



CAREERS 2023 - 2024 AUTUMN TERM

BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

DECEMBER - ISSUE 7

1 A stable careers programme

OUR LATEST GATSBY BENCHMARK RATING

Gatsby Benchmarks

BM	Nov-23	National
1	100%	66%
2	100%	81%
3	100%	54%
4	100%	76%
5	100%	80%
6	100%	64%
7	100%	52%
8	100%	75%

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

COMPASS+

WELCOME

It has been a fantastic start to the school year and we have displayed many times our commitment to meet all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks. Our Compass Plus evaluation this term saw us for the first time reach 100% in all eight measures. We have always reviewed our practice critically and this result is evidence of the hard work from all the staff at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. We will continue to develop all areas further and ensure our students receive the best provision!

Mr Goodwin



#PRIDERESPECTKINDNESS

2 Learning from career and labour market information

Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire
Careers Hub

ASSEMBLIES

All students have been in an assembly which focused on how careers is important to them at their point in their journey. Within the assemblies they have been shown how they can access the labour market information and how to use it.

Skills Champions in Year 7 and 8 contributed to the delivery of the assembly to their own year group. Each student talked about how they have demonstrated their chosen essential skill in school thus far.



CAREERS HUB



3 Addressing the needs of each pupil

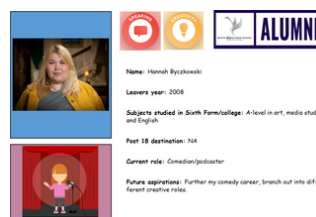
We have launched our new 'Careers HUB' space this year, where students can have interviews or informal discussions to get extra support with their decision making.

4 Linking curriculum learning to careers

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Essential skills have been mapped across all curriculum areas to support students understanding on how they link with the skills and knowledge they learn in subjects.

In citizenship, Year 7 have been studying about their personal skills and qualities. Year 9 have been learning about employability as part of their module 'careers for life'.



Using our database of over 50 ALUMNI we have created posters for relevant curriculum areas to display and share the successes of our past students. We plan to use the database to invite ALUMNI in school to talk to our students, offer workshops or talk at events.



Join our ALUMNI database now!

5 Encounters with employers and employees

TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

Our 'Tomorrow's Teachers' have been very busy this half term. As part of our new enrichment opportunity in the Sixth Form, our students have attended talks by Mr Drew (headteacher of Springcroft Primary), Mrs Goodwin (second year ECT in a primary setting),



Mrs Leese (a senior leader from St Thomas More Catholic Academy) and Miss Deaville from the Skills Builder Partnership. Through a programme of study and experiences, this group of students will be more knowledgeable in the world of teaching.

STAFF TRAINING

We were very fortunate this term to receive some CPD training for our staff on apprenticeships. Leighton Arnold from 'Ornua Foods' in Leek visited our school and informed our staff on methods in which they can support in discussions with the students on apprenticeships.



6 Experiences of workplaces

WORK EXPERIENCE LAUNCH

Last year we over 200 students across Year 10 and 12 participated in a week of work experience. This year we aim to support similar numbers and through the Year 10 and 12 careers assembly, we have launched the work experience programme. Students are currently contacting companies and working hard to secure a week for later in the academic year.

During the Year 9 careers assembly, we launched the 'Year 9 Out to Work Day', this has been a great opportunity in the past for students to have a taste of a work environment. With an earlier launch this year, students have a better chance of securing those places.



HILDERSTONE ACTIVITIES



Some of our students have had the opportunity to visit Hilderstone Hall Care Home and deliver an art workshop, recite poetry and take part in carol singing with the residents. The feedback on how our students interact and deliver the activities is always very positive and the residents can not wait for their return.

7 Encounters with Further and Higher Education

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Our Year 11 had the opportunity to attend our Sixth form Open Evening. It was well attended and students had their first opportunity to find out about the Port Vale Football Foundation Programme and 'Tomorrow's Teachers' on offer. This was followed up by offering all students a drop down day event of attending A-level and enrichment taster sessions to support their decision making on post 16 choices.



Higher Horizons delivered an assembly to Year 11 outlining all the possible routes after GCSE open to them including all local colleges and training providers

Year 12 and 13 received a talk from Staffordshire University where they discussed all pathways post 18 and the different opportunities that Staffordshire University has to offer



An identified group of Year 11 attended a talk looking at opportunities in apprenticeships through the GE Foundation in engineering



8 Personal guidance

CAREERS INTERVIEWS



Mrs Atkinson is employed by Staffordshire County Council and is a professionally qualified careers adviser with nearly 30 years' experience providing information advice and guidance to enable young people to make realistic choices about their education, training, and employment options. Mrs Atkinson has been working hard to ensure all of our Year 11 have an appointment.



Students from Year 11 have all received a one to one session with a senior member of staff to see what additional support our students need in such an important year.

Sophia Khalid has been in to our Sixth Form and conducted one to one discussions with an identified list of students who need extra support on the next steps for them.



Mr Goodwin has been working with an identified group of Year 11 students who need extra support in deciding on their options post GCSEs. Through work with the students and parents there has been some early success in identifying opportunities