

CAREERS GUIDANCE

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the School's SEN and Senior School Curriculum Policies

Scope

The scope of this Policy covers all students and aims to provide advice and guidance in order to inspire and assist them to fulfil their potential and consider a broad range of career options.

The exams passed and qualifications gained at school are the means by which "doors to the world" open, whether it be to continue into further education, into training, or into the world of work. Careers guidance at Priory School is tailored, in line with the school's ethos, to offer appropriate advice and counsel for each individual student, within a "whole-school" policy of raising awareness of the importance of future careers via a programme of talks, visits, interviews, and assessments from early years. The overall aim, with of course academic qualifications, is to equip each student to make the most informed decision as to their future.

Aims

The School seeks to ensure that any careers advice provided:

- a) is presented in an impartial manner
- b) has at its core a concern for promoting the best interests of each individual student
- c) looks without pre-conception at the widest choice of careers

Approach

Guidance and advice are present all the stages of a student or pupil's career in school, but there are specific "trigger points" where very specific advice, discussions and reviews take place. These are both between student and Form Tutors, subject tutors, and critically Careers Officer and Head of 6th Form. Advice can be general (G), by class or form (C), or individual and personal (P).

The immediate points are at the choice of subject options for GCSE, which occurs in Y9 or S3; during the GCSE years of Y10/Y11 (S4/S5), with **academic reviews** that include discussions of future options, and then critically at transition from Y11 or S5 to 6th Form, further education, apprenticeship or work. GCSE results are of course critical to entry to further educational paths, and this is borne in mind throughout studies. Individual meetings with parents as well as general parent's evenings held throughout the year are a critical part of this process.

This is backed up by a regular series of "Tuesday talks" from external speakers on professional, service, business and other career paths, as well as general topics of interest and information. It is all designed to give students a wide view of what the future may hold for them. Tuesday Talks occur in Autumn & Spring Terms in "general Time" on Tuesdays. A list

of sample speakers is attached at the end of this policy, as well as careers pursued by Priory pupils.

The school also encourages and supports students in seeking and finding holiday employment or release for professional experience (recent examples include placements in the legal profession and merchant banking); this is supported by the active help of parents and the Parents' Association.

Methods

The School adopts the following main strands to the delivery of careers guidance and advice:

1. Focus on quality of teaching in order to equip each student with the means to think critically and independently in order to develop to the maximum
2. Provision of regular 'Tuesday Talks', given by guest speakers representing a range of career paths, including the professions (for example medicine, law, teaching, media, journalism), the armed services, public life (for example politics, local government, the Civil Service, the emergency services, nursing), commerce and business, and the Arts.
3. Visits to both Island and mainland companies and organisations; to careers fairs and exhibitions
4. Access to advice on options available post-16 for example, apprenticeships, training courses for a variety of occupations, the world of business, as well as the more traditional A Levels, UCAS and University route
5. Provision of individual support and advice that comes with clear focus at S3 (Year 9), when options for GCSE courses are exercised, again at the end of S5 (Year 11, the GCSE year), and again during the two sixth-form years, when advice on UCAS and funding for further education is offered.
6. A programme of work placements where possible to enable students to gain first-hand experience, and individual interviews with representatives of a range of different occupations
7. Individual "whole day" careers days, where also essential skills such as CV writing and job interviews are practised.
7. For sixth-formers, a programme of visits to universities and places of further education prior to UCAS application, including assistance and advice from Priory graduates who can provide insight from their own experience
8. For those intending to pursue a technical or vocational career, fostering and maintaining strong links with institutions such as the IW Studio School, with the IW College of Further Education, and with HTP, which handles apprenticeships on the Isle of Wight
9. A programme of individual interviews conducted by the Head of the Senior School with all S5 (Year 11) students (in their final GCSE year), and with all sixth-formers during their A Level years, following on from annual review meetings for all students in senior school.

Overall

The compact and integrated nature of Island life allows the School to draw on a wide range of practitioners and enhances the ease of external visits; the School aims to draw on the goodwill inherent in this community to foster the development of careers advice.

Personnel

Mrs Emma Soar MA, BA (Hons), PGCE

Head of 6th Form

Mrs Michelle Newte MA Eng (Hons) Dunelm, QTS

Careers Officer

Appendices

1. List of Tuesday Talks – sample
2. Careers recently pursued include: Academia, Teaching, Media, Engineering, Marine
In 2017-18 Our first Services entrant to the Army's Welbeck College began training;
and in 2018 our first professional sports candidate to Bournemouth AFC)
3. Careers Fairs/External events & List of Universities entered (6th Form opened 2010)
4. Academic Review sample

Authorised by Mr E J Matyjaszek, Principal

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