

Careers at The Blandford School

Our careers programme runs all the way from Year 7 to Year 13, helping to ensure students have an understanding of careers, the world of work and progression plans.

Aims

- To have an understanding of the world of work and different forms of employment
- To have an understanding of the options open to them Post 16 and Post 18
- To understand the skills and attributes employers are looking for,
- To challenge stereotypes
- To have an understanding of the employment landscape locally and nationally including vacancy rates / salary opportunities etc.... by accessing Labour Market Information (LMI)
- To develop softer skills such as, Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC)



Careers Learning

Careers learning takes a number of formats, some content is covered in our tutorial programme, there is also learning in subject lessons where teachers will discuss links between their subject and the world of work, there are also displays in each faculty area and special events for different year groups. On top of this we invite employers / universities and colleges into school to talk to students in assemblies, promote external events such as 'Speakers for Schools', have our Work Related Learning Week for Year 10 and Work Experience with Year 12.

Our tutorial programme has the following careers related activities in each year.

Year 7 – Understanding wages, tax and National Insurance, income, goal setting, your digital footprint, transferrable skills, apprenticeships and working life.

Year 8 – Gender stereotyping, subjects and careers, careers terminology, choices at 16, progression routes, career development.

Year 9 – Types of work, Health and Safety, Apprenticeships, skills for work, standing out, employment competencies, GCSE Options.

Year 10 – SWOT analysis and target setting, University talk, revision skills, Work Related Learning Week, Apprenticeships, future careers.

Year 11 – Post 16 options, application forms, work life balance, enterprise, business formation, equality and diversity, University, CVs and covering letters.

Year 12 – Applications and interview skills, personal finance, careers pathways, advanced and higher apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, University progression, employment rights, Work Experience.

Year 13 – Employer talks, applications and interview programmes, UCAS.

Labour Market Information (LMI)

LMI refers to information about careers and employment. It provides information such as the number of vacancies, number of adverts placed and salary details, it is available at both a local and national level.

The school website provides a link to LMI provided by the Dorset LEP

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/labour-market-and-skills-research>

The Start Profile website <https://www.startprofile.com/>, simply use the search box to find a career and access the information.



Progression Routes and Options

Students will make choices about progression in years 9, 11 and 13.

Year 9 students will make choices for their GCSE options, the school will publish information about the options it offers during the course of year 9, along with information about how options should be selected. Students can also request an individual appointment with our career's advisor, who will also visit all tutor groups to provide more general advice. Our current options guidance is on our website - <https://blandfordschool.org.uk/school-life/curriculum/key-stage-4/>

At 14 students also have the choice of other local schools, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.

Year 11 students will make choices about their post 16 study, while all students are expected to remain in some form of education or training until 18, they do have a range of choices. The school will publish information about the options it offers during the course of year 11, along with information about how options should be selected. Our current options guidance is on our website - <https://blandfordschool.org.uk/tbs-sixth-form-virtual-open-evening-and-options-information/>

All students will also have an interview with our careers advisor and a member of our Senior Leadership Team to support their progression planning.

Choices for students post 16 include; Full time education at The Blandford School, other local schools or colleges, apprenticeship and traineeships.

Year 13 students will work throughout the Sixth Form to make choices about what they do Post 18, again they will be supported by our careers advisor and our Sixth Form tutor team. Choices post 18 include; University, Advance / Higher / Degree Apprenticeships, FE colleges, Work with training, Gap year, Internships or employment.

External Sources of Support and Information

There are a number of sources of information and advice that maybe useful to parents and students, these include the following:

TBS Website – This contains information about our careers programme, LMI, other providers and who to contact for further help.

<https://blandfordschool.org.uk/school-life/careers-information/>

Unifrog – All students are given a log in to this website, it provides information on careers, apprenticeships and universities. We also use it to log the careers experiences students have and they will be able to access this information even after they have left The Blandford School. <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Start profile – Careers information, LMI and job profiles.

<https://www.startprofile.com/>

National Apprenticeship Service - <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>

Career Pilot - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

How can parents / carers help

Parents / carers can support in a number of ways:

- Take an interest in what your child / children have been learning about at school
- Discuss the soft skills that employers are looking for (LORIC)
- Talk about their own work and the skills they use etc...
- If possible take your children to visit your workplace
- Explore together the range of opportunities available at each of the transition points
- Support visiting open days / completing application forms
- Set them small tasks such as planning an event / day out or budgeting
- Seek support from the school if your child needs it

Further Help and Support

Firstly have a look at the websites above, if you still need more help contact us: office@blandfordschool.org.uk (putting Careers in the subject box)

