



# Careers Newsletter

## Welcome to our Autumn Term Careers Newsletter

Over the summer, it was fantastic to hear a number of our students begin Level 5 (Degree Level) apprenticeships at National and Multi-National Companies as well as our largest ever cohort of students applying for University. This term, we continued with our Year Group Careers Google Classroom page which we post the latest work experience opportunities, news articles, apprenticeship opportunities and local Market information. Parents and Carers can access this information on your child's Google Classroom page to find out what opportunities are currently available.

We are also pleased to announce we will continue our work with our independent careers advisory company (4YP) who are employed to provide independent careers advice to students. We also have two Governors with a special interest in our careers provision. A few examples of our careers activities that have occurred this term was a visit to 'What Career Live' in London, a talk from a Senior Leader at the National Grid, Year 11 University of Bedfordshire Visit, our Sixth Form Open Evening and recruitment talks from external companies.

Due to popular demand and extremely high attendance last year, we will be running another Big Picture Careers Fayre on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 from 3.15pm to 6.00pm. This event is an opportunity for all students from any year group to meet with employers, universities, apprenticeship providers and local colleges. We will also be inviting students from other middle and upper schools. Talks will include the value of university education, what are apprenticeships and college pathways. Furthermore, we will be expanding this event with even more external representatives from a wider provision of local providers. More information about this event will be sent out at the start of next term.

Lastly, all schools are expected to meet the Gatsby Careers Benchmark which is statutory framework on careers. At our school, we pride ourselves with the wealth of external providers we invite into our school to meet and exceed statutory requirements. We can confirm that during a recent visit we achieved 100% of these benchmarks and will continue to ensure we go above and beyond for our students.

**Thomas Lally** Deputy Headteacher

### Update from Mrs Lord

Helping our students to make the link between subject choices and future pathways is at the forefront of our schools careers education provision. At key points during their time with us we focus on where our choices may lead. For many this is the traditional university pathway, for others it may be high level apprenticeships but we are seeing more of our students embarking on good quality employment routes. Therefore, it is even more important to us that our students are able to see where their option choices lead.

### Linking subjects to career – In/Around/Beyond

Young people are developing employability skills in every subject they study. Some young people and their families feel anxious when they start making choices between subjects. They worry that a 'wrong' choice will rule out future options and limit their career. By understanding the skills they have developed by studying each subject, a young person can start to explore careers in that subject area as well around and beyond it

### Subject: History

Careers in and around use the knowledge developed by studying history: understanding the past and how it has influenced the present day. The skills a history student develops allows them to look at careers beyond that require similar skills.

The skills developed by studying history enables student to pay attention to detail and identify which evidence is important, by finding primary sources of evidence students are able to connect evidence and information, and by managing and organising large amounts of evidence they are able to write and present narratives in a compelling way.

Focussing on the skills they develop allows young people to demonstrate their employability no matter what subjects they choose to study.

## Hear what our previous alumni have to say!

**Ottis Whittington**

**Area Manager Lidl**

### Why did you choose this route?

I picked my A levels based on subjects that I was, and still am, passionate about. Completing business related subjects supported me in gaining the theoretical aspects of business and has helped me vastly in both setting up a business whilst at school and now working for a huge retailer, leading over 100 people, through applying theory to practise.

### What have the challenges been?

I sometimes found it difficult to focus at school and university and found I was easily distracted. I had to work very hard to stay focused and put a lot of time and effort into learning. In my current role, I lead a large team of people which involves having to communicate effectively. You don't always get things right but you must learn from your mistakes.

### What advice would you give to our students?

In whatever subject or field you wish to pursue, remember, nothing worth having comes easily.



## 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>September—December Options Lessons in Lifeskills</p> <p>September—December Employability Skills</p> <p>October Future Skills</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 Lifeskills 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>September—December Employability skills in Lifeskills</p> <p>October Future Skills</p> <p>November What Career Live (Virtual)</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>September—December Post 16 Lessons through Lifeskills</p> <p>September—December Local Market Information through tutor time (T_Levels &amp; Local Providers)</p> <p>October Future Skills</p> <p>November Sixth Form Open Evening Aim Higher Day Application and Personal Statement Writing</p>	<p>Year 11 Students receive dedicated Lifeskills lessons focused on post 16 planning. Students have the opportunity to explore the different options and levels available after Year 11. Students are also given the time to independently research Post 16 options and application processes. Lifeskills lessons 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>Thorough Year 11, students will also receive career focused assemblies, tutor time discussion and access to a 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 2023 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>February Big Picture Careers Event Options Evening / Choices National Apprenticeships Assemblies Local Market Information Assembly</p> <p>March National Careers Assemblies Options Interviews Local Provider Presentations</p>	<p>All Year 9 students are invited to an Options Evening in February which provides opportunities to talk to subject staff about option choices and long-term career plans. Local providers attend the options evening as part of our provider access legislation.</p>
10	<p>February Local Market Information Assembly The Big Picture Careers Fayre National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>March National Apprenticeship Show &amp; The Higher Education Expo National Careers Assemblies and College Presentations Local Provider Presentations</p>	<p>Y10 students will also have access to The Big Picture Careers Fayre 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 and Universities to discuss the post 16 courses they have to offer including T levels, 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 Provider Access Legislation.</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>February The Big Picture Careers Fayre National Apprenticeship Assemblies</p> <p>March National Careers Assemblies Local Provider Presentations</p> <p>April College Presentations and Workshops</p>	<p>Our The Big Picture Careers Fayre 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 <a href="#">Provider Access Legislation</a> (Provider Access) with impartial careers information.</p> <p>Initial Intentions 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>Spring Term 2024 – Vandyke Sixth Form / Other Post 16 providers application deadline</p>