

FUTURE CHOICES NEWSLETTER

Year 7

SEPTEMBER
2022



INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS JOURNEY AND MEET THE TEAM

At St Edward's our Careers department consists of Head of Careers - Mr Hurley, Careers Manager - Mrs Eastwood and Careers Adviser - Mr Rigby. Mr Rigby can be located in the Eden Centre, where students can attend one-to-one sessions with him as well as drop in during break and lunch. We will also be re-launching our Careers and Chocolate Club this term where students can come along to speak to Mr Rigby on a Friday Week B lunchtime, as well as access the resources in the careers room and enjoy some chocolate biscuits. This club is open to all year groups.



Mrs Eastwood

We have developed our Careers Programme for Year 7 to Year 12 which outlines all of the activities and careers opportunities students are involved in across each academic year.



Mr Rigby

This Careers Programme is available to view on our website:

<https://st-edwards.poole.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Careers-Programme-2021-22.pdf>

Managing Transition

Moving from primary school to secondary school is a big transition and an important moment for young people. It can be a time of great excitement and also great nervousness for both students and parents and carers.

Most children will manage the transition to secondary school successfully. However, there may be ups and downs. It's easy for children to slip from feeling happy and confident one minute, to feeling nervous or anxious and back again as they find their feet. As a school, we are here to support our Year 7 students manage and navigate this step. There is also further information aimed at supporting parents with this such as "Supporting children's transition to secondary school" which has been written by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. It is available at this link: <https://www.annafreud.org/media/13817/supporting-children-through-secondary-transition-final.pdf> Managing this transition, having the resilience to settle in a new school and making new friends is good preparation for the students. Later in life, as they move beyond school, they will have to start new jobs, maybe go to university and build new relationships - the lessons that they learn through these experiences now, will really help them in the future.

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of eight 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. Below 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 we are working towards completing all of the Gatsby Benchmarks by the summer of 2023. We are pleased to say that we have already achieved benchmarks 7 and 8 and continue to work towards securing all eight.

Gatsby Benchmarks



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 Modern Foreign Languages - MFL.

Much has been said and written in recent years about the UK's skills gap, with young people often cited as lacking the skills required by employers, and the government has highlighted a lack of languages skills as a key issue. A 2013 British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) report stated that a shortage of language skills was holding British exporters back, and that "addressing the gaps in commercial exporting skills, including language skills, must be a priority for supporting growth in Britain's export sector". Following this, a 2014 UK government report concluded that our national lack of language skills cost the economy £48bn in 2006, an incredible 3.5% of national income, whilst a 2017 British Council report identified the five languages of "crucial importance for the UK's future prosperity, security and influence in the world".

German and French, both taught at St Edward's, were not only two of these five, but are also the two most in demand languages by employers in the UK.

This term students will begin their exploration of the wide range and variety of topics covered in PSHE at St Edward's. Throughout all their work in PSHE, students will be encouraged to examine their understanding of and engagement in life inside, outside and beyond school. They will get the opportunity to consider their own dreams and goals in a number of different contexts and to continue to develop their personal and interpersonal skills. We hope students will find PSHE enriching and informative in helping their formation into the best version of themselves.



In light of this background, it is clear that an ability to communicate in languages other than English is a key skill that can give our students an edge in any career or organisation that operates across borders. Across a huge range of careers, in any business that operates internationally, the ability to speak languages increases your employability.

Studies have shown that learning another language boosts cognitive ability and can even slow brain ageing, but of course the key benefit is that it enables better communication, and this is why those who study them are so highly prized in the world of work.

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS?

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

WHAT ARE YOUR SKILLS?

WHAT ARE YOUR PASSIONS?