

INSPIRING FUTURE CHEFS: FIN'S JOURNEY WITH JUMEIRAH CARLTON TOWER

August 2026

Creating meaningful encounters with Industry

Through the partnership between Hospitality Connect, Charter School North Dulwich and Jumeirah Carlton Tower, students have taken part in a year-long programme of employer encounters designed to bring hospitality careers to life beyond the classroom.

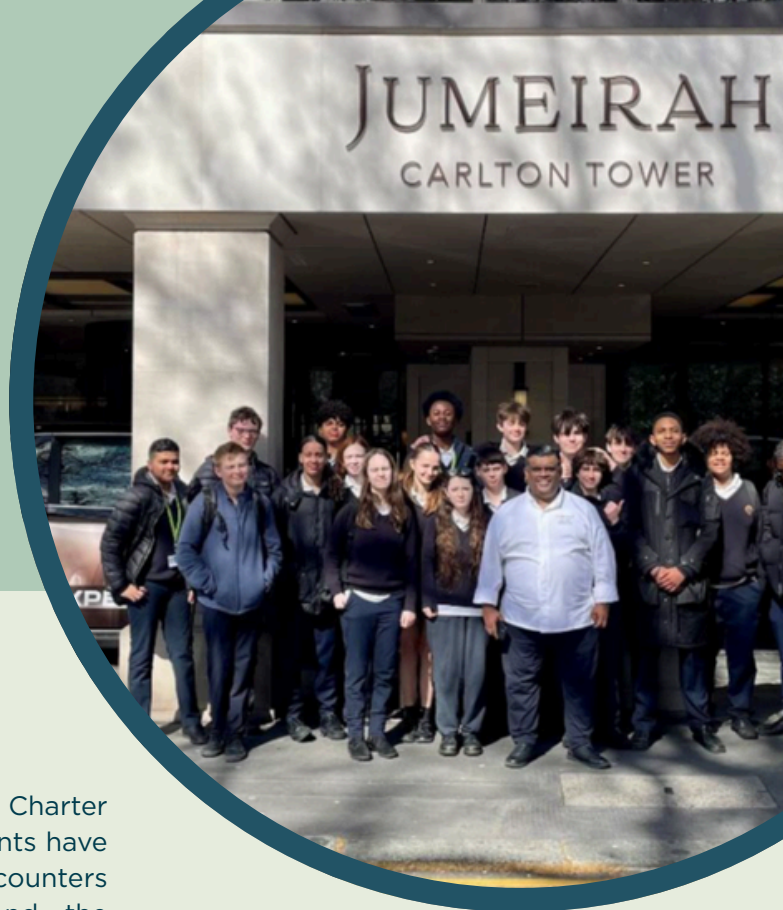
The partnership has included interactive careers fairs, keynote talks exploring luxury and Arabian hospitality, immersive behind-the-scenes hotel tours during National Apprenticeship Week, and hands-on culinary masterclasses led by the hotel's executive chef. Together, these experiences have helped students better understand the wide variety of careers available within hospitality, increase awareness of apprenticeship and vocational pathways, and build confidence ahead of future work experience and post-16 decisions



Building Confidence in the Kitchen

Throughout the placement, Fin developed both practical skills and personal confidence. Spending time in a professional kitchen environment helped strengthen his understanding of the industry and gave him valuable exposure to the day-to-day realities of hospitality careers.

The opportunity to learn directly from experienced chefs and work within a professional team environment played an important role in building his confidence and ambition for the future.



First Exposure to Professional Hospitality

One recent success story from the programme is Fin, a student from Charter School North Dulwich, who after participating in the programme completed a kitchen work experience placement at the hotel during the summer of 2025.

From the beginning of his placement, Finn showed genuine enthusiasm for hospitality and a strong interest in developing a future culinary career. Working alongside the professional kitchen team gave him first-hand insight into the pace, teamwork and standards required within a luxury hospitality environment.

The experience allowed him to move beyond perceptions of hospitality and experience the industry in a real and meaningful way.



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“MEANINGFUL
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Fin’s journey is a strong example of how real-world experiences can help students recognise their potential and begin to see hospitality as a genuine long-term career pathway.



Shaping Future Career Aspirations

Following his placement, Fin successfully secured a place at Capital City College Westminster to study Professional Cookery, which he will begin later this year.

The placement helped reinforce his passion for culinary arts and provided clarity around the direction he now wants to pursue professionally.

For Hospitality Connect and Jumeirah Carlton Tower, this progression demonstrates the importance of connecting education with industry in ways that are practical, inspiring and accessible.

Continuing the Journey

The relationship with Fin has continued beyond the placement itself. Jumeirah Carlton Tower has remained in contact with both the school and Fin’s family to explore ways to further support his ongoing development within hospitality.

As a next step, the hotel is planning additional individual kitchen experience days during the summer holidays, with the longer-term ambition of potentially offering structured weekend work alongside his college studies.

This continued support will allow Fin to keep developing real-world industry experience whilst progressing through his education and training.



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INSPIRING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF
HOSPITALITY TALENT



The Long-Term Impact of Employer Partnerships

Fin's story below highlights the wider impact that sustained employer partnerships can have on young people, schools and the hospitality industry itself. Through early exposure, practical experience and ongoing encouragement, students are able to build confidence, discover career ambitions and access opportunities they may not previously have considered possible.

At the same time, hospitality businesses are able to play an active role in developing future talent pipelines in a way that is personal, supportive and sustainable — helping to inspire the next generation of hospitality professionals.



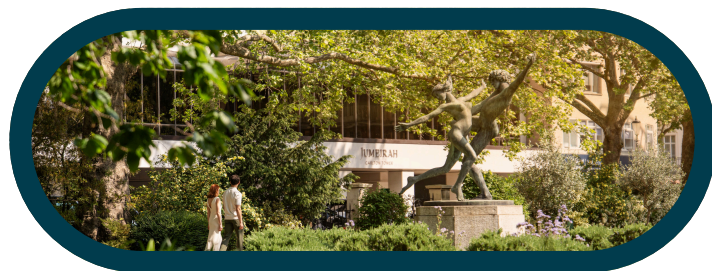
The Charter School
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**Capital
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JUMEIRAH
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