

Careers 2024 -25

Satchel One has been used to circulate information about Careers. This has included virtual work experiences and opportunities to apply for in-person experiences. There are also links to online talks and workshops. Resources are circulated for National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship week.

Heads of department have used their Departmental classrooms and noticeboards to share information about where their subject can take you and how it links to future pathways.

All 5th form pupils have had an individual meeting with the Careers Advisor. Feedback from this was overwhelmingly positive:

I have gained a clear understanding of where I am now and how I will get to where I would like to be in the future.

It went very well and has given me a much better idea on future plans and how to research universities and apprenticeships. It has given me more motivation to get better results for A level

Mr Young has helped me with what courses I may want to take in the future and how I can achieve them. He allowed me to think about a vaster branch of opportunities and importance of GCSE's and A-levels. He has been very helpful for me.

Helped me understand which options can suit me, and what different options provide me.

In October all 5th form pupils had an afternoon to meet with Heads of Department to talk about 'A' Level courses as well as a talk to find out about the process of applying to do A Levels. An identified group had a further afternoon where they looked at alternatives to LOS, had a talk from St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College and got help with applying to college courses.

In October all 4th and 5th form pupils had a talk from South Thames College Group. They found out about Apprenticeships for post-GCSE and Degree Level. They also found out about T-Levels.

The Careers Fair in March was a great success with over 70 volunteers, including several 'old' Oratorians, representing a range of professions including medicine, law, finance, public relations, the civil service, the armed forces, and aviation.

In March all LVI pupils attended a Higher Education morning. They found out about how to apply to university, writing a personal statement using Unifrog.

In May and June selected LVI pupils had a meeting with Gordon Young to discuss their future plans.

The LVI had a week's work experience in June over 145 placements including more than 10 pupils taking placements in areas of Legal, Finance, Education, Engineering, Medical, Sport, Social Care, IT, Civil Service and Journalism.

Pupil response was extremely positive:

I have a clear plan, which I didn't have before the placement, on my future goals, both in the short-term and long-term. I first plan to study languages at university, and then go on gain a QTS through a PGCE to work as a teacher in a primary school, while working as a teaching assistant in this time to gain further experience.

The thing that I'm most proud when working at the placement was having the ability to make a change in the community, as I was able to get people to sign up to the local charity network helping to meet shops targets.

At the end of my week, my overseer had me present a presentation I made on nuclear power and how it could be implemented into Heathrow Airport and whether it would be financially smart. I received good feedback on my public speaking and confidence as well as on my researching abilities

Around the end of the placement I was able to run myself an ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) in which we identified and quantified the specific protein IP-10. This was a two day process across Thursday and Friday and I found myself coming in early to prepare the sampled and buffer solution. The results for my set of wells was successful.. My employer and supervisor were both very pleased with my results.

I am glad I was able to exceed what was expected me to do during the placement, by managing my time and putting in the effort with each task I had to carry out. I'm proud of myself in that aspect, as well to finish and be of help to the GCG team in some way, since the data I partly processed and plotted into graphs will be used in one of their projects.

In July all 4th and LVI pupils had a talk from ASK Apprenticeships. The focus was on Degree Apprenticeship opportunities.

In July identified groups of 3rd form pupils had meetings with the Careers advisor to start thinking about GCSE options and post-GCSE options. Those 4th form pupils who underperformed in their 4th form summer exams had a meeting with the Careers Advisor to discuss having a plan for the possibility that they would not achieve the grades for the VI form.