

Careers Guidance

[Next update – September 2018]

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.

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

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
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. 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.

Authorised by Mr E J Matyjaszek, Principal

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