



ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

FUTURE CHOICES

BULLETIN

YEAR 7

WELCOME

Welcome to the Year 7 Autumn edition of the Future Choices bulletin. The aim of the Future Choices bulletin is to keep you informed about careers education at St Edward's School, and also other issues related to employability.

We would like to encourage parents and carers to talk with their children about the world of work and the endless opportunities open to them. Actively exploring their ideas helps to develop students' self-awareness and encourages them to appreciate the relevance of why it is important.

INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS JOURNEY

Careers education plays a major part in helping young people choose pathways that suit their interests, abilities and individual needs. It is our belief that outstanding careers education should provide students with a reason to work hard within school and inspire them to plan and work towards a meaningful future career.

The focus of our careers education in Year 7 and 8 is on understanding the world of work. Therefore we will work in assemblies and in PSHE on the key themes of employability and financial literacy. Students from year 7 upwards are also welcome to attend talks by various employers as we believe it is never too soon to start considering choices and options.

In Year 9 we begin to increase the student's first-hand experience of careers education by running a Young Enterprise Programme enabling students to meet employees from local businesses, as well as offering students the opportunity to have a careers appointment with our Careers Advisor Mr Rigby. In Year 10 the focus is on being prepared for the world of work. All Year 10 students have a mock interview and will go through the process of writing letters of application and CV's. This builds towards work experience which happens during the first week of Year 11.

Following on from work experience Year 11 students are supported and guided in the choices that they have to make. All students have interviews with staff and an independent careers advisor. Through all of these programmes we aim to fully support every student plan and prepare for their future.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of 8 guidelines that define the best careers provision in schools and colleges. The Gatsby Benchmarks are at the heart of the government's careers strategy, which was published in 2017. There is an expectation that all schools will begin working towards completing the Benchmarks. Here is a list of the eight Gatsby Benchmarks:

1. A stable careers programme.
2. Learning from career and labour market information.
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers.
5. Encounters with employers and employees.
6. Experiences of workplaces.
7. Encounters with further and higher education.
8. Personal guidance.

At St Edward's School we use the benchmarks as the foundation of our careers strategy and information about how we are completing these is on our website.



CAREERS WEBSITE

We have recently developed the Careers Section of our website to provide useful resources and information for students as well as Parents and Carers. We would encourage all Parents and Carers to follow the link below to access these and also look for our Careers Education Plan for this academic year, which shows the activities that are on offer for students across the school.

<https://website.network.st-edwards.poole.sch.uk/information/careers/>

RETREAT DAYS

One of the key features of life at St Edward's is the opportunity for the students to go on regular retreat days. These are valuable experiences which offer each student a time away from their ordinary day to day environment. This creates space for them to reflect and get to know themselves and others better.

In Year 7 one of the most important questions that is asked on the retreat day is "Who am I?" This is clearly a fundamentally important question for us all to consider from time to time but it is an incredibly relevant and vital questions for Year 7 students to consider at this point of their lives where there is so much change and opportunity.

This is also a vital part of our careers education. Self-awareness and self-reflection make an important starting point when reaching career decisions. By encouraging self-reflection, we can help students build up their skills and also help them to understand how they can transfer them from one role to another, and therefore increase their employability.

CAREERS CONTACTS

Daniel Hurley - Head of Careers
Charlotte Eastwood - Careers Manager
Aaron Rigby - Careers Advisor