Introduction

North Herts Education Support Centre is committed to providing students with high quality Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) to include all possible education pathways and careers. Promoting a career development ethos is an essential part of the vision of the Centre. We aim to support the aspirations of all our students to ensure they gain the understanding, skills and experience required to make progress and succeed in learning and work. Effective careers education and guidance contributes to the wellbeing of individuals but also to the wellbeing of their families and the communities to which they belong. The Centre uses the Gatsby Benchmarks to monitor, evaluate and improve the careers provision offered.

Work experience is a key part of the curriculum in KS4

Work Experience is always important, especially now in our current economic climate. Therefore, gaining more work-related experience is likely to give students an advantage in the labour market by the time they leave full-time education.
All students will get the opportunity to participate in a weekly Work Experience placement during their time with us; with students able to find their own placements or with support from the school. We try to place all students in work that is relevant and purposeful towards their personal development, employability skills set and a place to learn more about a particular trade. A placement can be organised with one of the many local companies we have a relationship with; examples of companies we have used for Work Experience are Chicken George, Woof n Wag Dog day care, David's Book Shop, Lordship Primary School and PDH Bathrooms. All placements are risk assessed prior to the student starting and attendance is monitored closely. Work Experience Co-Ordinator Lyn Star will visit students and keep in contact during their time in placement.

The Work Experience programme is valued highly by the school, parents and the students as it offers opportunities that our students have traditionally missed out on and generally lack confidence in. We believe it prepares students adequately for the world of employment. We have seen student's self-confidence, motivation and engagement in academic work increase following successful placements.

Careers within our Curriculum

NHESC teachers are responsible for promoting their subjects and the relevance of the curriculum by adding real life context to lessons and linking subjects to occupations and the real world. Cross-curricular skills are also developed, enabling students to become lifelong learners. Students are made aware of local educational establishments and are encouraged to attend taster sessions, open days as well as being supported to attend college interviews. We prepare our students for each transition point and with the choices they make through assemblies, small group sessions and 1:1 interview.

Careers and Work Experience Team:

Careers Lead: Kate Robinson k.robinson@nhf.school

Work Experience Co-Ordinator: Lyn Star l.star@nhf.school

Careers Governor: Jane Shipley