



Education Support Centre

Careers Newsletter

2022-2023



October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below details of our upcoming Careers activity this academic year, please make a note of the key dates. Further activities are always being added throughout the year, we will inform you of any important updates by letter / text.

Employability Skills Workshops

The autumn term sees the return of the Job Centre Plus team who will be delivering face to face workshops to all of our Key Stage 4 students. The sessions will take place during the school day and are as follows:

31/10/22 – Introductions / Career options / Labour Market Information

14/11/22 – Jobs for the future / Soft Skills e.g body language

28/11/22 – Digital footprints / Social media / Challenging stereotypes

9/01/23 – Preparing a CV

23/01/23 – Preparation for an Interview

6/02/23 – Mock Interviews with constructive feedback.

These sessions are invaluable and will make a big difference to student confidence during future college and job interviews.

Visits to College

We have forged strong links with our local colleges, particularly North Herts College. We have a programme of bespoke transition activity planned across the academic year which will involve our students visiting NHC on a regular basis. It is our aim for all Y11 students to visit a local college this year, with those particularly keen to move on to college visiting more than once.

Our first college visit will be on the 11th November with a visit to NHC where students will be able to take part in an exciting STEM workshop involving forensic science along with a taster session in two of their vocational areas of interest. These sessions run several times a year and we plan for all of our Y11s to have the opportunity to attend. You will be informed in due course when your son/daughter will be attending this trip. In addition, NHC will also be starting to hold general open days and evenings in the near future. We will keep you informed.

Work Experience placements

Work experience Wednesday is a mandatory part of our curriculum for all of our KS4 students. Work experience enables students to discover their strengths, values, motivations and interests, it helps them come up with career ideas and try them out and to meet new people and build a network of contacts. During 2021/22 students enjoyed placements at a wide variety of local employers, including Sainsburys, Wag n Woof, the Rusty Gun, Chicken George, Salon 84 and the British Heart Foundation.

If you are struggling to find your son / daughter a work experience placement with friends or family members, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Star who will help organise a placement.

Apprenticeships

Students that opt to choose an apprenticeship after leaving school will be employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification - usually for one day a week either at a college or training centre. By the end of the apprenticeship, students will have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in their chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level. We have a number of workshops arranged for our KS4 students so that they can find out information on what apprenticeships are available and how to apply for them. We have a workshop for parents/carers booked in too that will be held as part of a parent & carer coffee morning – further details of which will be issued in due course.

12/01/22 An Introduction to Apprenticeships

19/01/23 Registering & Applying for Apprenticeships

26/01/23 Making your CV stand out

09/02/23 Introduction to Assessment Centres as a recruitment method

23/02/23 Mock Interviews

An opportunity for Parents / Carers to learn more about Apprenticeships is in the process of being organised. This will be an online meeting event. Invites will be issued in due course.

Services for Young People

Services for Young People of SfYP is the new name for YC Hertfordshire. Our SfYP advisor Zella Neighbour has worked closely with us for several years and is a familiar face around the Centre. Zella will be visiting both Bancroft and Briar Patch every half term to speak to all of our students on an individual basis, providing information and guidance for their next steps, based on their individual needs. Zella also plays a key role in ensuring our Y11 students have secured their next steps and their transition is smooth once they leave NHESC. Zella is always available should any parent or carer be in need of advice – please do not hesitate to contact us for her contact details.

'Bridge' lessons for Y11

Bridge lessons continue to be an important part of the curriculum for our Y11 students. In Bridge lessons students learn the skills and knowledge that will enable them to confidently cross the bridge from secondary school on to their next steps, be it college, an apprenticeship or employment. During Bridge lessons we will be investigating the range of different job opportunities that are out there and what qualifications students need to secure these jobs. Students will consider potential courses at college and the availability of local apprenticeships, and again will find out the entry requirements and what the course or placement will involve. Students will also gain essential practical lifeskills over the year, for example learning how to cook basic meals like spaghetti bolognaise that can be adapted to then make other dishes, a cost analysis of buying a take away compared to a home made meal, how to use a washing machine, iron a shirt, sew on a button, opening a bank account, applying for a passport and many other everyday life skills.

'Get Work Ready' days

Our GWR days run in collaboration with Jane Shipley from ELSA are always great fun. Students have the opportunity to meet and interact with representatives from several local employers and enjoy a series of team building exercises and challenges. Students are able to strengthen their communication, problem solving and teamwork skills. The GWR days are thoroughly enjoyed by all. We have the following dates booked in:

KS3: **18/11/22 & 10/3/23**

KS4: **7/11/22 & 6/3/23**

Visiting Employers and Independent Training Providers

NHESC is always keen to invite local employers and independent training providers into the Centre to talk to our students as a group or as a smaller subject group. So far we have representatives from the following Careers scheduled to visit our students: Police, NHS, Care and Catering. We also have a representative visiting us from Enemy of Boredom, an independent training provider that offers Level 1, 2 and 3 video game design experiences. We hope to have many more representatives visit us as the academic year progresses, along with visits to a range of different workplaces.

Compass+ - our tracking system for careers activity

NHESC has embraced the use of Compass+ to benchmark, manage, track and report on our school's careers provision at an individual student level. We use Compass+ to plan and track careers activities for individual students, assess our careers provision against the Gatsby Benchmarks and track individual students' actual destinations (what they do for 3 years after leaving the school).

Gatsby Benchmarks

The Gatsby Benchmarks define what world class careers provision in education looks like and provide a clear framework for organising the careers provision at NHESC. Our performance against the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks in July 2022 was as follows:

Gatsby Benchmark	% achieved in latest evaluation 	% achieved
1 - A stable careers programme	100%	100%
2 - Learning from career and labour market information	100%	100%
3 - Addressing the needs of each pupil	100%	100%
4 - Linking curriculum learning to careers	100%	100%
5 - Encounters with employers and employees	100%	100%
6 - Experiences of workplaces	100%	100%
7 - Encounters with further and higher education	85%	85%
8 - Personal guidance	100%	100%

Career - Talks

Would you be willing to visit our school and talk to a group of students about your particular job or your career history? If so, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the email address below.

Employment Opportunitites

For students, friends and family aged 16+, Tesco are advertising for temporary Christmas jobs.

Apply here: <https://www.tesco-careers.com/>

Indeed is also a useful employment website for finding local jobs: <https://uk.indeed.com/>

Contacts:

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