

# FUTURE CHOICES NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER  
2022



Year 11



## Reflection on Work Experience

Year 11 students should have completed their work placement at the start of the academic year. It is important that students evaluate their own performance while on placement in relation to their stated personal and career objectives.

A good way for students to approach personal evaluation of the placement is to identify their strengths and weaknesses while on placement, e.g. strengths could be that they were always punctual and attended everyday, whereas weaknesses might be that they didn't ask as many questions as they could have done.

Students should also consider the following points when carrying out your evaluation:

- Attendance and punctuality – did they attend placement regularly and manage to arrive at work on time and be punctual for meetings?
- Skills development – what particular technical and interpersonal skills do they think were developed while on placement?
- Behaviour in the workplace – were they an exemplary placement student in terms of politeness, honesty, integrity, responsibility, team working and effectiveness?
- Career aspirations – did the placement give them an insight into a career path that they would like to explore further?
- Employment opportunities – were any future job opportunities offered to them? Perhaps a part-time job or offer of employment?
- Networking – did they make best use of their time on placement to make good work contacts for the future?

## Careers interview with Aaron

Year 11 students will all have a one to one careers appointment with Mr Rigby this term which will be an opportunity for them to discuss potential post 16 options and discuss possible careers of interest. Following each interview, Mr Rigby will send an action plan to students outlining what has been discussed and directing them to any websites or other online resources. We do expect students to follow up with these action points. We would also encourage you to discuss this action plan with your child. Students are able to seek support in writing their CV with Mr Rigby, and he can also support with post 16 applications when these are required.

## Motivation to learn

Finding the motivation to learn can sometimes prove difficult for Year 11 students. The world in which they live is surrounded by distractions from watching the latest trending series on Netflix to keeping up with their friend on social media. This can mean that learning and making progress at school can sometimes take a back seat. So how can you help your young person find the motivation to learn?

The first key area is to emphasise the value and importance of learning. The knowledge that is being given through their studies will broaden their horizons and deepen their knowledge of the world. In addition to this the skills that they gain whilst doing this, such as problem solving, resilience and independent study will help to make them well rounded people in the future. Having conversations with young people about what they are learning and how it is shaping them can help them to re-discover their motivation.



The second key way motivation can be boosted is to discuss future plans and choices. In school, all Year 11 students will have a careers interview which will help them consider their next steps. Talking about post 16 options, and future career choices can help young people to see that what they learn now, could help them gain good qualifications which in turn will help them to fulfil the ideas and ambitions that they have for their future.

## Jargon Busters - Post 16 options

It's always worth looking ahead, as decisions that the students make now will help focus choices later. If they aspire to a particular course they should find out where it's likely to lead in future. If they have a career or university course in mind then they need to work out what do they need to do now to be on the right path. Thinking about the future now could make life easier further down the line. So what could be next? The main choices are:

**A Levels:** Advanced level qualifications (known as A levels) are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work. You can normally study three or more A levels over two years. They're usually assessed by a series of examinations.

**Vocational Qualifications:** Level 3 vocational qualifications usually take around two years to complete, the same as with A-levels, and can be a great option if you have a specific career in mind. By the time you've finished you will often have the opportunity to put real-life work experience on your CV too. Level 2 qualifications are similar but at a lower level.

**Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships are another way of studying in a vocational way. Employers offer apprenticeships that help you study and train in a wide range of business sectors. You will spend most of your time working and getting trained under supervision. You will also do part-time study which is often held as classroom learning.

**T-Levels:** T Levels are new two year courses which are taken after GCSEs and are broadly equivalent in size to 3 A Levels. Launched in September 2020, these courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and education providers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for entry into skilled employment, an apprenticeship or related technical study through further or higher education. T Levels offer students practical and knowledge-based learning at a school or college and on-the-job experience through an industry placement of at least 315 hours - approximately 45 days.

## Careers in the Curriculum

We will be sharing information regarding Careers within the Curriculum, with a different subject being featured in each edition of our *Future Choices* newsletter. In this edition, the chosen subject is Maths.

When people think about mathematical skills they normally think of topics, however Mathematics skills are deeper and highly valued by protentional employers. Employers are looking for individuals that can demonstrate: logical thinking, problem solving and decision making to name a few. At St Edward's we support all pupils in developing these skills.

Students will study Mathematics up to Year 11. However, a majority are put off by the traditional path way of A-Level maths in sixth form. At St Edward's we offer Core Maths, which supports students to continue their mathematical education in Year 12. This course links with other A-level courses allowing students to feel confident in those as well. All courses we offer will support students to have a rich and fulfilling life, some of the possible areas students move onto are:

Acoustic consultant  
Actuarial analyst  
Actuary  
Astronomer  
Chartered accountant  
Chartered certified accountant  
Data analyst  
Data scientist  
Investment analyst  
Research scientist (maths)  
Secondary school teacher  
Software engineer  
Sound engineer  
Statistician  
CAD technician  
Civil Service fast streamer  
Financial manager  
Financial trader  
Game designer  
Insurance underwriter  
Machine learning engineer  
Meteorologist  
Operational researcher  
Private tutor  
Quantity surveyor  
Radiation protection practitioner  
Software tester

There are many famous people who have studied maths to degree Level, but to name a few:

Redd Hasting - Co founder of Netflix

Teri Hatcher - Actress

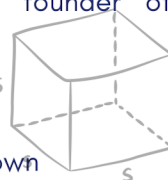
Brian May - Queen

Rachel Riley - Countdown

Dara O'Brian - Comedian

Bram Stoker - Author

Florence Nightingale - Nurse



If you wish to find out more from different people from a wide range of mathematical careers please go to <https://www.mathscareers.org.uk/careers>. There are wonderful articles documenting what it's like to work in these areas and how to get there.