



Careers Newsletter for Year 11

Welcome to the first edition of what will be a termly careers update for parents and carers. This newsletter will update you with national and local information on events and opportunities to enable you to support your child with their plans for the future. At St Edward's we place a real importance on providing high quality careers provision as we feel that it is essential that our students have aspirations and goals to strive for, in order to maximise their academic success.

What does careers provision look like at St Edward's?

We aim to run an extensive yet bespoke careers programme for each year group and the individuals that belong to it. We believe that quality careers provision should include the following aspects, during a students' time with us:

1. To raise awareness of different careers and opportunities that are available to students.
2. To encourage students to explore and challenge their expectations about their aspirations and goals.
3. To understand the pathways into different careers i.e. what qualifications are needed, which universities offer certain courses etc.
4. To facilitate students' access to one to one, high quality careers advice and guidance with qualified advisors and mentors.
5. To give students opportunities to speak to individuals from different sectors of business to learn what it is like to actually work in that industry.
6. To optimise links with business & industry for the benefit of our students.

Meet the Experts

Amanda Fripp is St Edward's careers advisor from Ansbury. Ansbury deliver expert independent careers and employability information, advice, guidance, support and training to benefit children, young people, adults, the economy and community. Ansbury will support students at every stage here at St Edward's by:

- Offering one to one advice and guidance to any student.
- At aged 13/14, help students to choose GCSEs and to start career planning.
- At aged 16, help students to plan their next step and make decisions about employment, training, further and higher education i.e. A levels, other post 16 study, apprenticeships etc.
- At aged 18, help to plan higher education courses, support with UCAS applications and investigating specialist courses or careers.
- At aged 18, help to explore alternatives to full time education (i.e. sponsored degrees, school leaver programmes, apprenticeships)
- To help plan productive gap years and volunteering opportunities.



After each meeting students will receive focused action plans which can be discussed at home and used to support students to move forward. Amanda is with us every Wednesday and offers students one to one careers advice and guidance. Students can refer themselves via their tutors, or the self referral forms outside the year leaders' office; staff can also refer a student. Amanda can be found in the year leaders' office.

One resource open to all students is the Ansbury website <https://www.ansbury.co.uk> which is full of advice and guidance about all career paths and ideas. It also includes a great online service called Career Comp@nion which students can log onto and "Live chat" with a professionally qualified careers advisor. All they need to do is go to https://www.ansbury.co.uk/Schools_Page.html and click on the St Edward's badge.

Dorset Youth for Christ

St Edward's is also fortunate enough to have another fully qualified careers advisor working with us, Aaron Rigby. Aaron works with St Edward's in a similar way to Amanda with the remit of advising and guiding students on the opportunities available to them. He also acts as a mentor to students who the school identify would benefit from some more intensive work with him. Aaron is also with us every Wednesday. Aaron works on behalf of Dorset Youth for Christ, a Christian organisation who offer guidance, advice and mentoring to young people in order for them to make the right choices to secure a successful future. Aaron is working in partnership with St Edward's as part of a larger project facilitated by the Southern Universities Network.

Southern Universities Network (SUN)

The Southern Universities Network (SUN) is a collaborative partnership comprising of Higher Education providers across Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight. The SUN has been tasked with increasing higher education participation by helping schools and colleges find outreach activities across the South to engage their students in Higher Education. It is our part in the project that means we have been fortunate enough to secure Aaron Rigby which enables these students to access one to one careers advice and guidance; as well as other opportunities such as residential university visits, university student mentors, UCAS application assistance, higher level apprenticeship advice and experience; plus many more opportunities that raise our students' aspirations.

Kudos

As part of the careers guidance and education programme we deliver at St Edward's, students have access to a career based computer programme called Kudos. Kudos will give students all the information they need to make important decisions about future careers and what subjects, courses and training they can do to reach their career destination. It is a fantastic resource that provides a great starting point for a conversation with students about their career aspirations. Even if students are unsure of what careers they might be interested in, Kudos can give ideas based on what they like and dislike, which subjects they like or dislike etc. Students can also discover what careers their subjects can lead to and what subjects are needed for careers and university courses.

Kudos is accessible online and we are encouraging the use of it at home to involve parents and carers with the important decisions students have to make about their future options. Kudos will help students to assess their interests and skills, as well as letting them explore and research different education and career options; enabling them to make informed decisions about their future. Students can get their personalised login from their tutor. To access the program please visit www.cascaid.co.uk/login and click on the 'Login or Register' button.

All CASCAID programs come with a comprehensive range of support materials including the Parents'/Carers' Guide to Careers Education & Guidance. This guide will help parents understand the options available to students at each transition stage. To view the Parents' /Carers' Guide please visit www.cascaid.co.uk/support/products/kudos/getting-started/guides/ Scroll to the bottom of the page to download the guide. At St Edward's our aim is to ensure that all students have the resources to fully explore and research their future options in order to make informed choices. We hope that you find Kudos useful and informative.

As students start the second term of their final year we aim to support them in every way we can to ensure their success. Careers guidance and mentoring can play a huge part in raising students' aspirations and career goals. So far the year 11's have been involved in several initiatives to facilitate this.

Futures Assembly

One of our main priorities is to ensure that all students are fully informed about what options they have beyond their examinations in the summer. Of course we would love our students to stay on to our 6th form, however we also realise that this isn't the right choice for everyone; so we aim to let students know of all of the possibilities available. One way in which we have done this is for our Careers Advisor, Amanda Fripp, to hold an assembly outlining all the possible post 16 pathways; whether that be the choice of the 6th form here or another school, college, apprenticeship or work with training. We also support students through one to one interviews with either Amanda Fripp or Aaron Rigby.

Digital Wave

We pride ourselves on being able to give students opportunities to open their eyes to which careers are available within different industries and sectors. One such event we attended with year 11 students was Digital Wave which was a one day conference that celebrated all things digital, organised exclusively for the young people in Dorset. The event aimed to raise awareness of digital careers amongst young people.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about the career opportunities open to them in Bournemouth's fast growing, exciting and varied creative and digital economy. Dorset and neighbouring schools were invited to bring groups of students to the event. The event was also open to individuals outside the education system who are looking for ways to get into the creative industries.

With Bournemouth being classed as the UK's fastest-growing digital economy, and digital touching every inch of our lives, a wealth of jobs are being opened up for our young people, and we want to make sure they are prepared to ride the next Digital Wave!

The day featured a host of acclaimed speakers from across the industry. Local colleges, businesses and agencies were also exhibiting, providing students with the opportunity to speak face-to-face with industry professionals and academics about what it's like to work in the industry, and see what courses are available to them.

The feedback from students was that they found the day very informative and thought provoking.

Year 11 interviews

Our year 11s have now completed their mock examinations; and these will give both teachers and the students the best indication possible of how they are expected to perform in their summer examinations.

As part of our ensuring that all students are on track and heading towards the correct destination, all year 11s will be interviewed following their mocks in the weeks ahead. We do this every year so that students can start to make connections between mock examinations, current progress, post-16 options and future aspirations. In the past we have seen the following outcomes from these interviews: an increased number of students adjusting their Sixth Form course plans, students applying to sixth form or other post 16 education providers, students seeking further careers advice, and also students re-committing to their work in school. Parents and carers will be informed of the outcomes of the interviews so that you can continue to support your child at home with conversations regarding future plans and any further guidance they might require.

Useful Websites

<http://nationalcareersweek.com/careers-websites/>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/education>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

**For any questions about careers provision at St Edward's,
please contact Mr A Bousfield, Assistant Headteacher**



For further updates please find us on:

@stedwardspoole

