipsos, reached out to the top performers from Work Experience at the organisation, including 2 of our students, Nickie and Kevin.

She shared this fantastic feedback with us, showcasing the incredible experiences and opportunities work placements bring to both young people and host organisations.

About Nickie, she said:

"Nickie had already stood out to me from before the week had started – her e-mail to me was professional and inviting. I really found it hard to believe that Nickie is in Year 10! In fact, Nickie's email was one of the examples we shared of how to write professionally during the work experience week.

Throughout the week, Nickie made some very valuable contributions to her cohort – it was impressive to see how she was able to facilitate a meaningful discussion with her group and express her opinions with such confidence. I also really appreciated how attentive she was during all the tasks – this did not go without notice as her volunteers gave me really great feedback about her."

And about Kevin she said:

"Kevin really stood out to me from the start of the week – his smile is contagious. He brings such positive energy and dedication to whatever he is doing – Kevin is someone that I can see that everyone would love to work with, including myself!

Throughout the week, I received lots of great feedback from the volunteers – Kevin is dutiful and conscientious and we can count on him to complete a task and complete it well. In the short time the cohort had to conduct a group presentation, it was impressive to see Kevin remember everything he had to say and to say it with confidence – he's a natural presenter!"

Both students were offered references for their excellent work, and have been invited back to Ipsos for future Work Experience. We are looking forward to continuing to work with Ipsos to offer this fantastic opportunity to more students!

Find out more about [Work Experience](#) at The Switch and get in touch if your company is interested in hosting Work Experience at [work.experience@theswitch.org](mailto:work.experience@theswitch.org).

