



Careers Newsletter

Careers Newsletter Information - March 2023

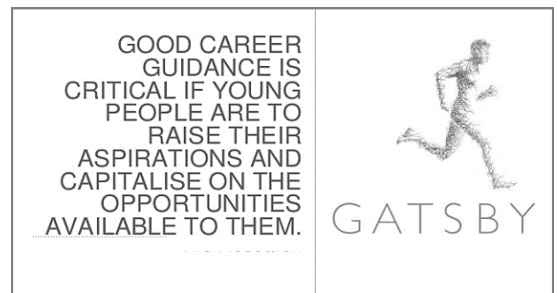
Welcome

Welcome parents/carers to Pleckgate's latest 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.



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.

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 .

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.

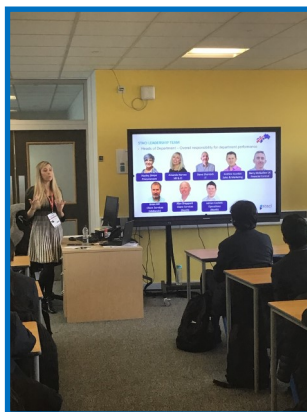
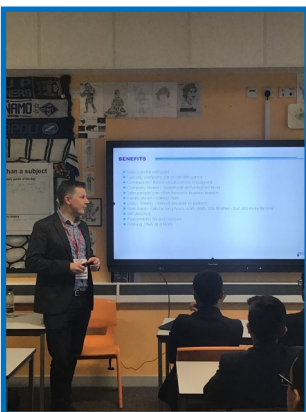
Year 9 Options/Raising Aspirations Day

Year 9 have also been busy this term thinking about their future studies and where their future career paths may lead them.

This started on Thursday 26th January. Pupils started off their day in their tutor rooms, but instead of being greeted by their form tutors on this morning they were met by a Pleckgate High School Head of Department. Most Heads of Department were involved in delivering bespoke presentations about their subjects. They spoke about what courses were on offer at Key Stage 4 and the qualifications that could be gained. This, along with an insight as to what it would like to be a GCSE pupil or Cambridge Nationals pupil studying that or those subjects. This really gave pupils food for thought as to the best route for them when thinking about the option process and the best courses for them to study. Pupils had to really think about what they enjoyed and what they could see themselves studying.



During P3 and P4 pupils then had 8 different employer encounters, which is Gatsby Benchmark 5. This included talks from STACI, the RAF, NatWest Bank, EG group, Blackburn Rovers Football Club, Health Watch, PMM Accountants, Community CVS and Creative Marketing. They were able to listen to a variety of different employers, who were able to give them an insight into their world of work and the qualifications that they needed to pursue this. This was to inspire and raise the aspirations of our pupils to ensure that they have high expectations of themselves for their futures. The talks were interactive and pupils were able to ask employers questions about the world of work.



Pupils were really engaged throughout the morning and made full use of this information, advice and guidance which was in abundance on the day.

Quotes from pupils:

Anam 9SMU

"I found the careers day really interesting as we could see what other people had done after they left school. Employees from STACI, Blackburn Rovers and many other small companies came to talk to us about their jobs. It was very interactive and fun to listen to. I hope we can do something like that again."

Year 10 CEIAG Work

Personal Guidance - Gatsby Benchmark 8

Year 10 have been having their careers meetings this half term. This support has been externally sourced from New Directions, who have qualified careers advisors. The New Directions team have been coming into school this half term and will continue into HT5. Pupils, if they have not done so already, will have a 30 minute meeting where help will be given as to their next educational steps. 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.

Bespoke Employer Talks - Gatsby Benchmark 5

Miss Hartley, Head of Year 10 has organised a number of bespoke employer talks for Year 10 this term. This has involved a talk from the public sector, including talks from the Police and the Fire Service. There has been a talk about the Medical profession and a talk about Dentistry from our very own Mrs Redfearn's husband who came in to talk to some Year 10s about careers in Dentistry. Pupils found these talks extremely interesting, as well as being able to ask questions to people who are doing these jobs in the real world!



Workplace Visits - Gatsby Benchmark 6

Year 10 have also started their work placement visits in Half term 4. So far, pupils in 10LDO and 10FMU have visited STACI. Pupils enjoyed a tour of the warehouse and also completed a packing task.



Pupils getting to grips with a packing task



Winners of the packing task challenge!



A tour of the huge warehouse at STACI!

Other photos from the STACI visits



10DJH visited WEC



Bilquis and Arqam pictured here on their return to Pleckgate with their goody bags, including a water bottle that Bilquis won in one of the challenges set by WEC.

Quote from pupil: Arqam 10DJH

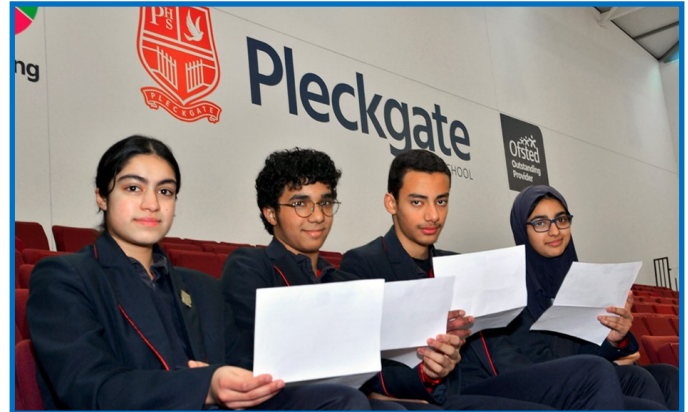
“The trip to WEC Engineering Academy was fun and interesting. I only wish I could stay there longer.”

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 GCSE Mock Results Day

Friday 20th January saw pupils receiving their first mock exam results. Pupils were able to see whether their efforts were rewarded with the grades they were hoping for. Since this results day in half term 3 pupils have continued to work hard and continue with their studies. This resulted in another set of mock exams in February. A lot of pupils will now have received their second set of results. Pupils are now leading into their final months now of their secondary education. It is important to support Year 11 pupils over the next few months so that they continue in their preparation for the real exams which will commence in early May this year.



Some of our Year 11 pupils after receiving their GCSE mock exam results on 20th January 2023. We wish all of Year 11 the very best over the next few months!

Other careers news

BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow – Year 7, 8 and 9

The snow that fell on Wednesday 18th January did not stop the BBC Bitesize Road Show team from travelling to Pleckgate High School. Martin Dougan came as the host for the roadshow and many of our pupils instantly recognised him as a former presenter of Newsround which our pupils regularly watch as part of the personal development offering in tutor time.



Martin Dougan came as the host for the roadshow



The theme for the Roadshow was story telling. There were 3 employees from our local area who attended as the panellists. These were Imogen Storey, a Recording Studio Manager and Producer, Reyhana Ismail an illustrator and Graphic Designer, who actually brought in one of the books she had actually illustrated. Reyhana was also a former Pleckgate High School pupil and Parin Begum, a Broadcast journalist who can be heard on Lancashire Radio reading out the traffic updates. They shared their career journeys with all 3 year groups and pupils were able to take part in a question and answer session at the end.



Year 9 greeting the host for the first roadshow session



Miss Blairs Head of PSHE and CEIAG with the panellists and the host Martin Dougan

National Careers Week 6th -11th March

#NCW2023

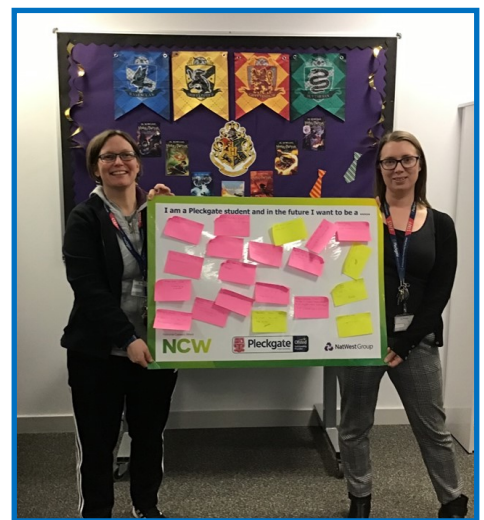
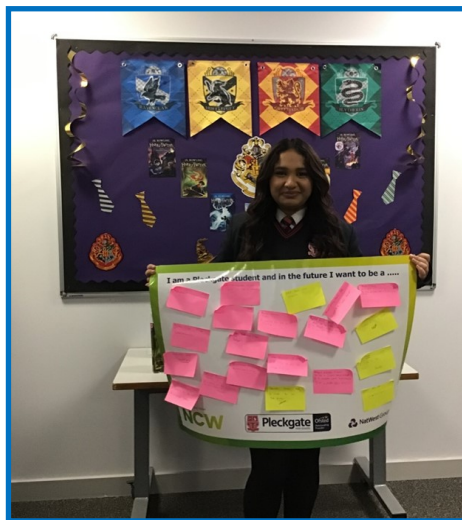
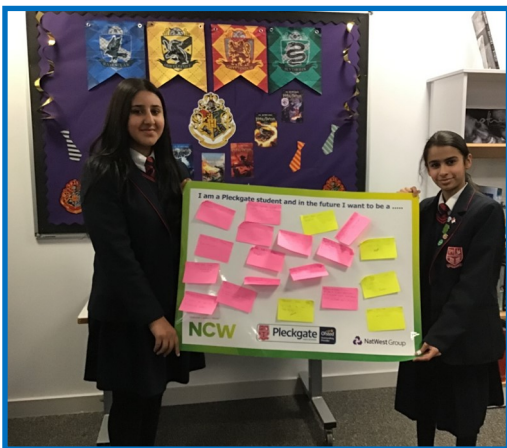
Pupils were able to access a variety of learning about careers during this week. This was posted onto each year group google classroom and ranged from thinking about their own skills and attributes and careers ambitions to being able access a virtual careers fair. Pupils were also able to watch some videos from our link company STACI as to what their roles are at the company. Some pupils were very quick to return their 'All about me' fact sheets in return for a certificate of participation.

A special mention to the following pupils who were the first 5 pupils across the whole school to do this:

Aysha 10SWO
Alyan 9PMU
Omar 8AHA
Urooj 10SWO
Aaminah 7MCR

Pupils also had the opportunity to investigate different job roles related to their academic studies in different lessons during the week.

Pupils were also able to take part in a lunchtime careers activity - "I am a student at Pleckgate and in the future I want to be a.." in the library with Miss Blears and Mrs Hanson.



Here are some of the career ambitions:

Jack 8DAI - Illustrator
Zian 8AHA – Pilot
Maisha 9MST – Social Worker
Abi 11SBE – Fashion Designer
Aiman 9SMU – Nurse
Maryam 10SMA – Psychologist

Post 16 Study Spotlight:

T Levels

What are they and are they right for my child?

T Levels are a new sixth form qualification introduced in 2020, so we're digging deep and finding out what they're all about and what kind of students they might suit. Read on to see whether T Levels could be the best choice for your teen or, if you'd like to know about all options after GCSE.

What are T Levels?

T Levels, or Technical Level Qualifications, are a new government-backed qualification introduced as of September 2020 and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for working life.



T Levels involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

T Levels are a vocational alternative to A levels (because they focus on industry) and include practical study as well as classroom learning. They differ from apprenticeships because the study and working time is reversed. Unlike BTECs, T Level courses were developed with businesses and offer an industry placement. It is likely BTECs will be phased out over the next five or so years.

T Levels are a **level 3 qualification** and provide an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships, IB, BTEC and other courses aimed at 16-19 year olds.

What subject choices are there?

As of September 2021, there were 10 T Level subjects available, all relating directly to workplace careers:

- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- Digital Business Services
- Digital Production, Design and Development
- Digital Support Services
- Education and Childcare
- Health
- Healthcare Science
- Onsite Construction
- Science

Six more subjects were added in September 2022:

- Accounting
- Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Finance
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Management and Administration

And another seven from September 2023 onwards:

- Agriculture, Land Management and Production
- Animal Care and Management
- Catering
- Craft and Design
- Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy
- Legal Services
- Media, Broadcast and Production

Source: <https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/t-levels>

Other T Level information: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/about>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels#t-level-structure>

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/ee618435>



Episode 1: What are your child's options post 16? This episode may be particularly useful for parents of Year 10 pupils who are starting to think about their post 16 choices/pathways.



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