



Careers Newsletter

Careers Information Newsletter - December 2022

Welcome

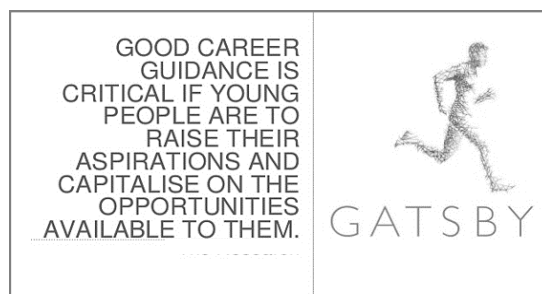
Welcome parents/carers to Pleckgate's latest edition of the Careers Newsletter. During their time at Pleckgate all pupils are given the opportunity to learn about a range of future educational and career pathway options. This is achieved through a variety of careers learning/careers events, guest speakers, tutor time activities, Enrichment Days, school trips and learning in their curriculum subjects. We hope that you will find this useful in supporting your child's career education journey. During the Autumn Term, Year 7–11 pupils spent time learning about careers.



What is Careers Education?

Gatsby Benchmarks

Good career guidance inspires pupils towards further study and enables them to make informed decisions whenever choices are open to them. It helps them to understand about the world of work and to know what skills they need to succeed. It is important for social mobility because it opens pupils' eyes to careers they may not have considered. Career guidance is specifically included within the Ofsted inspection framework.



The 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of good career guidance are:

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

Unifrog

Unifrog is the careers platform used in school for pupils to access the best possible information for their careers education. Activities and events are logged for pupils and this platform can be used to learn about the world of work and assist them with their post-16 options. This platform will be used regularly during the Spring term.



Careers Education, Information and Guidance

Year 7 CEIAG Work

Year 7 were introduced to the Unifrog careers platform. In the form of a treasure hunt, pupils explored different jobs to familiarise themselves on how to navigate around the various sections of the Unifrog website.

Year 8 CEIAG Work

Year 8 will learn about what success means to them and examine career related terminology so that they have a better understanding of words and phrases associated with their careers learning.

STEM Cyber First

Pleckgate was selected to attend the first CyberFirst Schools event which was held on 15 November 2022 at **Ewood Park, Blackburn**.

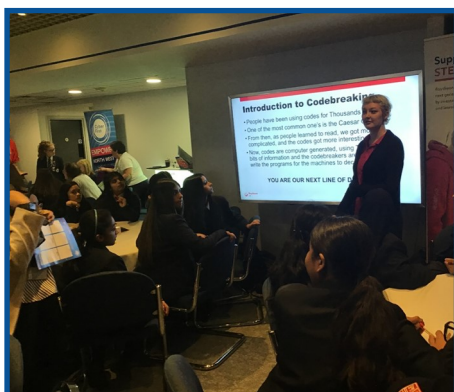
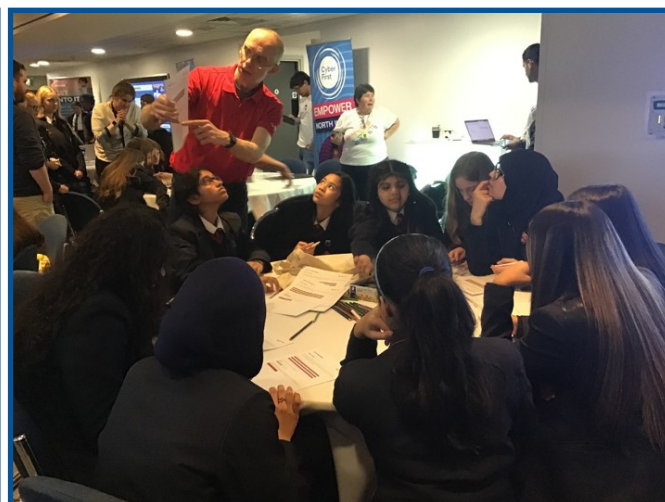
This invitation was available to girls in Year 8. Miss S Hamid, Computer Science and Business Teacher, quickly snapped up this opportunity and selected 25 girls, most of whom attend the Coding club which is held after school on a Wednesday.



The Empower event is a part of CyberFirst Schools & Colleges – an initiative from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) which is a part of GCHQ. It aims to encourage a diverse range of young people to pursue careers in the cyber sector. A major objective of the scheme is to encourage girls to take an interest in technology during their school years. Pupils met Jasmine Taylor, Cyber Defence Manager at KPMG UK and Nicola Meek, Education Lead at Microsoft.

Jasmine said: "I got here completely by accident. I knew I was interested in science, but I was equally interested in singing and dancing. I had no idea that jobs like mine existed. Choosing what subjects to study for your GCSEs is a big decision, but I would urge you to be curious and think about what interests you." She encouraged pupils to keep their options open and research anything that they find interesting. Nicola Meek added: "We need more girls at the table – and more young people."

The day included immersive and inspiring activities led by some of the leading global technology organisations. The goal of these Empower events is to reach girls at a pivotal moment in their education to change their perspectives on computing and to inspire the next generation of cyber-professionals.



STEM Cyber First - Quotes from pupils:

I have thoroughly enjoyed today and I hope that we will go on more trips like this in the future. I am extremely fortunate to have a school that gives me this experience. I would totally recommend it to anyone who enjoys computing, there were so many new learning opportunities. The part I most enjoyed was the activity where we had to crack a code in order to find a sentence and all of the other papers. I also liked the binary codes.

Hasiba

Today's trip was amazing. I was extremely fortunate to experience this and would totally recommend it to anyone who is interested in computing. Not only was this a funny and entertaining experience, there were so many great learning opportunities to try something new. Also there were plenty of sweets and sugar to motivate and reward us. I loved it and would go again if I had the chance.

Afeefa

I found the trip enjoyable

I loved:

- The Microsoft frozen game
- BT code breaker
- Retheon stem binary

The people there amazing, had positive energy and they really inspired me in pursuing my dreams and making cyber more fun. They were so nice and generous and the break was delicious and overall just a wonderful experience I would love to do more trips like this.

Simra

Today we went in a trip of Cyberfirst girls. I really enjoyed the activities, my favourite one was the coding. I got a three faced charger for completing level 1 and 2. I loved the sweets too. It was the best trip from all of the trips I had.

Fatima

I really enjoyed this trip and all of the activities and snacks there. I hope that there are more events and trips like this in the future.

Ayesha

I enjoyed the inspirational stories from Alistair and how she became a Microsoft Without coding and following passion and I enjoyed Raytheon and the talk about coding and colours Also I enjoyed BT And the Microsoft spot save polar bears also I enjoyed the refreshment the motivating music and speeches.

Laiba

I enjoyed all of it but if I had to choose one thing it would be the arctic polar bear Minecraft activity. This is because of the high-tech laptops and how the Minecraft system is very easy to follow and anyone could play it. I really enjoyed my time there so thank you for this opportunity.

Fidaus

I mostly enjoyed the binary work because I already know how to do it and it showed me that practice makes perfect.

Aaminah



Year 9 CEIAG Work

Year 9 will develop and learn the skills required to make a good leader. They will then explore and record what activities they do in their lives. Spring Term will see Year 9 students undertake extensive work around their futures as they start to think about and select their KS4 options/pathways.

Year 10 CEIAG Work

Year 10 have been exploring their personality styles as well as finding out how they can research potential voluntary work experience placements.

Miss Hartley has arranged many talks with employers from different professions. This included a talk about law from two different legal professionals. Students interested in pursuing a law degree gained insight into the types of qualifications required to pursue a career in law. They also learnt first-hand what it is actually like to practice law from two women new to the profession—Miss Niamh McGinty and Miss Zara Nawas.

Year 10 can also look forward to their one to one careers meetings/ interviews with New Directions. (Gatsby Benchmark 8: Personal Guidance.) Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a careers adviser who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external (provided they are trained to an appropriate level). This is a chance for our pupils to start thinking about the paths they would like to take upon leaving Pleckgate and how they might go about doing so.

Year 11 CEIAG Work

Year 11 have been busy this half term working on their CEIAG learning. They should have successfully completed a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and personal statement on their Unifrog account. They have learnt about setting targets and interview preparation techniques along with specific interview techniques in preparation for their college interviews once they have applied.

Year 11 College Information Day - Thursday 24th November 2022

This event was a great success. It was lovely to once again be able to invite a variety of post-16 education providers in to school— particularly after the Covid restrictions. On the day, pupils engaged with up to 8 of the following providers on the day:

Blackburn College	QEGS Sixth Form
Cardinal Newman College	Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Sixth Form
Darwen Aldridge Studio School	Myerscough College
Get Set Apprenticeships	Accrington and Rossendale College
DACA Sixth Form	St Wilfrid's Sixth Form
Training 2000 - Apprenticeships	Westholme Sixth Form
Burnley College	TIBHS Sixth Form

Pupils heard about the various college course offerings, entry requirements for the courses offered, extra - curricular offers of the colleges/sixth forms, information about college/sixth form life and application deadlines.

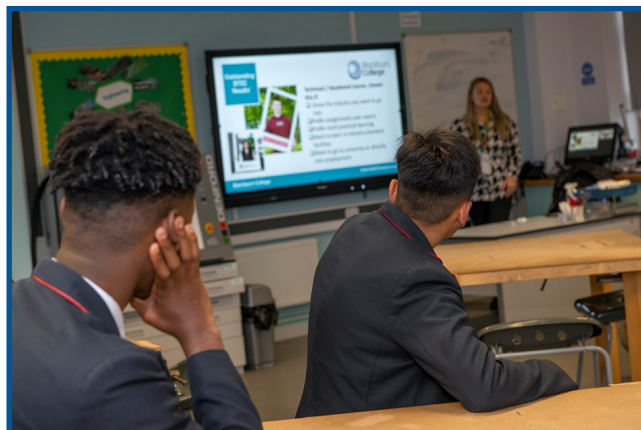
Pupils are now well advised so that they can make the best informed decisions about their post-16 education journey.

Year 11 may have also attended some college/sixth form Open Evenings in recent weeks and we hope that they can now start to make decisions on their post-16 preferred route of study. Please ask your child if they are up to date with this and encourage them to apply to their preferred post -16 provider now if they have not already started this process.

Year 11 College Information Day Thursday 24th November 2022



St Wilfrid's



Blackburn College Talk



Colleague from CRGS Sixth Form



Get Set Academy - Apprenticeships



Training 2000



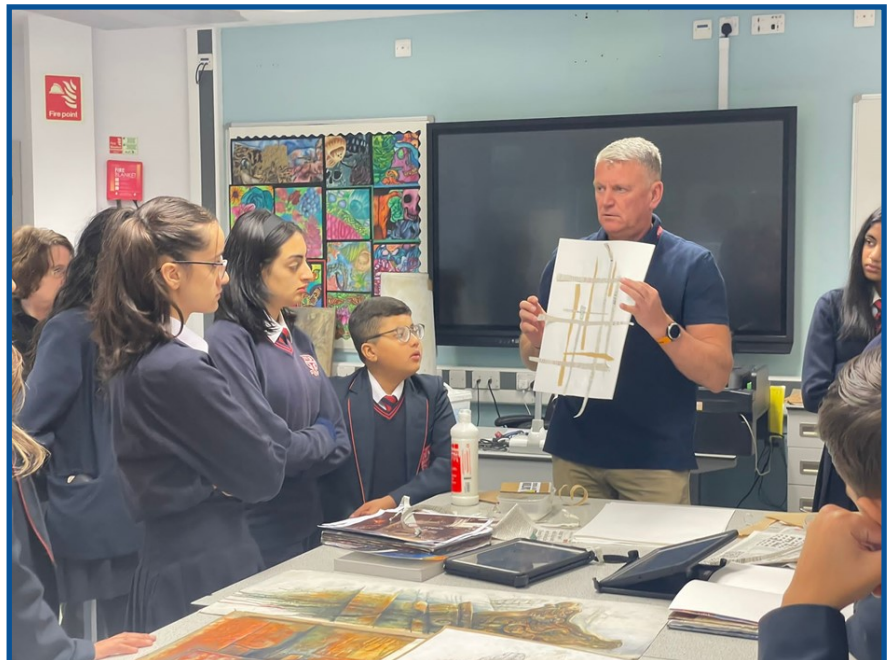
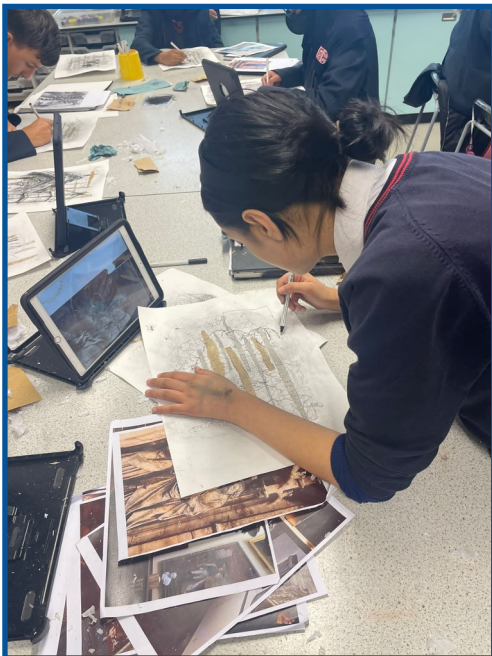
Cardinal Newman College

Artist Workshop Year 10 & 11

Visiting Artist - Ian Murphy

Friday 11th November 2022

Pleckgate pupils were fortunate to interact with Ian Murphy, a contemporary British Fine Artist best known for his powerful tonal drawings and atmospheric mixed media oil paintings of architectural places. Pupils were curious about Ian's background and asked good questions about how he became a working, practising artist. Ian discussed his experiences of art whilst he was at school and how his parents had expected that he would become an architect - because his strengths were art and maths. He explained that he always wanted to be able to create the art that he wanted to do, so from school pursued a career as an artist. He explained that he travels internationally delivering various types of workshops to schools across the world including, Dubai and China. He described how what he does brings him great happiness and satisfaction and he has built a successful business and career doing exactly what he loves and passing on his love of art to art students all over the world through these workshops! An amazing and inspiring workshop for our young artists.



Blackburn is Hiring - Wednesday 21st September 2022

On Wednesday 21st September, 60 Year 11 pupils attended the 'Blackburn is Hiring' Careers Event which was held at King George's Hall.

Pupils were able to visit exhibits from over 60 further education providers and employers and engage in conversations about their post-16 options.



Post-16 Study Spotlight

A parent's guide to apprenticeships



As a parent, you want your child to get the best possible start in their career. There are many options available to young people after they leave school, and in this guide, we outline information and benefits about apprenticeships as a key route into a successful career.

What's an apprenticeship? It is a genuine job, with training, meaning you can earn while you learn and gain a nationally recognised qualification.

What are the benefits?

Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and beyond. Over 70 national universities are currently offering a range of degree apprenticeships with more to be confirmed throughout the year.

- Earning a salary and paid holiday;
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace;
- Increased future earning potential – apprentices enjoy marked salary increases on finishing their training and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime.*

What levels are there?

There are various levels of apprenticeship to apply for depending on current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at Grades A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

All apprenticeships include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships will require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

How do you apply?

At any one time there are between 12,000 – 20,000 apprenticeship vacancies available online in a variety of careers and industries across England. Visit **GOV.UK/apply-apprenticeship**. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, your son or daughter can simply register on the website and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply for the role.

Our YouTube channel has useful hints and tips on applying plus other videos on apprenticeships, visit YouTube and search apprenticeships/NAS.

If they are not quite ready for an apprenticeship or job, they could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain valuable work experience and the opportunity to improve their English and maths, if needed. Visit **GOV.UK/find-traineeship** for more information or to apply for traineeship opportunities.

Salaries

The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.70 per hour, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependent on the sector, region and apprenticeship level. E.g. some higher apprenticeships pay up to £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be accessed by looking at the vacancies on 'Find an apprenticeship'.

Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

Recent legislation has come into effect which changes the minimum English and maths requirements needed to complete an apprenticeship for people with a learning difficulty or disability. The changes will lower the English and maths requirements for these apprentices to an Entry Level 3 qualification.

A Disability Confident Employer will generally offer an interview to any applicant that declares they have a disability and meets the minimum criteria as defined by the employer. For more details, search Disability Confident on GOV.UK.

School leaving age

The government has stated that all young people must stay in some form of education or training until at least their 18th birthday. This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post 16, which could be through an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Search apprenticeships on GOV.UK

Careers Podcasts for Parents

"The Parent Perspective", is an exciting podcast series for parents and carers to help them to support their children to make more informed career decisions with greater confidence, knowledge and understanding.

In each episode a diverse mix of parents will share their experiences of navigating career conversations with their children and provide insights into how the world work is changing from trusted experts, organisations and employers already working with young people today.

It's time for your perspective to count!

Please use the link below to listen to the first Podcast:
An introduction to The Parent Perspective



<https://anchor.fm/theparentperspective/episodes/An-Introduction-to-The-Parent-Perspective-e13vvl3>

Labour Market Information (Gatsby Benchmark 2)

This benchmark allows students to access career and labour market information (LMI). As parents and carers, it is useful for you to be able to directly access this information. Please use the links below to access LMI. You can then support your child during their careers education.

<https://www.pleckgate.com/local-labour-market/>

<https://lancashirecareershubs.co.uk/resource/portal-lancashire-careers-information/>



We are always looking for innovative ways to improve our careers programme. If you have any feedback, can offer your expertise or know someone at your workplace who could be of any assistance, please contact:

Miss J Blears: Head of PSHE/CEIAG
email: jblears@pleckgate.com