



Autumn Term Careers Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is our first careers newsletter of the year. You may remember last year that we distributed newsletters monthly to parents and students. This was a useful way to keep you informed when we were in lockdown and not able to provide as much in-school support.

This year our careers programme has been up and running and in our termly newsletter you will be able to have a read of what we have been up to so far, what careers support we have coming up in the school as well as any opportunities and careers information that students and parents can access from home.

Miss Ashworth is the school's careers adviser, and if you would like to contact her with any questions about careers or for advice then please email her at g.ashworth@stjamescheadle.co.uk.

Feedback

We are always asking for parents and students to provide feedback on our careers support within school, and you can do this using one of our online forms:

- Parents click here: <https://forms.gle/r2NJ3HRQxHdxhgC18>
- Students click here: <https://forms.gle/CMDtFUJUUSFQSNuS7>

What is included in this newsletter?

- The year so far
- Careers events coming up after Christmas
- Careers in the Curriculum
- Spotlight on Careers
- Useful online information and resources for parents and students
- Stockport Youth Council
- Local College deadlines and open days
- Oxford Scholarship student update



The year so far

Year 11 pupils have been having interviews with Miss Ashworth and Ms Green where they have the chance to talk through their career aspirations and make a plan for their next steps when preparing for their careers. Some of our Year 11 pupils have also been taking part in virtual work experience with InvestIN. So far students have attended the Young Doctor, Architect, Vet, Nurse and Engineer weekends. After Christmas some other students will be taking part in sport and music virtual work experiences as well.

Year 8 Careers breakfasts are underway, so far our Year 8 pupils have heard about careers in digital and ICT, they also heard about Education where they spoke to Mr Pontifex as well as art & design where they heard from a valuer for the Antiques Roadshow. Throughout the year every Year 8 pupil will have had a careers Breakfast in an area that they have said they are interested in.

In October we held our Careers Convention for Year 10 and 11 pupils. We had lots of fantastic visitors from local colleges including Loreto, Stockport and Cheadle as well as visitors from Manchester Metropolitan University, the Army and the Royal Air Force. In November we held our Year 11 Apprenticeship evening where pupils and parents were able to hear about the range of apprenticeship opportunities open to them as well as from SETA who provide apprenticeships locally. Year 11 also took part in mock interviews, where they were able to get feedback from an interviewer about their performance so they can prepare for any that they might have in the future.



Year 11s who are interested in pursuing sport had a visit from 'Manchester City in the Community' where they had a taster session with one of their coaches and were able to get an idea of what to expect if they did a sport diploma with Manchester City's college programme. As well as this, a group of Year 11 students had an interactive session with Matt from the National Apprenticeship programme who went through the process of applying to apprenticeships with them.

Mrs Rarity and Miss Ashworth have continued to hold their Careers Drop-In every Wednesday lunchtime for Year 10 and 11 pupils where they can come and ask any questions they have as well as seek support with college applications.



What is coming up after Christmas?

After Christmas our Year 10 pupils are going to be having a careers assembly with Chris Warburton who is a radio presenter with BBC 5 Live. Chris will be talking about his career in radio and giving some advice that might be useful to students if they are thinking of doing a career in that field. Year 9 are also going to be hearing from Clif Barrett who is a Creative Artworker about his career in that industry.

In January some groups of Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils will be visiting Cheadle Hulme High School for a presentation and Q&A session with representatives from Corpus Christi College, Oxford. They will be talking to students about Oxbridge generally and helping them get a greater understanding of whether they might want to apply and what that application process might look like.

In the Summer Term, Year 10 will be taking part in their week-long work experience. This will give them the chance to get a feel for what a real workplace is like and a greater understanding of the world of work. More information for parents and students will be sent out in the coming months.

National Apprenticeship Week will be taking place from the 7th to the 13th February 2022. We will be making sure lots of information about apprenticeships is shared with students and with parents during this time.

Spotlight on Careers

My name is Rachel and I work as a Curatorial Assistant at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery in Exeter. This is a really varied role that involves working with lots of staff across the museum. Primarily supporting the Contemporary Art Curator, I work on all aspects of contemporary art exhibitions and commissioning new work by artists. Working with other curators, I am also involved in various projects to improve documentation, display and public access to the museum's collections of fine art, social history, ethnography, archaeology and natural sciences.

I have always loved museums and art galleries, so I chose A-Levels that would be useful in pursuing this type of career (Art, History, Textiles and English Literature). I then studied History at the University of Oxford before going on to do a Masters degree in History of Art & Visual Culture there. Throughout my time at university I tried to get as much practical experience as possible, starting with summer internships which I got through my university careers service. I volunteered regularly at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, while also pursuing other extra-curricular projects and campaigning. After finishing university I got my first job at an antiques and fine art gallery in London which gave me more practical experience before I was able to apply for museum jobs.





The best part about working in this role is being able to work with historical objects and art up-close, handling objects and going behind the scenes in the museum stores – doing everything you're not allowed to do as a visitor! I also love working in such a varied job that involves a lot of collaboration and communication with people on many different projects. My role is both desk-based and highly practical, so I love that no two days are the same.

However, there are downsides to a curatorial career. Particularly when you are starting out, the salary will be very low for such a busy and demanding job. Curating is also a highly competitive career sector, with around 200-400 applicants per advertised job, so good qualifications and experience are needed to stand out. Although this might seem off-putting, I think curating is an incredibly rewarding and exciting career, especially if you love history, art and culture.

Useful online information and resources for parents and students

Youtube Informative Videos:

- [Stockport Jobs Match guide to A Levels and T Levels](#)
- [Stockport Jobs Match Guide to Apprenticeships and Vocational Qualifications](#)
- [Department for Education guide to Apprenticeships](#)

Events

- [Browse free Virtual Work Experience opportunities by signing up here](#)
- [InvestIN Virtual Work Experience 10% discount using code STJAMES10](#)
- [11th January T-Levels Webinar](#)
- [Oxford Scholastica courses 15% discount using code STJAMESCHEADLE-15](#)
- [Local opportunities for students to build their skills, employability and work experience](#)

Information

- [Download a free parents' guide to T levels](#)
- [Latest Government information on Apprenticeships for Parents](#)
- [Lots of useful information and resources are available on our school website](#)
- [InvestIN Industry information for parents and pupils](#): Includes information on careers in medicine, law, politics, media, business, engineering, art & design, writing, sport, computing, environment, finance and psychology.



Stockport Youth Council

Stockport Youth Council is a group of young people who represent other young people locally with councillors and decision-makers. They also have 2 members of Youth Parliament, who get to go once a year to London to debate like MPs in the House of Commons. The youth council has created a newsletter for young people across the borough, which you can read here: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/YjtBomvSsz2uD/>

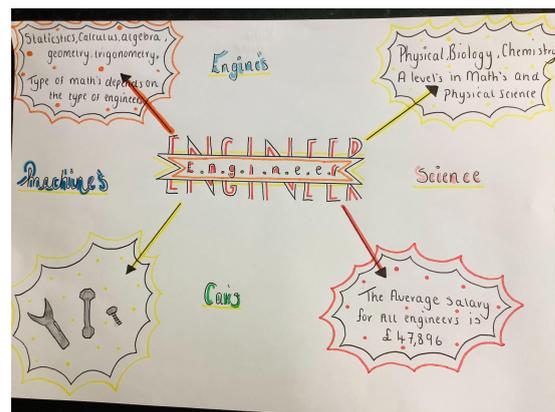
Anyone can get involved in the Youth Council as long as you live in Stockport Borough Council and are aged 11-18. It's a great opportunity to have a say in decisions that will impact on young people locally, as well as something to put on your CV when it comes to applying for jobs or college. They meet once a week on a Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7pm. The youth council is a great way for any students who are interested in working around helping others, or anything about politics and government. If you would like to get involved then you can email steve.davies@stockport.gov.uk.

Careers in the Curriculum

Mrs Healey & Mrs Wilby - Maths

In November we spent some time in Maths lessons with Year 7 and 8 looking at different career paths and what Maths is used in different jobs. The students produced posters and prizes were given for the winning designs. These will be displayed in the Maths classrooms.

With Year 9 and 10 we looked at STEM careers and again highlighted the importance of Maths in the world of work. We also discussed salaries, pensions, tax, mortgages and the cost of running a household. They were quite shocked when they realised how much things cost, so maybe now they'll start to turn off the lights in their bedrooms and not put the heating on all the time!





Languages Department

Languages broaden your horizons, take you on lots of often unexpected adventures and make you much more employable. People who speak a language earn on average 12% more from their job than people who don't! They give you the edge in the job market.

The language teachers in school have all had different experiences before coming to work at St James' using their foreign language knowledge. Mrs Bennett worked in Gütersloh in Germany, teaching in a military school. Mrs Pickles worked in a school in Austria, teaching English. Miss Jeffers worked in France in the Human Resources and Recruitment department, employing people to work in the ski resorts of the Alps. She also worked in Madrid, as an administrative assistant, organising tours and trips. Ms Cheshire worked in a school in Albertville in France, teaching English to French pupils and a couple of years later in a hotel in Courchevel. She was responsible for housekeeping and translating for the chef. The biggest bonus was going skiing every day!

There are many professions open to linguists, which don't always require you to travel abroad, though this is obviously an added bonus! The following German companies have offices in England, so you could end up working for Audi, Volkswagen, BMW, Joop, T-Mobile, EON, Aldi, Hugo Boss, Lufthansa, Puma, Adidas. Similarly, the following French companies operate in England, Christian Dior, L'Oréal, Michelin, Peugeot, EDF Energy, Air France, Bugatti.

In one of the series of "The Apprentice" Melody Hossaeni beat another candidate because she could speak French and attract extra business for her sales team, while the other candidate could not. This shows that talking to people in their own language gives you an advantage, even if the person you are dealing with speaks English.



Oxford Scholarship

In June last year, one of our pupils was chosen to become our Oxford Scholarship student. Annie Cooke in Year 11 was selected and is able to access virtual course experiences from Oxford University throughout the year. Below is a piece that Annie has written following a Law course she did in the Summer.



Annie Cooke, 11S

I found the law course very enjoyable and interesting. We covered a variety of topics including the theory of law and ethics, different types of law (such as public law and private law, common law and civil law) as well as constitutional law, criminal law, contract and family law and finally human rights law- especially considering international input. Within each of these, we studied different cases and how the law has changed over time in regard to punishment and the consideration of fairness and equality within the cases. Communicating and discussing common interests and different subjects with other young people around the world was eye-opening and a fantastic experience.



**Oxford
Scholastica**
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We began the course looking into the idea of the separability of law and ethics, whether they are always separate and if they should be. This was followed by the questioning of stakeholders in law- who benefited or had an interest in how the law might change, and further who that may affect, which lead us to realise exactly why having the separation of powers is so important, for if someone was the be judge, jury and executioner it would be an extremely dangerous world.

We then went on to learn about the difference of laws in different countries, and then the difference in how each type of law is treated itself. Here, we learnt why the courts for criminal law had to be separate from that of say family law for example. From this, we could then discover how the different laws and courts of countries were forced to interact at certain times, with a main focus on the European Convention on Human Rights and what is needed for a case to be taken up with them.

The main thing that I have learnt from this and the thing I hope I never forget is what we were told at the very start and what was further reiterated at the end, a quote linked to philosophy and naturalistic fallacy used regarding opposition to natural law theory, but could be seen to overlook a wide range of topics: 'It's fallacious to assume that just because something is a certain way, that means that it ought to be that way'.

In the Summer Term, our current Year 10 pupils will be invited to put themselves forward to become our Oxford Scholarship student for the next academic year. More information about this will be distributed in the summer term.

Latest on local college deadlines for Year 11

The Aquinas College deadline was on the 30th November. Students can still apply but they will not be guaranteed a place and will be put on a waiting list if all places are not filled. Applications for Stockport College, Cheadle College, Manchester College and Trafford College are open until the end of the year and students can apply at any time.

Loreto College and Xaverian College applications are still open. Loreto's deadline is on the 7th January and Xaverian is on the 14th. For support with applications, students can come to the Wednesday lunchtime drop-ins in CS14 or parents can email Miss Ashworth.



College / Apprenticeship open events

It can be really important for students to get a feel for what a college campus is like before applying, which is why open days are so important. A lot of the below links are virtual open days which might not be the best thing to get a feel for the campus but it is certainly a start.

[SETA \(Engineering Apprenticeship Provider\) open day 10am-8pm 26th January](#)

[Aquinas College Online Open Event](#)

[Loreto College Virtual Campus tour](#)

[Xaverian College Virtual Campus Tour](#)

[Stockport College Open Day - Wednesday 2nd February 4:30-7:30pm \(register in advance\)](#)

[Cheadle College Open Day - Wednesday 16th March 5pm-7pm](#)

For pupils who have already applied to colleges or sixth forms, there may be opportunities later in the year to visit campuses for applicant visit days or applicant open evenings, make sure to keep an eye out for emails or phone calls from colleges asking you to come along to visit the campus.

Thank you all very much for taking the time to read our Careers Newsletter. As always we really do appreciate parental and student feedback on the careers provision in school. You can find the links to these feedback forms on the first page of this newsletter.

Sending you all best wishes for the Christmas break.

Yours faithfully,

G Ashworth

Miss G Ashworth

Careers Advisor