



SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL
THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we near October half term I would like to inform you about the Post 16 (careers education) that we provide here at school, as well as the ways in which parent/carers can support their children in making choices for the future. We strongly believe in equipping our students with the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the workplace and society, and we support this by providing a planned and meaningful careers programme from Year 7.

Our experience and data in school suggests that students are often thinking about and making decisions about their future as early as Year 7, which is why we begin our Post 16 education in Year 7 and build on this through to Year 11. Students follow an outcome led Post 16 curriculum during their INSPIRE programme in form as well as during their Personal Development lessons. This is further supported by impartial careers advice through Careers Connect, college visits and assemblies as well as key speakers and bespoke events for each year group.

It is a requirement that schools meet the eight 'Gatsby Benchmarks' for good career guidance and we remain committed to embedding these principles here. Further information about these benchmarks can be found <https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>

We work closely with The Careers and Enterprise Company (The National Body for Careers), the DFE and Cheshire and Warrington Pledge and have received several awards and accolades for our Careers programme over the past few years.

The role of parents in careers education

We encourage students to make *informed choices* about their career, which includes researching a range of options for their future and linking this to the things that they enjoy and the things that they are good at. Perhaps unsurprisingly, research suggests that parents/carers are one of the biggest influences on students' decision-making processes around careers. However, research also shows that parents' knowledge of the workplace is predominantly informed by their own experience and knowledge of their own career field. It is very important at this early stage of their secondary education that students are encouraged to keep an open mind, keep their future options broad and develop transferrable skills. Students today are likely to have more than one career and change jobs more than previous generations.

Further information about our careers provision for every key stage can be found on our school website [Post-16 Pathways \(Careers\) – Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School](#) and after half term information will be sent out regarding our Careers platform Xello (Startprofile)

How can parents and carers support with careers education?

We rely on the support of parent volunteers throughout the year who offer their expertise, skills and time to help with our careers events e.g. practice interviews, lunchtime careers talks or by offering work experience. We are keen to develop this further by offering our students more meaningful encounters with employers in and out of school.

Please complete this form if you would like to volunteer: <https://forms.office.com/e/4PHmSgXH6e>



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Year 11 Post 16 (Careers Education) Programme

After completing a very busy Year 10 careers Programme College assemblies are held in the Autumn Term to enable Year 11 to make a more informed choice about their post 16 options. Students will hear from a range of colleges, the differences between the qualifications and their levels as well as all the subjects that the colleges offer. Students have access on their schools emails to these assemblies as well as digital prospectuses from the colleges. It is essential that they apply to college and the earlier the better. All colleges hold Open Evenings during this first term which you and your child should also attend. Both Warrington Vale Royal and Priestley have been into school to help students with their applications.

Important

- All students need a personal email as a point of contact for the colleges. They should clean up their emails so they do not miss important information from the colleges once they have applied.
- All students must apply for a college education or training and must be in this until they are 18
- Students should attend the open evenings with a parent/carer to gain insight into the college and speak with the various subject teachers.
- Priestley are doing early applications just for the TCAT schools and this closing date is November 29th.
- Students have received their college predicted grades.
- Once they have applied they will receive an acknowledgement and will be invited for a Course Discussion (interview,) they will then be offered a place or not. It is important to be open and honest at these course discussions. For some colleges they will need to accept the offer.
- Students can make their final choice of which college to attend on results day next year. They will have received a time to attend their college to confirm their uptake and must go.
- 1:1 Careers interviews with Careers Connect

This is an external and impartial advice and guidance service and can help with post 16 choices, university courses and apprenticeship advice

- Careers Fair November 2024

This will be an opportunity to take advantage of the many ranges of professions, colleges, universities, and apprenticeship providers on offer to ask questions and gain information to help make informed choices.

- Xello Online Careers Platform

This is used during your child's INSPIRE Programme and can be accessed from home (information to follow)

- Careers questionnaire through the Careers and Enterprise company. The information is used in school to frame the students post 16 curriculum.

During National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship in the Spring term students will have a chance to hear from various companies, colleges and apprenticeships.

We also welcome any feedback on any aspect of our careers provision in school. If you wish to provide any feedback on any aspect of our careers programme, or would like any further information, please contact assistant Headteacher Mrs Anna Mawby amawby@boteler.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Anna Mawby

Assistant Headteacher Personal Development