

Dear Parent & Carer,

Ahead of the Easter holidays, I wanted to take the opportunity to bring you up to date on our careers provision at The Purbeck School. It has been a very busy term for our Careers Department and students have accessed a wealth of events, depending on where they are in their journey through the school.

During National Careers Week, all students had assemblies delivered by external speakers which included Bath University, a Media Business owner, the National Trust and an ex-student who is on a graduate scheme with Saffreys Accountants. These assemblies were designed to not only promote different career options to students but also the range of pathways that the speakers took to end up in their current careers.

We have continued to develop our enrichment programme and have hosted a wealth of activities for students this term. Key Stage Four students have had a range of careers related activities, designed to prepare them for life beyond education. We welcomed over 40 employers into the school who conducted mock interviews with our year 10 student to help prepare them for their work experience in July. Our year 12 students went out on work experience, for a week, back in February and again students found this a very beneficial and engaging experience. We have also been fortunate to welcome Kathryn Burn into the school, who is reached the finals of the BBC Apprentice. She spoke to our KS4 student on the trials and tribulations of being an entrepreneur.

Some of our Key Stage Three students attended a performance by Enact Solutions who focused on 'Options and Choices' which focused around supporting students to make the right choices for their future careers. We have also run trips to Atlas Elteronik, JP Morgan, London and a campus visit to the University of Southampton which were all fantastic opportunities for students.

We successfully ran our biggest Careers Fair to date – even though I do say that every year – and we welcomed over 60 employers, colleges and universities into the school. Throughout the course of the day, we had over 700 students visit the careers fair; it really was an incredible event. All the students showed a genuine interest in talking to employers and developing their knowledge of life after school.

Arguably the biggest development for our Key Stage 3 provision is the continual amendments to our tutor time careers sessions. Each year group now has a specific focus and the tutor sessions are tailored to developing the key employability skills. Tutors follow a series of coordinated careers sessions which are linked to a set of clear objectives. The careers focus for each year group is as follows:

- Year 7: Career Discovery
- Year 8: Exploring Careers
- Year 9: GCSE Focus
- Year 10: Planning your next steps
- Year 11: Choosing post 16 pathways

It clear is that a lot of the success of our careers provision is heavily reliant on the support that is shown to us by local business who give up their time to come in, visit the school and work with our students. We are always looking for new employers and motivational speakers to come in and work with us so if you feel that this is something that you are able to offer, please do contact Maria Beale on mbeale@purbeck.dorset.sch.uk

Kind Regards

Carly Watson