

THE KING'S SCHOOL



CAREERS PROGRAMME

King's seeks to equip our young people with the character and skills necessary to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. Careers guidance at King's aims to deliver this objective. We do this by preparing our students for further education, higher education, apprenticeships, the world of work and the possibilities available to leavers who might want to take a GAP year before embarking upon the next stage of their lives.

The Careers Department seeks to ensure that each student benefits from expert advice in Careers Education. Every student has access to Unifrog, our online careers platform, encounters with employers and employees, experiences in workplaces, encounters with further and higher education and personal guidance. Many of these objectives are similar to the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance.

The Careers Officer circulates a fortnightly Careers Bulletin to all parents and students highlighting forthcoming opportunities, for example, webinars on careers, employability skills, universities and work experience placements. The Careers page of the school website also provides a range of materials for parents and students to access as well as providing students with a link to a range of employers through the Learn Live Channel. Students and parents can view employer videos and the Live Chat function connects students directly to employers. Students also have access to job vacancies and labour market information through the Live Job function.

Students also receive the following guidance and programmes:

Year 7

Students are introduced to Unifrog, our online careers platform, when they join in September. Every student has their own account which they can access at any time, at school and at home, which they will keep throughout their time at King's. Parents also have access to Unifrog so that they can support their child. Form Tutor time sessions introduce students to career terminology, an awareness of different careers and an understanding of how certain careers match their personality. This is supported by the PSHE Programme where they look at career stereotypes.

Year 8

Confidence in using Unifrog is continued in Year 8 when students start to consider what they want from a career and identify different employability skills. They continue to investigate different careers.

Year 9

Students start to identify their employability skills/competencies and record them on Unifrog to support their university and employment applications. They also engage in activities to develop their employability skills, e.g. teamwork. Students are made aware of the implications of GCSE and A-level choices for future careers and are encouraged to use Unifrog when deciding which GCSE subjects to choose. Every student is able to meet with the Careers Officer to discuss their GCSE subject choices and possible post 16/post 18 career path. Students also take part in a World of Work and Study Day where they look at possible career paths for them and develop their employability skills like team building and enterprise. Students are invited to join lunchtime Speakers' Club sessions where external speakers talk about their career area.

Year 10

Students spend one week outside of school on a 'work experience' placement in June. They are encouraged to undertake placements where they can gain new experiences and enhance their transferable skills. All students have access to Unifrog that enables them to reflect upon and record their work experience placement and then access it for UCAS, employment and volunteering applications in later years.

Students also attend the Macclesfield Pledge Careers Fair which enables them to meet a range of employers. Work experience opportunities are available to students who particularly impress the employers.

Students continue to develop their employability skills, e.g. leadership, communication and to record their own examples on Unifrog for reference when applying to university or for jobs. Students are also taught the importance of the activities that they take part in in developing them as a person and record them on Unifrog for future reference.

Students are introduced to Apprenticeships as a possible post 16 and post 18 pathway. They understand what they are and how to search for opportunities. They are also offered Morrisby aptitude testing to help identify suitable career pathways for them. Students are invited to join lunchtime Speakers' Club sessions where external speakers talk about their career area. All students can request a careers interview.

Year 11

Students continue to develop their employability skills. One to one career interviews are offered to students to help choose their post 16 options. Guidance is also provided on Sixth Form option choices during the Sixth Form Open Evening in October. A range of expert staff,

including the Careers Officer, are in attendance to help students to make well informed, realistic decisions about their future in either further or higher education. Students are provided with access to resources, including Unifrog, and encouraged to research career options. Students are offered impartial careers advice that could include pursuing options outside of King's. The Careers Officer has made links with local further education providers and employers to support our students to make an informed choice. Advice and guidance is also available through the Form Tutor Programme. Students are offered Morrisby aptitude testing to help identify suitable career pathways for them and they are invited to join lunchtime Speakers' Club sessions where external speakers talk about their career area. Careers advice is also available on GCSE results day.

Year 12

The Careers Officer, with specialist knowledge of Sixth Form careers, is introduced to students during the Induction Morning in September. Students can see the Careers Officer as necessary throughout the year.

The Year 12 Higher Education programme begins in October with students using Unifrog to research their education and career pathways and to identify their competencies and activities needed to build a strong UCAS personal statement and evidence for interview. We host a 'Competitive and Overseas University Application' evening for both students and parents in February to give students an insight into applying for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, overseas universities and higher/degree apprenticeships.

All students attend a university exhibition (UCAS or UK University and Apprenticeship Fair) to investigate university options. Students who are making a competitive application (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science) are invited to join the Aspire Programme to support them through the application process. They are also allocated a supervising mentor to assist with this process and information is given about admissions tests. Visits from Oxbridge are arranged to inspire and encourage our most able students to apply for these institutions. All applicants attend the Oxbridge Student Conference in March and are invited to visit Pembroke College, Oxford for a day.

In May/June, all Y12 students visit a university campus and take an active part in the UCAS and Apprenticeship Day when external speakers from various UK universities lead workshops and presentations in school and students begin their UCAS applications. Form Tutors supervise this and students begin to plan and write their Personal Statements. Students are also updated on higher/degree apprenticeships and hear talks from current apprentices.

Students are offered Morrisby aptitude testing to help identify suitable career pathways for them. They are also invited to join lunchtime Speakers' Club sessions where external speakers talk about their career area.

Year 13

At the beginning of Year 13, the Careers Officer, Tutors, Form Tutors and the Principal of the Sixth Form are available to help students finalise their UCAS application. Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applicants have regular meetings to prepare them for admissions tests, interviews and the general application process. These students also have three external and internal practice interviews. All Year 13 students are aware that they can see the Careers Officer for support and guidance at any time throughout the year. The students are seen on an individual basis to discuss any ideas or problems they might have regarding GAP years, apprenticeships, work, university and UCAS. The Careers Officer also offers interview practice for students on request. Students are invited to join lunchtime Speakers' Club sessions where external speakers talk about their career area.

The Careers Officer runs an Apprenticeship programme to support students through the application process. The sessions are run in conjunction with Manchester Metropolitan University and the Macclesfield Pledge.

The Careers Officer, Principal of the Sixth Form, Head of Year 13 and Deputy Heads are all available on A Level results day to support candidates who need additional support on this day. The Careers Officer is also available to former students.

Throughout the Sixth Form there are talks and presentations from former pupils, employers, university and FE providers. Parents are encouraged to contact the Careers Officer at any time during their son or daughter's time at the school.

Mrs Caroline Foster

Careers and External Relations Officer