



Careers Newsletter for Year 7

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.

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

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.

PSHE

Students spend a lot of time developing their sense of self and self worth. This is a fundamental skill they will be using in order to develop ideas about their future life decisions. Later in the year we look at different aspects of work life such as working hours, holidays and salary as part of raising awareness of making decisions based on personal qualities, strengths and interests. In every PSHE lesson we reflect on learning in order to build their awareness of how decisions they take affect them. It may seem a lot of fun, but we also start the process of seeing that it isn't just exams that will get them the job of their dreams: we look at working in a team, setting goals, reflecting on progress and adjusting targets in light of new information.

This generation is going to be doing jobs that haven't even been invented yet. They need to develop resilience and the ability to cope with fast-paced change. We hope to give them the opportunity to develop those qualities in a safe environment so that they will be ready to cope with the workplace of the future. Just as important is knowing where to get help and guidance. In due course, we will be introducing a website that they can use throughout their school life to start looking at the exciting things their future will hold.