

Year 7

Visit to Pizza Express, Harlow

Wednesday, 18th June 2025



On Wednesday, 18th June 2025, Year 7 students from Hailey Hall School were taken by school transport to visit Pizza Express in Harlow. This trip formed part of Hailey Hall's ongoing commitment to supporting students in exploring potential future employment pathways, specifically within the catering and hospitality industry. The visit aligned with **Gatsby Benchmark 5 – Encounters with Employers and Employees** and **Gatsby Benchmark 6 – Experience of Workplaces**.

Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by the store manager Erin, who provided an engaging introduction to the Pizza Express franchise. The group learned about the history of the brand, the origins of pizza, and the wide range of ingredients used in different pizza styles.

Following this, students were given the exciting opportunity to make their own pizzas from scratch, selecting from a range of basic toppings and building their creations from base to finish. While their pizzas were being cooked in the restaurant's high-temperature ovens—which help ensure quick turnaround during busy service periods—students were given a tour of the premises. This behind-the-scenes look offered valuable insight into the day-to-day operations of a busy catering establishment.

Erin discussed her education and employment pathway into the Pizza Express franchise and how she joined at 16 as a Saturday girl and 3 years later she is one of the managers of the store.

Once their pizzas were ready, the students enjoyed eating them in the outdoor seating area, taking advantage of the glorious weather on the day.

Throughout the visit, students behaved exceptionally well and engaged enthusiastically, asking thoughtful and relevant questions about careers in the catering industry and the skills needed for employment in such a setting.

Special thanks to Erin for having us for the morning

Thankyou to Shelley Long, Tom Clarke for supporting the visit and support from Coral Thomas (Services for young people)



Peter Gregory

Careers Lead

Hailey Hall School