

Hospitality Connect

ONE YEAR ON ..

A Celebration of the first
year's encounters
- Spring 2026



After launching early 2025, over the past year, the Association of Milton Keynes Hoteliers' Hospitality Connect project has strengthened partnerships between schools and hospitality employers, creating meaningful experiences and raising aspirations across the region.

Through direct engagement with students, parents and educators, this community of practice continues to champion hospitality and career pathways across Milton Keynes.



South Midlands
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

 **MK College Group**

Partnership Encounters

Cranfield Management Development Centre with Ousedale School

As the lead employer, Cranfield has played a hands-on role in delivering employer engagement activity across Milton Keynes, supporting both schools and hotel partners to create visible and practical impact. This year they have:

- Participated in Options Evenings, engaging parents and students
- Delivered two Year 9 assemblies across multiple groups
- Hosted a teacher encounter at the hotel, welcoming educators to explore the workplace and meet with the GM
- Facilitated a successful work experience placement — the first in several years
- Attended and supported a Speed Interviewing event
- Participated in a Careers Fair



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Kents Hill Park Hotel and Slated Row

An inclusive partnership creating practical, supported pathways into hospitality.

- *Facilitated a hotel visit to meet and engage with students
- *Enabled students to showcase their skills through hosting and service and explored roles within housekeeping and food service
- *Launched a supported internship placement with weekly attendance
- *Planned a hotel visit to observe roles and build confidence



Horwood House Hotel and Shenley Academy

A partnership linking curriculum learning with industry expertise – with exciting plans in place for

- *a chef-led session supporting exam preparation with masterclasses in Health & Safety and presentation skills
- *careers fair and careers talks
- *Hotel tour and activities



Partnership Encounters

Holiday Inn Milton Keynes and Oakgrove Academy

The school were delighted to welcome staff from Holiday Inn Milton Keynes, who delivered an engaging assembly for their Year 10 students. Team members shared insights into their varied hospitality roles, career pathways, and work experience opportunities, giving students a real-world glimpse behind the scenes of the industry. Oakgrove staff were thoroughly impressed, especially when a team member described how his additional learning needs have previously affected his career path. Students have been buzzing ever since, with several already asking for the Operations Manager's contact details. A fantastic example of meaningful employer engagement in action



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Delta by Marriott – and Kents Hill School

An exciting, immersive experience giving students first-hand insight into the world of hospitality.

*Delivered a Hospitality Takeover Day, enabling students to rotate through a carousel of interactive activities. They introduced students to a wide range of roles across different hotel departments & provided hands-on insight into operational, customer service and behind-the-scenes functions, showcasing the breadth of career pathways available within hospitality



Novotel MK and Stantonbury Campus

A varied programme offering students hands-on experience and career insight.

This year the partnership has:

- *supported the school's careers fair
- *Delivered a Year 9 bed-making competition
- *Provided week-long work experience placements for Year 10 students



EXCITING NEW PARTHERSHIP: Leonardo Hotel and Walton High

are already deep in the planning stages of an exciting programme of encounters for their students