



Careers Newsletter

Welcome to our Careers Newsletter

During this term, I had the opportunity of delivering a careers assembly to all the students in Year 9, 10 and 11. The assembly was about the different careers/education pathways students have when they leave school at 16 and the opportunities available after the age of 18. We begun by discussing the local labour market and what research is suggesting about future job roles and qualifications needed in the future.

It was great to speak to the students after the assemblies about their own ambitions and the pathways they intend to follow after school. For those who do not know which pathway to take (I did not know until I was age 21), I emphasised exploring the opportunities available to them and to choose a number of different pathways which they enjoy and benefit them in the future. The importance of careers continues to be part of our aim for students to be World Ready and it reminds us all we want students not only to excel in school but in later life too. This week, we also celebrate National Careers Week. I have shared some excellent resources on our Google Classroom pages. I would also recommend viewing the virtual careers fair at: <https://ncw2023.co.uk/>

Mr Lally (Deputy Headteacher)

Update from Mrs Lord

Careers is more than just learning about jobs, it is our journey through life, learning and work. With this at the forefront of our careers education at Vandyke Upper School, we are dedicated to ensure our students have access to a wide range of opportunities both in and out of the classroom. This term, we hosted The Big Picture Careers event where students and their parents/carers had the opportunity to listen to presentations from universities, apprenticeship providers and local employers. As well as this, we had over 40 providers available for students to visit and talk too. From this event, several of our students have sourced amazing degree apprenticeships. We also hosted a smaller event on option evening for Year 9 students to help them understand where their option choices could lead.

Vandyke Upper School strongly believes in the importance of good quality impartial careers advice and guidance. To provide this, we have a contract with 4YP who are a multi-skilled team of professionals, all with a successful track record working with young people and their families in a variety of roles including; Careers Guidance, Youth Work, Counselling, Mental Health, Training and supporting vulnerable families. Students are offered an appointment with this provider during their time here at school.

Hear what our previous alumni have to say!

Jessica Gibbins
Pediatric Nurse

Why did you choose this route?

I had always been fascinated with human anatomy and medicine. I enjoy caring for people and the unpredictability that everyday brings. Everyday in nursing is different, especially when working with children! Nursing was the best route for me as the role involves building relationships and being able to have an impact on peoples lives.

What have the challenges been?

I found writing my personal statement for UCAS challenging as I had limited experience within a healthcare setting. I found the interview process daunting as I wanted to do well and fulfil my dream of being a children's nurse. During my A levels, I put myself under a lot of pressure.

What advice would you give to our students?

The best advice I could give is to persevere. You should never give up. Take the time to relax and don't be too hard on yourself. Applying to university or an apprenticeship can be a stressful and frightening time but it's worth it in the end and there are always people around to support you. When writing your personal statement write with honesty and try not to rush it. Interviews are always daunting but get as much practice as you can, approach them calmly and mention the 6Cs of healthcare.

Jessica left Vandyke in 2018 to study nursing.

Google Classroom

Remember, we are always adding new opportunities for work experience, apprenticeships and careers advice on our Google Classroom Career pages.

Have an interview coming up? Take a look at our top tips for preparing:

- **Do your research**—Find out as much about the company as you can. Read through their social media pages and website and familiarise yourself with their ethos. This will improve your confidence when answering interview questions
- **Dress smartly**—It is not always necessary to wear a suit but smart business attire shows you are serious about the job and professional. Always make sure your clothes are neatly ironed and your shoes are polished
- **Be on time**— Do your homework! Plan your route in advance and allow for any delays. Make sure you leave yourself plenty of time to arrive so you are not rushing and stressed!

For further advice on interview tips and techniques, click on the link below:

[Preparing For An Interview — Careers, education & training advice in Central Bedfordshire \(findyourfuture.org.uk\)](https://findyourfuture.org.uk)



Healthy Schools



International
School Award

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Green Careers are the future.

Jobs in the environmental sector focus on either restoring nature, reducing carbon emissions or making similar environmental improvements. It's predicted that there will be 694,000 green jobs by 2030, meaning it will be a large area of the job market in the future. The demand for green jobs is increasing as industries prepare themselves for a greener future and net zero. These jobs have a direct and positive impact on the planet, traditionally involving the following industries: renewable energy, electric transport, energy efficiency or nature conservation. Whatever your plans for the future, green careers will be an essential part of the growing economy. If you are interested in working in the green careers sector in the future as a start, look at [Greenjobs.co.uk](https://www.greenjobs.co.uk) **Miss L Smith**

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>January – February Options Evening / Choices</p> <p>February – National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>March – National Careers Assemblies</p> <p>March – Options Interviews</p>	All Year 9 students were invited to an Options Evening in January which provides opportunities to talk to subject staff about options, local and international providers and long term career plans.
10	<p>January – Vandyke Careers Fayre</p> <p>February – National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>March – Virtual National Apprenticeship Show & The Higher Education Expo</p>	Year 10 students had access to The Big Picture Vandyke Careers Fayre in January in order to begin to explore the many possible options available post 16. During this evening students had 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, a number of national and local employers as well as Universities attended the event to discuss the apprenticeships and employment opportunities they have to offer, ensuring impartial advice is given as stated in the Baker Clause
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 & Local Provider presentations</p>	<p>Our Big Picture Vandyke Careers Fayre in January helped students meet with local colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers. This event was also 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> <p>Year 11 students have also had presentations from Ask Apprenticeships and MK college.</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>June – GCSE Options begin</p> <p>July – Employers Morning</p>	All Year 9 students will have the opportunity to experience our Employers morning. Local and international representatives from companies visit the school and students have the opportunities to hear about a range of different jobs and industries.
10	<p>June 2022 – What Career Live (TBC)</p> <p>July 2022 – Initial Intentions Begin</p>	Towards the end of year 10, students will complete their first Initial Intention form which will track their possible future plans into Year 11 to ensure students receive dedicated careers advice and highlight any intervention opportunities