

# FUTURE CHOICES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER  
2023



## INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS JOURNEY AND MEET THE TEAM

At St Edward’s the Careers department consists of the Head of Careers, Mr Keene, and the Careers Manager, Mrs Ruby. Mrs Ruby is based in the Careers room within the EDEN Centre. Students can drop in during break or lunch time. Drop-ins are also offered in the sixth form area on Monday and the Library on Wednesday lunchtimes.

The Careers programme is designed for Years 7-13 and involves activities to help develop their self-awareness, decision making and knowledge of the opportunities available when leaving school and future careers. All students are offered a careers guidance appointment during Year 11 and Sixth Form to allow them to make informed choices about their next steps.

More information about Careers in the school can be found on the Careers section of the school website.



Mrs Ruby - Careers Manager



## CAREERS FAIR

We were delighted to see the return of the Careers Fair to the school calendar after several years on 17th November. The event was attended by all years throughout the day with over 30 different companies represented from different career sectors. The feedback was very positive. The employers were very positive about the engagement from students and the students were able to learn about the range of career opportunities available to them for their future careers.

## GATSBY BENCHMARKS

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of eight guidelines that define the best careers provision in schools and colleges. There is an expectation that all schools work towards achieving all 8 benchmarks below:

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.

# Gatsby Benchmarks



At St Edward’s School we are working towards achieving all 8 benchmarks by summer 2024.

# CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

In each newsletter we will be sharing Careers in the Curriculum with a different subject featured within each edition.

In this edition the focus is Careers using Languages.

Studying a foreign language can seem like a daunting process, but studying a European or other foreign language will be of great value when it comes to your employability.

Whichever language you choose to study you will be expected to learn the grammar, vocabulary at GCSE and at A level take part in a debate or talk at length about a piece of literature.

Languages are vital if you think you would like to live and work abroad. German and French are both taught at St Edward's and are highly regarded by employers.

Foreign languages are one of the 'facilitating subjects', highly regarded by many universities and helpful in all career areas. Studies have been shown that learning another language boosts cognitive abilities and can even slow brain ageing. The key benefit is that it will enable better communication and also be highly valued in the world of work.



A sample of careers directly involving languages include: language teaching, translator, interpreter, language analyst. Other career areas include: Business, law, working for the government (Civil Service), journalism and travel and tourism.



# EXPLAINING THE YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS

In Year 9 the students make their choices about which subjects they want to study for GCSEs in Years 10 and 11. This is clearly an important time and an important set of decisions for all our students and families. As a school we are here to support and guide the students through the options process to help equip them to make the right decisions with the right information about the different programmes and where they can lead to for future career choices.

This will be delivered through a variety of ways including assemblies, tutor time and PSHE lessons. In the Spring term there will be an Options Evening designed to explain more about the process for all students, parents and carers to attend.

Below is a guide of some questions you can be asking your child about their next steps:

**Do they have any future career plans/aspirations?**

**Do they know what qualifications they will need to achieve this?**

**How do they like to learn?**

**What are their interests?**

**What are their favourite subjects?**

**What do they enjoy doing outside of school?**

Mrs Ruby, the Careers Manager is available if you have any questions regarding options. You can email her at [nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk](mailto:nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk)

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK 13-17 MAY 2024

This term, work experience has been launched to Year 10. The expectation is that all students will go out on a week's work experience from 13th to 17th May 2024.

The process has been launched in an assembly. All the relevant forms and guidelines have been included in a folder on Teams - *Year 10 Work Experience* which all students should have access to. This includes tips on how to secure a placement and the relevant forms that need to be completed before a placement can be confirmed. We believe that work experience is highly valuable to help develop wider employability skills required for the world of work.

Four great reasons to do work experience:

- It builds your self-confidence and allows you to show an employer you have the right attitude to work and that you are flexible, enthusiastic, and willing to learn.
- It helps you decide if the career path you have chosen is right for you and you will have the opportunity to network with employers.
- It can give you experience of using skills which you can mention on your CV.
- It gives you a chance to feel what it is like to be a worker, not a student.

If you have any questions about Year 10 work experience, please email Mrs Ruby, Careers Manager: [nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk](mailto:nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk)



# YEAR 11

As part of the PSHE curriculum this term the Year 11s have been focusing on their options post-GCSEs. They have had external speakers visiting from Bournemouth and Poole College, a virtual talk about T levels as well as a chance to visit the sixth form which involved a Q & A with sixth formers. They have also had information about apprenticeships with many employers attending the careers fair in November.

## CAREERS INTERVIEWS WITH MRS RUBY

Year 11 Students will all the opportunity to attend a one to one careers appointment with Mrs Ruby. This is to discuss potential post 16 options and career interests. Following each interview, Mrs Ruby will send an action plan to students outlining what has been discussed along with some suggestions for further action including websites and online resources. We do expect students to follow up on these action plans and encourage discussions at home about their options post year 11 and beyond. Students are also able to seek support with job applications or post 16 applications when required.

## JARGON BUSTERS - POST-16 OPTIONS

It is always a good idea to look ahead and understand about the main choices ahead. The decisions students make now will help them focus on their choices later. If they aspire to study a particular course or have a specific career in mind it is important they find out what they need to do now in order to follow that path. So what could be next? The main choices are:

**A Levels:** Advanced Level qualifications. These are subject based which can lead onto university, work or training. You normally study 3 or occasionally 4 subjects over 2 years. They are assessed by a series of examinations. A wide range of subjects are offered at our sixth form.

**Vocational Qualifications:** Level 3 vocational qualifications usually take 2 years and are equivalent to A levels. Level 2 is a one year course equivalent to GCSEs. Vocational courses are a great option if you like course work and would prefer to be assessed throughout the year. They are also a great option if you have a career sector in mind. They can lead onto apprenticeship or university.

**T Levels:** T levels are a new qualification broadly equivalent to 3 A levels. They have been developed with employers and education providers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for employment or an apprenticeship. T levels offer practical and knowledge-based learning at a school or college along with approximately 45 days work placement.

**Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships are where you study and train towards a specific qualification. You will be employed and spend most of your time working, alongside this you may attend college or a training provider part time to complete your learning.

