

Our Ref: PBH/JDY

29 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

CAREERS PROGRAMME

I am writing to you to let you know about the new Careers Programme at Aldworth School. Some of this information was explained to those who attended the curriculum evening, however we would like all parents to be aware of this information so that you understand the changes that have taken place and how these will benefit your child(ren).

Government expectations are that schools have a stable careers programme and there is growing recognition of the importance of careers within schools. More importantly, careers education is key to providing pupils with the skills and experiences needed for the future world of work - a good careers programme is vital to ensure the success of students, to the same extent as the core curriculum subjects.

To ensure schools provide an excellent careers programme, the government expects us to follow the Gatsby Benchmarks. This includes:

- ensuring that students and their parents/carers have access to and use and learn from local labour market information (LMI)
- that each student is supported on their careers journey and has access to impartial careers advice
- that all curriculum subjects make it clear how their subject relates to various careers
- that students have meaningful engagement with employers, employees, further & higher education establishments
- that students gain work experience before they leave school

To learn more about the Gatsby Benchmarks, please visit: <https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>

To comply with the Gatsby Benchmarks, we have devised a clear careers curriculum. Please see attached diagram.

In addition, we have launched a virtual careers class for each year group. This online classroom is on the Satchel One homework platform. Students will be able to access information about the local labour market, will be sent information about specific career paths, take part in online work experience opportunities, be able to take part in special certificates that train them up in vital work skills and be notified of college open days, application support and more.

Please check Satchel One regularly and encourage your child(ren) to complete the careers tasks - these can then be added to their CVs and college applications.

As part of the careers programme, it is important that students are given access to employers and have the opportunity to engage with them, discussing how to get into that career and the opportunities connected with it.

These events are done via assemblies, classes/tutor time and special workshops. We try to match the workshops to student interests, however, it is important that students gain a wide experience, and at times they will be invited to attend a workshop with an employer that they may think they are not interested in, but we do this to try and expand the student's awareness of the world of work and the variety of options available to them.

These events are not optional as we have a statutory duty to provide all students access to employers, therefore if a student purposefully chooses not to attend, this will be treated in the same way as missing a regular lesson.

The workshops and special events take place in our new **Careers Hub**. Here students will find information on post-16 options (college, apprenticeships and more), and can explore various careers. They can also ask for support and guidance when dealing with any issues in subject areas, when choosing GCSE options, during exams and when applying for college. Students are able to drop in and ask for support Monday-Wednesday lunchtimes and will be invited to attend careers appointments here too.

Central to our careers programme is the teaching of essential skills needed for the workplace. These essential skills will be encouraged through the use of the Skillsbuilder programme and online courses; tracker sheets for skills will be placed in planners by the end of term. Please do take a look and discuss this year's focus - listening.

To learn more visit: <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/parents-and-carers>

If you have any questions about our careers provision or your child(ren) would like support with life/educational choices, please do contact me via email: enquiries@aldworth.hants.sch.uk

So far, we are having a fantastic response to our new careers programme with hundreds of students taking part. I hope in time this will become second nature and students of all ages will come to understand the importance of careers education.

I look forward to working with all our students at Aldworth.

Yours sincerely

Ms P Barrowclough

Ms P Barrowclough
Head of Careers

Careers & Post 16 Guidance

Beyond School



A Levels
Apprenticeships
T Levels
NVQ / BTEC & other qualifications

Track Leavers

Exam Results Day support

Revision support

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Skills Builder
Year end challenge

College &
Apprenticeship
talks.

College
Visits

College applications & CV
Writing support

Apprenticeship
Application
Support

Skills Builder
Year end challenge

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World of Work: Explore careers,
write CVs, mock interviews &
college visit

Workshops for
you- bespoke
careers & soft
skill support.

College &
Apprenticeship
talks.

Re-start a heart
Life saving skills

College
Visits

Skills Builder-
Build it!
Tracker
Challenge 4
starts.

Aim Higher!
University
workshops.

Skills Builder
Year end challenge

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Skills Builder
Year end challenge

Skills Builder-
Build it! Tracker
Challenge 3
starts.

Get into!
STEM &
Engineering
Day & Air
League
Conference

Get into!
Apprenticeships

GCSE Options
support

Medical
Heroes-
Exploring
careers
In the Health
Service

Navy Team
Building Day

Money
Matters

Army Team
Building Day

Medical
Heroes-
Exploring
careers
In the Health
Service

Money
Matters

Get inspired!
Careers
Exploration Day

Get into!
STEM Air League
Conference

Skills Builder-
Build it! Tracker
Challenge 2 starts.

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Skills Builder
Year end challenge

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Welcome to the
Careers Hub

Year 7 Soft skills
Careers activity day

Skills Builder-
Build it! Tracker
Challenge starts.

Get into!
Explore unusual
Careers!

Aim Higher!
Reading University
workshops.

Investigate careers
Challenge.

- All:**
- PSHCE- Life Beyond School; Autumn term 1.
 - Careers Fair.
 - Online careers & soft skills quizzes.
 - Online virtual careers classes
 - Online special Events- Space week, National Green / careers weeks.