



# Careers Newsletter



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## Meet the team!

Welcome to our first edition of the Vandyke Careers newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to update you on our careers programme and any upcoming events. On Thursday 12 January 2023, we will be holding our first Careers Fayre (The Big Picture) in three years from 3.15pm-6.15pm. This will be open to all students, parents and carers from the school and local area. I would also like to introduce our careers team here at Vandyke for you all. I am the Careers Leader for the school and I am responsible for ensuring all students receive an outstanding Careers Education and Guidance programme. Mrs D Lord is our Careers Co-ordinator and is responsible for arranging careers appointments and for external visitors and trips. Ms L Smith is responsible for our careers programme during Life Skills and Mr Lee McCree is our 4YP independent careers advisor.

**Mr Lally—Deputy Headteacher**

## Hear what our previous alumni have to say!

**Holly Younger  
Treasury Accountant**

**Why did you choose this route?** When leaving sixth form I was very undecided on what subject I would study (and invest a lot of money in) at university. Instead I took a 'lower-risk' option of completing a School Leaver Programme at one of the Big 4 Accountancy Firms. This meant I had a well-paid full time job straight from leaving school, and the firm paid for my accountancy qualification training, which would lead to me becoming a Chartered Accountant.

**What subjects did you study?** Maths, Chemistry and Biology

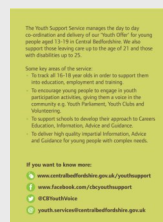
**What have the challenges been?** Joining a large firm at the age of 18 was daunting, and I quickly matured as I took on very 'adult' challenges. This has included dealing with very experienced and knowledgeable adults and having the confidence to challenge their opinions and ways of working at times. Time management to make sure I successfully passed exams whilst working full time was also a challenge.

**What advice would you give to our students?** I would always tell anyone that it's okay to not know what you want to do with your life at 18 years old. It can be incredibly daunting when looking at university and other options after sixth form and so you shouldn't be hard on yourself if you're unsure of what is best for you. Focus on what you think is best for you, take advice from people that you trust, and don't put pressure on yourself to get it right first time!

**Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service Careers - Vandyke Upper School**

## USEFUL LINKS

Each year group has a Google Classroom page. Here you will find a wealth of information on all things career based! Included below is a list of useful links & information to provide you with all the information you need:



This is Central Bedfordshire's Careers guide and portal, where you can find out about the great career opportunities in the local area. The site also links to the best, most reliable sources of information they have found to help you with important decision making and finding the right job for you!

[Careers, education & training advice in Central Bedfordshire \(findyourfuture.org.uk\)](https://www.findyourfuture.org.uk)

For information on apprenticeships click here:  
[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



4ypuk.com - All students will at some point have access to 4yp's impartial services.

[Child Benefit when your child turns 16 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

For information on your child benefit entitlement at the end of post 16 education, please click on the link above.

[www.semlep.com/school-labour-market-information/](https://www.semlep.com/school-labour-market-information/)

For help understanding our local labour market, please click on the link above

## CAREERS OVERVIEW THIS TERM

Year Group	Overview of Careers Education	By the end of their time at Vandyke Upper School all students will have:
9	<p>October – December – Options Lessons in Life Skills</p> <p>October-December – Employability Skills</p> <p>October – December – Local Market Information Assembly</p>	<p>During Year 9, students will begin a programme to support their future intentions and how these choices might impact on the options they choose for GCSE. Students will receive dedicated 'Options' lessons in Life Skills Lessons where they will be given time and guidance to research career information and explore the local labour market</p> <p>Students will also take part in the LORIC initiative to develop a Growth Mindset attitude. Students will have opportunities throughout the year to demonstrate employability skills: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC)</p>
10	<p>October – December – Employability skills in Life skills</p> <p>December – Local Market Information Assembly</p> <p>December – CV Writing</p>	<p>During Year 10, students will develop employability skills whilst raising their achievement in their GCSE subjects. Life Skills lessons will include a focus on developing and evidencing employability skills. During Life Skills lessons, students will learn how to apply these skills to personal statements and CVs</p>
11	<p>October – December – Post 16 Lessons through LifeSkills</p> <p>October – December- Local Market Information thorough Tutor Time (T-Levels and Local Providers)</p> <p>November – Sixth Form Open Evening</p> <p>December – Application and Personal Statement Writing</p>	<p>Year 11 students receive dedicated Life Skills lessons focused on Post 16 planning. Students have the opportunities to explore the different options and levels available after Year 11. Students are also given time to independently research Post 16 options and application processes. Life Skills lesson also cover: how to write applications, what to include on a personal statement and information about the local labour market</p> <p>All Year 11 students have the opportunity to visit a Post 16 Provider in November on our Aim Higher Day. Students will be out of school for the day visiting a college or university; experiencing what college/university life is like and have the opportunity to speak to current university students about their experience of Post 16 education</p> <p>Throughout Year 11, students will also receive career-focused assemblies, tutor time discussion and access to qualified careers advisor appointments as a priority. It is the intention that all students have a Plan A and a Plan B in place by April 2022 regarding their options Post 16</p>

## CAREERS OVERVIEW NEXT TERM

Year Group	Overview of Careers Education	By the end of their time at Vandyke Upper School all students will have:
9	<p>January – February Options Evening / Choices</p> <p>February – National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>March – National Careers Assemblies</p> <p>March – Options Interviews</p>	<p>All Year 9 students are invited to an Options Evening in January which provides opportunities to talk to subject staff about options and long term career plans</p>
10	<p>January – Future Pathways Evenings</p> <p>February – National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>March – National Apprenticeship Show &amp; The Higher Education Expo</p>	<p>Year 10 students will also have access to the Future Pathways Evening in February in order to begin to explore the many possible options available post 16. During this evening students will be given the opportunity to meet colleges to discuss the post 16 courses they have to offer including technical A-Levels, BTECs and other Level 2 and 3 qualifications. Furthermore, there will be a number of national and local employers at the event to discuss the apprenticeships and employment opportunities they have to offer, ensuring impartial advice is given as stated in the Baker Clause</p> <p>All Year 10 students will have the opportunity to participate in a visit to the National Apprenticeship Show and Higher Education Expo in Milton Keynes to give them an insight into the variety of apprenticeships on offer at all levels including degree. This face to face exposure to over 50 employers/companies provides the students with information about the different level apprenticeships on offer</p>
11	<p>January – Future Pathways Evening National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>Spring Term – Vandyke Sixth Form / Other Post 16 providers application deadline</p> <p>March – National Careers Assemblies &amp; Local Provider presentations</p>	<p>Our Future Pathways Evening in February is where students can meet local colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers. This event is also well supported by national and local employers, showing our commitment to delivering the Baker Clause with impartial careers information</p> <p>Initial Intention forms will continue to track students throughout the year to ensure all students have understood the options available to them Post 16 and to highlight any intervention opportunities</p>