

Careers Strategy

Introduction

St Cuthbert's Catholic High school Careers Strategy seeks to help all students understand the range of opportunities available to them in today's economy and acquire the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in the workplaces of the future. The Careers programme and calendar are monitored and evaluated throughout the year and their impact is assessed through the range of successful destinations our students secure. Through the delivery of impartial careers information, advice and guidance, a stable careers programme, utilising Labour Market Information, St Cuthbert's endeavours to implement the Gatsby Benchmarks.

By empowering young men to take their place in society, St Cuthbert's Catholic High school can help shape the next generation of leaders.

Rationale

The Government's careers strategy, published on 4 December 2017, sets out a long term plan to build a world class careers system that will help young people and adults choose the career that is right for them. This statutory guidance has been updated to expand on the aim set out in the strategy to make sure that all young people in secondary school get a programme of advice and guidance that is stable, structured and delivered by individuals with the right skills and experience.

To achieve this aim, the careers strategy sets out that every school and academy providing secondary education should use the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's Benchmarks to develop and improve their careers provision. This statutory guidance has been restructured around the Benchmarks with information on what schools need to do to meet each one. The Gatsby Benchmarks are not a statutory framework but by adopting them, schools can be confident that they are fulfilling their legal duties: the existing duty to secure independent careers guidance and the new duty to provide opportunities to a range of providers of technical education and apprenticeships to access pupils to inform them about technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

The Benchmarks go further by defining all of the elements of an excellent careers programme, based on the best national and international research. Government recognises that the work needed to meet all eight Benchmarks will vary for individual schools. Government's expectation is that schools begin to work towards the Benchmarks now and meet them by the end of 2020. Compass is an online self-evaluation tool for schools to use to assess how their careers support compares against the Gatsby Benchmarks and the national average. Schools should baseline themselves using this tool, consider the opportunities to improve their careers programme based on their confidential results, and track their progress against the Benchmarks over time.

Careers progression framework, programme and calendar

The Careers progression framework is designed as a tool to develop a programme of activity to raise aspirations and support progression into meaningful careers. The Careers programme is an overview of planned activity that will fulfil objectives and ensure the outcomes of the Careers Progression framework are met. The Careers calendar breaks down on a termly basis the whole school activity that takes place for all year groups. Each curriculum area has a Careers champion and they have developed and continue to monitor a Careers curriculum review which outlines subject specific activity.

The Skills Builder framework has been adopted and embedded into the curriculum so that when explicit careers related activity is not obvious, the students are still developing the key skills to become work ready.

External partners

At St Cuthbert's we engage with and utilise a number of key partners to ensure our students receive independent advice and guidance and have access to a wide range and number of opportunities.

We are an Apprenticeship champion and part of the ASK (Apprenticeship Support and knowledge) project which ensure workshops and individual support and guidance about Apprenticeships from independent Careers advisors.

We work with Business in the Community (BiC) who deliver Careers events in school ensuring all students meet with a wide range of employers and can interview them about their careers as well as being interviewed by them for practice,

We are part of the ESH Build my skills programme which means a variety of employers visit and deliver assemblies and set tasks around all key themes in employment, resulting in a completed CV and mock interview.

We have signed up to become part of Global Bridge so that all students can build their digital CV and profile, recognised by Universities and employers alike.

We are a National Citizenship Service (NCS) champion giving students the opportunity to go on residentials, serve their community and gain valuable life skills.

We work closely with NE1 Can and offer their wide range of work place visits and experiences to our students.

We are a partner school with Enabling Enterprise to embed the Skills Builder framework into our curriculum. We are also a partner school with Young Enterprise similarly working towards embedding their Career building framework into the curriculum.

We work closely with a wide range of employers and take up opportunities with a full range of different sectors, from the NHS, to Newcastle City council, SAGE, Ernst & Young, PwC, Siemens, Cundalls and many many more.

We work closely with all local Universities and subscribe to the programme of student engagement activities they offer. We are part of the North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP) which brings together all Russell group University intervention and opportunities for our students.