

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term

December 2023

## Welcome to our end of term Careers Newsletter!

We hope that you will find this newsletter useful in supporting your child's career education journey. The Autumn term has been busy, with our pupils in Years 7–11 spending time learning about different careers paths.

### What is Careers Education?

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:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market info
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: Careers Platform

[www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org)

Our school uses the careers platform Unifrog to give pupils access to the most significant information available for their career 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.

### We need your help!

We are constantly searching for innovative ways to enhance our careers programme.

Please get in touch with us if you have any feedback, would want to share your knowledge, or know someone at work who could help us!

#### Please contact:

Miss Z Faruki, Careers Lead

**Email:** [careers@pleckgate.com](mailto:careers@pleckgate.com)





## Bar Mock Trial

Year 10 pupils showed they could be the barristers of the future as they were the winning team in the North-West Regional Heat of the Bar Mock Trial competition held at Minshull Street Criminal Court in Manchester.

Mrs McGinty took a group of Pleckgate pupils to compete against other secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

The team had to defend two cases and prosecute another. Each member of the team was judged on their ability to present a coherent case using appropriate evidence, present themselves convincingly as a witness and prepare opening and closing speeches in front of a real judge.

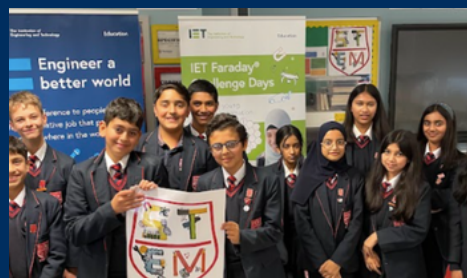


Layla said: "We have learned so much about law and justice, we met judges who were supportive and I want to aspire to have a career like the professionals we saw and imitated."

## Faraday Challenge

As part of our STEM activities in school, future engineers and inventors in Year 8 competed against other Blackburn schools in the Faraday Challenge.

The assignment for the pupils was to create a working prototype of an invention that would improve road safety.



## CyberFirst

A group of Year 9 pupils with an interest in Computer Science visited Media City to take part in a range of exciting cyber activities. CyberFirst helps young people discover the dynamic industry of cyber security, what a job in cyber can lead to, and help them to explore their passion for technology.

After seeing HOST, Salford's Home of Skills and Technology, pupils had the opportunity to spend time in the custom-built gaming arena, green screen room, and virtual reality centre. They were treated to an inspiring lecture later in the day, given by the CEO, Mo Isap, a former Pleckgate student.

The day was topped off with a series of cyber workshops, including spending time as a "digital detective." This innovative content, interactive debate and gamified learning was delivered to challenge initiative and spark imagination, and designed to raise career aspirations and make the world of cybersecurity relevant to the next generation.

Mrs Hamid, Computer Science teacher said: "CyberFirst has been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to be exposed to a range of tech careers. The event has left them more informed of careers in cyber and wider technology."





## Heat Centre

Year 10 pupils interested in a career in automotive engineering visited the state-of-the-art HEAT Centre at Blackburn College.

Pupils got to see the working of the cars of the future such as Hydrogen Fuel Cars and Electric Cars along with traditional petrol and diesel engines.



## AirSTEM BAE Visit

A group of Year 10 and 11 pupils visited BAE Systems as their apprentice applications will open soon.

35 pupils made the trip to the Samlesbury site to look at their Early Careers opportunities.



The sessions comprised of presentations, apprentice talks and tours of the training facility. The day consisted of a hangar overview, a career workshop, Virtual Reality Cave demonstrations and Market stall room.

Hear of Year 11, Miss Hartley said: "This was a great opportunity for our pupils to investigate careers at BAE Systems."

## Heysham Power Station



A group of Year 10 pupils made a trip to Heysham Nuclear Power Station.

The trip gave the pupils the opportunity to look round the inside of the power station and see up close how a power station works.

The pupils also had a talk on careers and apprenticeships offered by EDF. A fantastic and informative day for everyone involved!

## BAE Systems Roadshow

Year 7 pupils enjoyed a STEM workshop 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space' organised by BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy.

STEM Coordinator Mr Ainsworth said: "The aim of this educational roadshow was to inspire pupils in the world of STEM careers – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. It was exceptional."

The roadshow allowed pupils to consider questions like 'what would life on a submarine be like?', as well as thinking about the wider impact of science today. A thought provoking and exciting day for all our pupils.



## Pupils take part in a Model United Nations at Lancaster University



Head of Religion, World Views and PSHE, Mrs Jenny Savage took three pupils to Lancaster University to take part in a Model United Nations. The event was organised through the Olive Branch Award with Solutions not Sides. The pupils were trying to find a resolution for 'Creating a roadmap to peace for Israel-Palestine.'

Year 11 pupil, Tuba said: "The MUN was really intense and has given us an insight into politics. It has been so engaging and we have learnt so much about what is going on around the world."

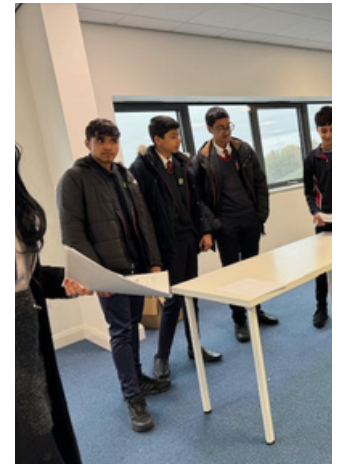


## STACI Visits

Year 10 pupils got on their bikes, quite literally, with a visit to international company STACI, as they examined different career paths.

STACI is an independent, flexible international logistics specialist with their UK base in Blackburn. They have clients in health, energy, cosmetics, financial services and more, developing a wide range of innovative and tailor-made logistics services to address their customers' evolving needs as well as the rise of multi-channel distribution.

Careers Lead Mrs Faruki said: "Pupils learnt about their business, apprenticeships, roles in different departments and were lucky enough to have a tour of the warehouse, test out new bikes and also completed a packing task, putting their business skills to the test."



Year 10 pupil Maryam said: "It was really interesting to learn we have an international company on our doorstep. I learnt a lot about logistics and the various roles within a business like STACI."

## Year 11 Careers Day

Pupils were planning life after Pleckgate at a Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance College Information Day. The school was packed with representatives talking about post-16 choices including information on colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships. Among those attending were:

Blackburn College, Cardinal Newman College, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Sixth Form, Darwen Aldridge Studio School, Myerscough College, Get Set Apprenticeships, Accrington and Rossendale College, Darwen Aldridge Community Academy, St Wilfrid's Sixth Form, Burnley College, Preston College, Training 2000 Apprenticeships and Westholme Sixth Form.

Providers talked to pupils about the wider variety of courses, application process, as well as examples of career opportunities.

"We were so delighted with the number of colleges and providers who came into school to talk to our pupils about their futures," said Mrs Faruki, Careers Lead.

"The pupils gained a great deal from this experience. They are now able to make well informed choices about their post-16 options and have all submitted personal statements as part of their college applications."





## Blackburn is Inspiring 2023

The 2023 Blackburn's Inspiring event took place at King George's Hall in September.

Previously named Blackburn is Hiring, the event is now in its sixth year and is made up of both education and training providers as well as local employers.

This year the event hosted 65 exhibitors (including the University of Lancaster, Blackburn College, EG Group, BAE Systems, Lancashire Constabulary, Herbert Parkinson and Daniel Thwaites) and was attended by almost 2200 young people throughout the day.

Cllr Julie Gunn, Executive member for Children, Young People and Education, said: "I've really enjoyed attending the Blackburn's Inspiring event this morning, it's been wonderful to see all the young people engaging with the employers and further education providers here. Thank you for all those that attended and also to the organisations who have provided valuable insight as to the great opportunities that are available to our young people."



Emma Deeks, Senior Future U Outreach Officer who sponsored the event said: "Blackburn's Inspiring offers a great opportunity for local learners and at Future U we are proud to support the event. It was fantastic to see so many young people exploring opportunities for their future. It was particularly impressive observing how they engaged professionally with local employers, introducing themselves, asking questions and discovering more about potential careers and pathways."

### 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 of work is changing from trusted experts, organisations and employers already working with young people today.

**Listen here:**

<https://rb.gy/r128ky>



### 2024...

In the upcoming year, we have a tonne of activities and events scheduled for our pupils. Along with a variety of colleges/universities and company visits, we are hosting our first Careers Fair in February – More details to follow.

### Plans for next term:

University of Central Lancashire  
Edge Hill University  
Blackburn College  
STORY Contracting  
Blackburn Rovers  
EG Group  
Warburtons  
Keep Moat  
NHS Careers



As always, we thank all our parents and carers for their continuous support. If you have any questions regarding our school's Careers Plan please contact [careers@pleckgate.com](mailto:careers@pleckgate.com).