

Year 9

WELCOME...

We hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas holiday. The aim of the Future Choices newsletter is to keep you informed about careers education at St Edward's School, and also other issues around employability.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression, her hand near her chin. Surrounding her are five thought bubbles, each containing a different woman in various professional uniforms: a businesswoman in a black suit talking on a phone, a nurse in pink scrubs with arms crossed, a construction worker in an orange safety vest and yellow hard hat, a chef in a white hat and red apron making an 'OK' hand gesture, and a doctor in a white lab coat with a stethoscope. The background is a dark, textured surface resembling a chalkboard.

Year 9 Edge students learnt about how Social Media is used by Marketing professionals as part of a communications strategy to manage an organisation's or individual's reputation.

It seems like only yesterday that this year group arrived at St Edward's for the first time. Now they have completed Years 7 and 8, and are making rapid progress through Year 9. With this in mind attention will soon turn to planning for the immediate future and thinking about Key Stage Four. This will mean beginning to consider and make their GCSE options choices. As we move through the Spring Term there will be lots of advice and support that will be given to the students and parents and carers about these options.

Year 9 students have had the opportunity to attend three Careers Breakfasts talks this year, including Careers in Engineering, Careers In Sport and Careers within the Police Force.

Careers Advisor

There are many factors which will play a part in making these important decisions. One element that all students should begin to think about is what future career they might want to pursue. This may help to narrow down the options and influence the choices that they make.

To further help support students through this process we have started offering every Year Nine student a careers appointment with our careers advisor Aaron Rigby, where they can talk about the choices that they are making and their future plans.

This can be a difficult process for some students, so there will be an Information Evening for parents and carers on 20th January, and information regarding this will be sent separately.



Questions to ask...

Before meeting Aaron, our careers advisor, it will help if students have some specific questions prepared in order to guide the conversation. Of course, a school careers advisor can give general information about how to find a career, but the more specific a student can be, the more practical advice your advisor will be able to give you.

The questions could be as general, such as:

- What are the best careers websites to explore?
- How do I choose my options for GCSE?
- What is a CV and what should I include on it?

They could also be specific and relate to the kinds of careers that the student is interested in following. These could be questions like:

- What qualifications do I need to become what I want to be?
- What's the average salary?

If a student has considered their skills and interests and are thinking about pursuing a career as an engineer, they could ask them engineering firms who might offer work experience in the local area, what they can do now to give themselves an advantage when you come to apply for jobs, and talk through whether university or an apprenticeship is the best option for you.

Enterprise Day

Some Year 9 students were due to take part in an enterprise day this term, which has unfortunately been cancelled due to Covid. This is due to be rescheduled for later in the Spring Term. This day involves the students involved being given a business brief, that they will complete by working together as part of a team. The students will be challenged to work effectively as a team and deliver results within an allocated amount of time.

The Enterprise Day focuses on the health sector and challenges students to develop an 'App' that can support people to improve their health. The students will be split into teams to complete the task, which involves simulating real world scenarios in education and employment. Letters will be going home to the selected students shortly.

Local Labour Market Information

Below is an outline of the local labour market information for the South West region. This gives students and their families a clear outline of what is going on across the job and employment market across the south west region. Looking at information like this can be valuable for students as they begin to plot their own future careers.

