

INDUSTRY: VARIOUS

ACTIVITY: TEACHER INDUSTRY INSIGHT  
PLACEMENT

ORGANISATION: VARIOUS

SCHOOL: SECONDARY SCHOOLS

## TEACHER INDUSTRY INSIGHT PLACEMENTS

Research has shown that the majority of educators have gone straight from school to university and back to school to pursue a career in teaching. Following conversations with education and school DYW leads it was evident that teachers would benefit from spending some time within a business to contextualise their learning back in the classroom with pupils.



Since 2017, all Scottish Borders secondary school teachers have been offered the opportunity to spend a day within industry. The interest and uptake have been very positive with over 80 teachers from varying departments and faculties gaining an insight into industry, the skills, qualities and soft skills required for young people when leaving school.

Teachers were able to identify an employer or sector they would like to understand more about and the DYW team sourced these placements during the month of May when there is more capacity due to senior pupils being on study leave. All involved felt that this was a great initiative enabling teachers and schools to develop sustainable education/partnerships with local employers. This has complimented the national Improvement Framework and meets the guidance within HIGIOS 4. Through this engagement, employers can help shape and develop the curriculum.

Through facilitating Teacher Industry Insights Placements, DYW have helped bridge the gap between industry and education which is vital in enabling teachers be more industry aware when guiding and advising young people on the skills required to make a positive and sustainable transition into the world of work.



**Jen Wallace**  
Teacher of Home Economics  
Selkirk High School

*"It was an excellent visit with a tour of the hotel and kitchens and after discussion with the managers and the head chef, we are now planning to have visits/chef helping out with the schools including Higher HFT to look at Food Safety, HACCP, Allergens and the role of Environmental Health."*

**Gill Geddes**  
Teacher of Additional Needs  
Peebles High School

*"On my employer visit I took part in a live assessment centre day. I was an active participant in the session as opposed to merely an observer. It raised my awareness of exactly what an employer was looking for and especially their focus on soft skills as opposed to academic qualifications. It was an eye opener for me and made me realise that as teachers and role models we need to take a more holistic approach."*

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