

CAREERS INFORMATION, GUIDANCE AND STATEMENT

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The aim of the Careers Programme at Bodmin College is to provide students with the information and opportunities they need to allow them to make informed decisions about their future learning or future career. Our students need to understand the range of opportunities available to them and acquire the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in the workplaces of the future, with an ever-changing local and national labour market.

The importance of careers education and guidance has never been greater due to significant and ongoing changes in education, training and employment. High quality careers provision can help a student to make an informed choice about their pathway.

Qualifications such as GCSE, A-level and BTEC have undergone significant changes in recent years and students need help to make choices and manage transitions. Proposed reforms to technical qualifications (T Levels) under the 'Skills for Jobs' white paper (Jan 2021) requires students to have access to careers guidance which enables them to make informed choices regarding academic and technical options.

Apprenticeships are now available in a much wider range of jobs and professions and are increasingly available above the traditional Level 2. Level 6 apprenticeships, which are equivalent to undergraduate level are now available. Higher education opportunities increasingly extend beyond the UK. Students need help to make choices and manage transitions in a rapidly changing world.

Bodmin College aims to achieve all eight Gatsby Benchmarks:

1. A stable careers plan
2. Learning from careers and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

The school evaluates its careers provision using the Gatsby Benchmarks and draws up an improvement plan to address the identified areas for development.

The 2017 Careers Strategy has set schools a target of seven encounters with employers or employees for all students. Bodmin is committed to providing students with high quality encounters through a range of activities, including; a Careers Fair during each academic year; business volunteers taking assemblies and being involved in lessons; business visits and competitions.

Bodmin is a member of the Enterprise Adviser Network and its Adviser provides strategic and delivery support to the Careers Leader and the Senior Leadership Team.

COMMITMENT

Governors and staff are committed to providing a planned programme of Careers and Employability activities for all students in the school, working in partnership with our wider school community and an extensive range of local business contacts. The programme promotes equality of opportunity and no student will be disadvantaged in gaining access to education, training or work.

When students leave Bodmin College, they will have received the appropriate and relevant information to enable them to progress to an opportunity in further or higher education, training or employment.

MANAGEMENT

Joanna Jenkin is the Assistant Principal who manages and supports Melanie Thomas, the Careers Leader at Bodmin. Ms Thomas manages the Careers Education Information and Guidance programme, overseeing programme delivery and liaising with external providers.

Ms Thomas advises senior managers and governors, facilitates the contribution of colleagues and partners, develops the careers programme, organises resources and secures high standards of careers teaching, learning and guidance.

RESOURCES

Students have access to a wide range of resources. A dedicated Careers Information area in the library provides a comprehensive and up-to-date selection of books, magazines, college and university prospectuses. Students also have access to a number of online careers resources via the school's website, including Careerpivot and Unifrog.

Support is available for individuals with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. A Careers South West Adviser supports students with an Educational Health and Care Plan. The College works closely with a wide range of organisations to complement our provision.

GUIDANCE

All guidance aims to be impartial, confidential, responsive to students' needs and based on the principle of equality. Under the Baker Clause, the college fulfils its statutory responsibility in ensuring that no bias towards any particular academic or technical route, or educational institution is promoted.

A key principle of careers provision at Bodmin College is that all subject areas contribute to careers education, helping students grasp how subject skills and knowledge are relevant to particular careers. Subject teachers look for opportunities to invite employers and employees into their lessons. Staff respond to any careers-related queries that they may receive from students and know how to obtain more specialist advice when it is required.

TRAINING

Staff training needs are identified and training is offered to all relevant staff as opportunities arise.

The Careers Leader attends conferences, careers fairs and seminars on a regular basis, to ensure their continuing professional development.

MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION

The Careers and Employability programme activities are monitored, evaluated (with active involvement of students) and reviewed by the Careers Leader in line with the College Monitoring Calendar.