

Careers Statement

Careers team

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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 .

The importance of careers education and guidance has never been greater. 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. Apprenticeships linked to a much wider range of jobs and professions are now being offered 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.

Our programme is based on the Gatsby benchmarks. These originated in a 2013 research report, Good Career Guidance, from the Gatsby Foundation which studied international evidence for 'what works' in career development. The report found 8 benchmarks of best practice, which are now more commonly known as 'The Gatsby Benchmarks.' They are:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career 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

Governors and staff are committed to providing a planned Careers programme for all students throughout their five or seven years at Bodmin. The programme promotes equality of opportunity and all students are supported to gain access to education, training or employment.

A key element of the programme is to provide students with the opportunity to meet and communicate with employers, employees, further education, higher education and training providers. The school has well developed links with a range of local businesses and organisations.

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

Bodmin's Careers Programme consists of a range of activities that help students make choices that are right for them and will help them manage their future careers. Starting in Year 7, students are encouraged to use self-assessment to identify their strengths and areas of interest. They will be helped to review their achievements, plan their future actions, make decisions, present themselves and cope with change and transition. All students will be encouraged to make good use of the information and impartial guidance available in the school. They will learn about the changing nature of work, career choices and other relevant information which will affect their decisions.

The 2017 Careers Strategy has set schools a target of seven encounters with employers or employees for all students, by the end of March 2020. 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.

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, and is open to all students at all times. Our Employability Hub is also open for students to browse information or to ask for help. Students have access to a number of online careers resources via the school's website.

Support is available for individuals with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. A Careers SouthWest Adviser supports students with an Educational Health and Care Plan. The college is working closely with a wide range of organisations, including: the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Enterprise Adviser Network, the Cornwall Education and Business Partnership, Careers South West, Next Steps, Software Cornwall, Duchy College, Exeter University and Plymouth University to provide a comprehensive careers programme.

Guidance

All guidance aims to be impartial, confidential, responsive to students' needs and based on the principle of equality.

A key principle of careers provision at Bodmin 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.

Careers Programme

Year 7

- Finding out about the careers resources available to me through National Careers Service presentations and assemblies.
- Identifying my strengths and interests during tutor time sessions.
- Exploring the 'World of Work' in careers lessons delivered in tutor time.
- Meeting business people in assemblies and in curriculum time.
- Using the drop-in lunchtime sessions if I need guidance with my career ideas.
- Finding out about STEM careers I may not know about yet through a STEM activity day supported by business people.

Year 8

- Learning more about my strengths and interests.
- Using the careers resources in more detail to explore career areas.
- Matching my interest areas to suitable careers.
- Meeting business people through aspirational careers event and assemblies.
- Attending special assemblies and parents' meetings to help me to choose the option subjects I will do best at.
- Ensuring that the GCSE option subjects I choose will keep my options open later on when I leave school and choose a career route.
- Options discussions and Choices Evening.
- Using the drop-in lunchtime sessions if I need guidance with my career ideas.

Year 9

- Learning about the different routes I can take when I leave school.
- Finding out about when I will need to make decisions about my future options through assembly and careers lessons at tutor time.
- Having the opportunity to attend a careers fair to chat to business people, colleges and universities about the options available to me in the future.
- Meeting business people in assemblies and during curriculum time.
- Using the careers resources available to help me with my choices.
- Understanding the importance of developing my employability skills.
- Exploring careers resources through a Career pilot workshop.
- Opportunity to explore different professions through online mentoring with a business mentor.

- Opportunity to participate in Exeter University Accessing HE programme offering ambassador mentoring to students. (Years 9 – 11).

Year 10

- Guidance and support in developing skills to gain work through a day investigating application forms and interview skills.
- Learning more about the working environment, employment opportunities and to learn about the local labour market.
- Attending Careers and Apprenticeship Fairs to explore professions and the options available in the future.
- Opportunities to develop my entrepreneurial skills through a two day Business Enterprise event supported by business people.
- Exploring a number of different routes including apprenticeships, further and higher education
- Finding out about STEM careers I may not know about yet.
- Meeting business people in lesson time.
- Using the careers resources available to help me with my choices.
- Exploring the issues around going to university through the 'Why Would You' theatre production.
- Taking part in Further Education taster days.
- The opportunity for E-me online mentoring by university students.
- Opportunity to attend University Summer Schools.

Year 11

- Further exploring a number of different routes including apprenticeships, further and higher education.
- Attending Careers and Apprenticeship Fairs to explore professions and the options available in the future.
- Producing a Curriculum Vitae to use when I am applying for jobs and courses.
- Careers interviews.
- Sixth Form interviews with Sixth Form staff.
- Learning about good interview technique and appropriate preparation with my tutor.
- Attend open days at local colleges and FE providers.
- Using the careers resources available to help me with my choices

Sixth Form

- Working closely with my tutor to help me to make an informed choice for my 'next step'.
- Attending an HE (higher education) convention to speak to university representatives first-hand and find out about the courses they can offer me.

- Attending an apprenticeship presentation.
- Mock interviews with employers and university representatives.
- Understanding how to make a university application on UCAS.
- Developing my personal statement.
- Finding out about alternative routes to university and how to apply to these
- Recognising how to make a good application.
- Understanding student finance through.
- Hearing about the labour market – trends and jobs for the future.
- Having a work placement in certain subjects.
- Attending open days and interviews in Year 13.
- Using the careers resources available to help me with my choices.
- Meeting business people in assemblies.
- The opportunity for mentoring for certain Career sectors through the William Clift Academy Accessing Professions.
- Opportunity to attend University Summer Schools

Measuring Impact

Bodmin College will assess the impact of its careers programmes on students by completing an annual student survey and analysing destinations data in line with activities that they have taken part in at school. In addition, the views of students and parents will be surveyed after key events.

FE/Training Provider Access

Bodmin College believes in giving FE, HE and training providers the opportunity to talk to pupils at the school. Please use the following link to see our 'Provider Access Policy' .

Useful Websites

National Careers Service – a comprehensive careers website with job profiles, outlining: the skills required, main tasks, pay levels and career prospects for hundreds of different jobs. This website also includes guidance on the different stages involved in getting a job. There are Careers Advisors available through this website to answer questions by phone, webchat or messaging.

Get in Go Far – a website for anyone wanting to know more about apprenticeships. The website has a search facility for job specific apprenticeships in a particular area.

Career Pilot – lots of useful information to help young people make careers related decisions at 14, 16 and 18.

LMI In a Box – comprehensive information on the jobs market in the south-west. Contains information on the main employment sectors, including the number of people working in that sector and whether the number is projected to increase or fall. In addition, information on job salaries, relevant subject areas, top employers and types of apprenticeships.

Icould – helpful videos about a wide range of job roles.

UCAS – a very helpful website for students thinking of applying to higher education. Also contains valuable information on different options, including apprenticeships.

Unifrog - a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next step after school. We register students on this site in years 11,12 and 13.

Your Life app - Informs and inspires young people by giving them the opportunity to discover hundreds of varied career options.