



Careers Newsletter

Careers Newsletter Information - July 2023

Welcome

Welcome parents/carers to Pleckgate's summer edition of the careers newsletter. During their time at Pleckgate all pupils will be given the opportunity to learn about a range of future educational and career pathway options through a variety of careers learning/careers events, guest speakers, tutor time activities, Enrichment Days, trips and learning in their curriculum subjects. We hope that you will find this useful in supporting your child's career education journey whatever stage they are at with us. The spring term has been busy, with all pupils in Years 7 – 11 spending time learning about careers.



What is Careers Education? Gatsby Benchmarks

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

GOOD CAREER
GUIDANCE IS
CRITICAL IF YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE TO
RAISE THEIR
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GATSBY

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 our careers platform that we use in school for our pupils to get the best possible information for their careers education in school. We log things for pupils and they can use this platform also to learn about the world of work and also to help them with their post 16 options. Pupils have been using Unifrog a lot this term, especially during tutor time.



Year 7 CEIAG Work

Year 7 have been getting used to working on the careers platform. They have been looking at jobs in the careers library, learning about skills and completing an interest profile. They have also been looking at their dream job and what good v bad revision looks like.

Year 8 CEIAG Work

Year 8 have been learning about what success means to them, about career terminology and finding out about different jobs in the careers library treasure hunt. They have also been looking at what their activities and competencies are on Unifrog and skills for careers.

Year 9 CEIAG Work

On Unifrog, pupils have been learning about what makes a great leader, finding out about different subjects and what careers they can lead into and identifying what their interests are. They have also been looking at their skills, their team and also how to be kind to themselves.

Year 9 Apprenticeship Talk - 23/05/23

Pupils who showed an interest in learning more about apprenticeships and T levels were invited by Mr Clegg to write a short paragraph as to why they should be picked for this talk. There were some very articulate responses from a range of pupils who were then selected to give more. Miss Holland came into school to lead the session where pupils learnt more about apprenticeships and the T level courses that could be on offer to them in the future. They also had an insight into how different subjects they may study next year could lead them into a variety of different apprenticeships and therefore career ideas. Pupils were responsive and well behaved and were a credit to Year 9 and Mr Clegg.



Quotes from pupils:

Anam Ishtiaq 9SMU

I found the apprenticeship talk really helpful as I understood more about what I could do when I leave school. Knowing about the advantages of doing an apprenticeship was really interesting and I learnt about how you could have a hands-on experience as well as getting paid. It's made me think more outside the box of what I could do in the future to be a successful person. I enjoyed everything about the talk and would love to do an apprenticeship when I'm older.



Sanaa Hussain 9SMU

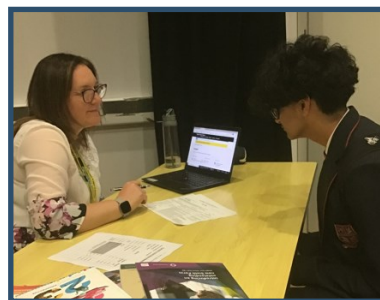
I learned a lot from this talk. Before, I never knew what a T level was but this talk cleared it up for me. I realised how good an apprenticeship would be for me.



Year 10 CEIAG Work

Personal Guidance - Gatsby Benchmark 8

Year 10 have continued to have their careers meetings this term. This support has been externally sourced from New Directions, who have qualified careers advisors. The New Directions team have been coming into school to deliver this to our Year 10 pupils and this was concluded in HT6. As a follow up, pupils will be sent an action plan for them to use in the remainder of Year 10 and into Year 11. This will be saved to their Unifrog locker. Mrs Hanson has worked extremely hard organising these meetings and sending out pupils' schedules. Hopefully, our Year 10 pupils have had the advice and guidance they need to make good informed choices as they prepare to move into Year 11 very soon.



Interviews with Amanda Barker, one of the New Directions Careers Advisors

Workplace visits - Gatsby Benchmark 6

Year 10 have continued with their workplace visits this term. These have included:

10NH – EG Group

10 NH visited EG Group as their workplace visit. This was a really useful visit for the pupils as they gained an insight into the structure and organisation of a business. After a short introduction about the business they were given a tour of the EG head office building and also had the opportunity to ask questions about the business. Pupils then participated in competitive group activities, one of which involved them designing a poster to then present their restaurant/takeaway business, highlighting its unique points. The presentations were judged and the best business was awarded a prize.



Listening to employees from the EG Group



Looking at the office area



Year 10 CEIAG Work

Workplace Visits - Gatsby Benchmark 6

Year 10 Catering Class visit to Warburtons - March 2023

The Year 10 Hospitality and Catering group and Mrs Redfearn had the opportunity to visit the Warburtons factory in Burnley. They were given an information session about the history of Warburtons, when and how it started and how it has evolved and changed over the years. The business was started in 1876 and is now being run by the fifth generation of the family. They learnt about the different manufacturing sites they own and the products they produce. After donning hair nets and overalls they were given a guided tour of the factory floor. They saw where the flour is delivered to, right through to the finished and wrapped products being placed in vans to be transported across the country. It was fascinating to see the Technology and equipment used to make the products, check them and package them. They saw crumpets and pancakes being produced and a trial run of the new crumpet thins which were being launched the week after we visited. At the end of the tour each of them were given a goodie bag of Warburton's products. An interesting opportunity to see a food factory producing products - many thanks to Miss Blears for organising it.



Pupils all kitted out in hair safety nets and overalls



Watching how the pallets of produce get stacked



Pupils seeing how manufacturing occurs for pancakes on the production line



On their return to school with their goody bags filled with crumpets, pancakes and other delicious delights!

10FJO – STACI

Pupils in 10FJO also visited STACI this year, which is our link company. 4 tutor groups have had the benefit of visiting STACI this year. Here are some photos from the day.

Pupils getting to grips with a packing task



10APP – Blackburn Rovers

10APP were fortunate enough to take a trip to Ewood Park, in all its glory, to discover various career pathways in this field. Pupils were shown around the stadium and spoke to various individuals who explained their job roles and what it entailed. Pupils also had the opportunity to experience 'behind the scenes' in action and discussed the various ways in which they could get involved in the 'Sports' field; from physios, PR sector to coaching; the opportunities are endless and pupils began to realise this. The trip ended with an exploration of the 'Family Zone' and some fun games; an enjoyable end for all!



Year 10 Blackburn College Taster Day

Thursday 6th July saw the majority of Year 10 pupils go to Blackburn College for their taster day. Pupils were split into different groups based on the subjects they had selected to have a taste of. This included A levels and engineering to hair and beauty to construction. Other subjects included early years, hospitality and catering, sport, business studies and motor vehicle maintenance.



Pupils in one of their chosen subjects



Sport and Hairdressing and Beauty



Construction and Art and Design

Quote: Jasmine Kamni 10LLK

"I found Blackburn College quite interesting because it was similar to high school. I enjoyed the art and design session and the beauty therapy session. In art and design, we dyed paper by using different colours of dye and making different prints. In the beauty therapy session we learned how to massage people's hands. Another thing that we did was paint people's nails with nail polish. I found these sessions useful as they both link with fashion and that's what I want to do for my future career."

Year 10 Mock Interview Day- Friday 30th June

Miss Hartley, Head of Year 10 has organised a number of mock interviews for our year 10s. Pupils came into school looking very smart in their 'business wear/smart wear' or school uniform. We had an abundance of people from the world of work and these employer encounters for our pupils were invaluable. Miss Hartley has done a fantastic job liaising and putting together mock interviews for over 100 of our Year 10 pupils. The interviewing team included people from Blackburn College, QEGS, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, The NHS, Dentistry, Law, Blackburn Rovers, Hair and Beauty and Engineering, to name but a few. Year 10 were put through a very real mock interview and had not had the questions prior to the event. They had to think for themselves and articulate their responses in a coherent way. We thank all employers and colleagues for coming in and giving their precious time for the benefit of our pupils.



Year 11 CEIAG Work

Year 11 pupils have been using Unifrog to learn how to use their time effectively, how to record their applications lists and how to discover MOOCs, which are online courses that pupils can access through Unifrog, relevant to their interests.

Year 11 GCSEs Final Preparation

March saw pupils complete their second set of mock exams. Once these results were published, Year 11 knew what they needed to do over their remaining months of year 11. Much preparation went in, with pupils working towards targets in lessons and attending intervention classes, along with the many hours of revision they completed at home.

All their hard work will hopefully pay off come August when the results are published.

We wish all of our Year 11 pupils the very best for their future studies and indeed future careers, whatever they decide to do or be!



GCSE RESULTS DAY
Thursday 24th August 2023



Post-16 Study Spotlight: BTECS

A BTEC qualification is unlike any other. Why? Because it WORKS for everyone. It works for learners developing the skills and knowledge they need to be successful, for teaching professionals preparing their learners for the jobs of the future, and for employers recruiting teams who can hit the ground running.

74%

of employers say they want people with a mix of academic and vocational qualifications.*

90%

of BTEC students are employed full-time after graduating.**

1 in 4

students who went to university in 2017 had a BTEC.***

You can't argue with numbers like that. It's an effective path into the career you've always wanted. So choose BTEC.

What is a BTEC?

BTECs are all about applying knowledge and skills in real-life scenarios to create career success and develop the employability skills modern businesses need.

Teamwork, communication and leadership

"[My BTEC] helped me improve my communication skills and confidence. I've also been able to lead classes for younger students, something I would never have applied for if it wasn't for the skills my BTEC has given me."

Maisie,
Student at Plympton Academy, Plymouth

Initiative and problem solving

"[My BTEC] taught me so many good skills; timekeeping, working towards a deadline, trying to achieve and set targets. It teaches you about real-life experiences."

Max Whitlock MBE,
Double Olympic Gold Medallist

"If a student has taken a BTEC, it shows they've learned to study for themselves independently and work as part of a team. These are the skills that employers are looking for."

Rob Palmer,
Assistant Head in Charge of Curriculum,
The Grange School

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Choice and opportunity
sums up BTEC for us.

Sharon Wood,
Head of BTEC and Performing Arts,
Hampstead Hall School

Ability to learn and adapt

"I can apply what I learned on my HND to real-life situations."

Megan Shannon,
BTEC Higher National Diploma in Construction and the
Built Environment

Post-16 Study Spotlight: BTECS

Choosing BTEC alongside GCSEs

When choosing your subjects for Years 10 and 11, it's good to keep your options open. Studying BTECs alongside your GCSEs opens up new subject areas, and starts building the skills you need after you leave school.

You can study BTEC Tech Awards or Firsts alongside your GCSEs to explore different subject areas that really interest you. You will also learn by doing, equipping yourself with skills that you will use throughout your future education and career. Completing your Level 2 BTEC will open options to study at Level 3 with BTEC Nationals, A levels and Apprenticeships.

Alongside your GCSEs you could study:

BTEC Tech Awards

A great introduction to a professional sector; learn transferable skills you'll use in further study and a career.

BTEC Firsts

A perfect balance of practical and theoretical learning.

The hands-on learning style will develop your skills through real-life workplace scenarios – experience you'll keep drawing on throughout your career.

You'll work through themed units or components exploring an industry sector to get a flavour of the skills and roles involved. You'll also apply what you've learned in practice through scenario-based tasks and tests.

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BTEC contains the perfect combination of practical and academic work.

Maryam Taher, BTEC Applied Science



Subjects we offer include:

- Art and Design
- Business
- Children's Play, Learning and Development
- Creative Media
- Digital/IT
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism

Source: Pearson Student Guide

Other BTEC information:

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/fe-and-college-students/career-choices/information-for-parents.html>

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/btec-popular-alternative-levels/>

Fond Farewell

As many of you know, I will be leaving Pleckgate this summer. It has been a pleasure over the last 5 years to be head of PSHE and CEIAG. I have enjoyed organising careers activities, whether that be for tutor time or on our Super Learning Days or more recently our enrichment days. Aim for the stars and continue to work hard at school then afterwards, to get where you want to be. If you set your mind to do something then you can do it. I wish you all well for your futures. Be the best version of yourselves.



Careers Podcasts for Parents

This is The Parent Perspective, a podcast created to help parents and carers support their children in making more informed career decisions with greater confidence, knowledge and understanding.

In each episode we will share your experiences of navigating career conversations with your children and provide insights into how the world of 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:

<https://share.transistor.fm/s/a195b476>



Episode 2: The Help - what if you or your child have no clue what to do next?



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:

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