



## Careers Newsletter for Year 9

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](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](http://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/](http://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.

### **Ansbury Employer Mentor Program**

St Edward's really value the importance of careers guidance and strive to give students the opportunity to consider what careers path they might like to take after Education, which is why we are delighted to have been offered the chance to take part in an Employer Mentoring Programme by Ansbury Guidance. The programme offers students the opportunity to be mentored by a range of business people from an array of sectors and industries. The programme allows students to experience and develop areas such as learning to budget, writing a CV, learning about Tax and National Insurance and interview techniques as well as students being able to ask questions about what different areas of business are really like.

For further updates please find us on:



@stedwardspoole



## **Bournemouth University Mentoring**

Forty St Edward's year 9 students have been selected to take part in a programme with undergraduate students from Bournemouth University, based on a set criteria specified by the University. Students will receive a matched mentor from the University who will meet them for an hour, once a week for 10 weeks. The sessions will be focused on careers advice, aspirations, life skills, employability and academic help. They will work with the students to help them consider their future aspirations, and create the drive and understanding of what it takes to achieve their goals. The aim is for students to realise their potential, and consider what the future may hold should they work hard and focus at school. An integral part of the program is the role of the university and the students feeling part of a program. To facilitate this the students involved were invited to attend the launch event at the University on 29th November, which was quite a fantastic event to motivate and inspire the students.

## **Year 9 Pathways**

Year 9 is a very important year in a student's school journey, because this term they will decide on which pathway to take, which will in turn determine what courses they study for their GCSE's in years 10 & 11.

As students look forward to joining Year 10 and beginning their examination courses, it is important that they choose the courses which are right for them. They must think very carefully about choosing which pathway would **be most appropriate for them** and about the subjects which they enjoy and will enable them to progress to the next stage of their education or training beyond Year 11. Having a genuine interest and enthusiasm in a subject is always a sound basis from which to start their selection. The choices are for students and parents and carers to make together, based on guidance from the school. Students should not choose a particular course because they get on well with a teacher or because a friend chooses it. The chances are that they will have different teachers and may not be in the same class as their friends.

As you will be aware the English education system has undergone a period of dramatic change with schools being put under increased pressure to place students on certain courses in order to meet government expectations. However at St Edward's we remain focused on providing a broad and balanced curriculum that allows personalisation for individual aspirations that is best for our students. The key stage 4 curriculum continues to provide vital skills and attributes, preparing our students for adult life. It instils the expectations of high standards for all.

Currently students will achieve the English Baccalaureate standard, when they gain a grade 4 or better in GCSE English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History. Our recommendation is that if there is a reasonable possibility that your child will want to go to one of the more established Universities and study an academic subject, they should seriously consider these particular subjects as they will have an advantage if they have got a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language and a GCSE in either Geography or History.

For some students this pathway will not be suitable and a more personalised or vocational one may be more appropriate.

At this stage there is no need to worry about all of these variations of pathways as they will be explained in more detail at the Year 9 Pathways Evening on the **18<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm** followed by opportunities to meet with staff to discuss the right pathway combination for your child.

## **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**