

## The Careers Department

Another busy year in Careers. With restrictions lifted there has been more opportunity to work with external professionals and get students exploring more about the world of careers.

Back in September the focus was on getting all year 11's to have their careers appointment and by just after Christmas this was complete. They also took part in remote activities with an apprenticeship ambassador and college link from Kingston to look at the differences between each pathway. The also completed their careers unit on post 16 options.

This year, students in year 11's had some additional time with the careers advisor and students looking to move on in September were invited to a session to ensure everything was in place for a smooth transition.

February saw National Apprenticeship Week and around school we did a week of series of activities to increase awareness and inspire students to look at all options available to them.



Year 10 piloted a virtual work experience programme during the half term. Using the springpod platform students had the opportunity to take part in a variety of webinars and tasks in fields such as engineering to Tv and Film. Here are what some of the students had to say:

"Great experience and I would highly recommend if there is a career that you like the look of to use springpod to see if it is for you. I have definitely learnt a lot"

"At the start I found it a bit confusing but with some help from friends I eventually got past the difficulties and it ended up being very useful and it was also very easy to complete."

"Well my experience was all about the world of Technology, this consisted of many departments that use technology such as doctors, programmers, and even more. Mine was very quick and easy to understand as all you had to do was read answer the quiz and whatever you got wrong you had to understand why you got it wrong. Then you had the activities that were simple."

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"it was a great experience the people were very friendly and I have learnt quite a lot while working through"

Year 8 and 9 completed their careers unit during February to march with a focus on me and my future, and options and decision making.

Soon after It was National Careers Week where each year group had their own activities to complete during the week with access to the virtual careers fair and the change to develop a new app.



Before we knew it, attention turned to year 9 and thinking about their gcse choices. I visited all classes to deliver a session on options- from why we do it to thinking about what choices might suit certain careers. Options evening soon followed and my door was revolving with great questions and inquisitive minds before deadline day approached.

In may we said goodbye to the year 11's and then Year 13's and focus moved to prepping year 10 to think about what happens when they return in September and all the choices they have available to them for post 16 study. Year 10 and year 7 completed their careers unit during this summer term looking at careers and future planning and who am i? introduction to careers for year 7.

Year 12 are busy preparing for the work experience week during 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July and some interesting placements are being arranged from teaching assistant to music studios. Good luck!

Year 8 have also been able to take part in Take your sons to work day again this year. On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June the majority of the year group will be out with a family member experiencing what a work day is like. It is always exciting to receive the form in and see what wonderful and different jobs our parents at Challoner do.

Year 12 are also invited to attend 2 careers café's being held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July with talks and questions with professionals from a legal, media, university and engineering backgrounds. The first of many new additions to our careers programme.

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Year 10 business studies students were also lucky to have a speaker come to visit their lessons. Marco Olmi from Drury tea and coffee is a member of the Richard Challoner Business Network, and kindly took time to speak to our students about production. Matching the theory they are learning in the syllabus to real life scenarios. Thank you Marco!!



During the week of the 20th June, The Xavier Centre students took part in work experience. Mrs Dovey was in charge but we were fortunate enough to have another member of the business network offer a placement to two students. Mark Gale from BeesMAX showed our students the ropes on how to care for a beehive and they got to test out their DT skills in the workshop, looking at the construction of the hives. Thank you Mark!



To find out more about the business network please visit https://www.challonerandfriends.com

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Thank you to everyone who completed the annual careers survey, this is a great way to evaluate opinions and experiences from the perspectives of parents/carers, students and staff. It helps to shape the careers programme and evaluate what we do. Thank you also to those parents who volunteered to be added to our careers database to help out in careers activities. There is much planned for 2022/23.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity to remind you of the careers section of the school website. There is a whole section dedicated to parents, for information, students for resources and some helpful tools that can be used when thinking about the future. Talking about careers starts right from year 7 upwards.

Thank you for all the support over the last year and I wish all a happy, restful summer break

Mrs Stansbridge Careers Lead