



11th February 2025

Oriel High School Careers- National Apprenticeship Week

Dear parents/carers,

It is National Apprenticeship week, and to mark this occasion, last week's community assemblies were all about apprenticeships, what they have to offer, and even highlighted some of the local opportunities available. Apprenticeships have changed massively since we were at school. The opportunities are incredible and there are apprenticeships at every level of education, and in almost every type of career you can think of. I have attached my assembly should you wish to learn a little more. It has a nice video explanation and details of where to look for apprenticeships. It also explains the differing levels of apprenticeship all the way up to L7 which is the same level as a masters or postgrad study.

It used to be that you needed to go to university to become a lawyer, architect or doctor, but now all these professions are accessible through the apprenticeship pathway. With fees for university currently running at £9250 and set to rise further, degree apprenticeships offer the students a chance to gain a degree, earn a great salary, gain invaluable experience and have no debt once they have completed the degree. Whilst these are competitive to secure and require good grades at A-Level, they are possible in a vast array of subjects, from business to construction and should be considered.

All our students have access to Unifrog and this has the function of being able to search through apprenticeships and short list them for easy comparison. There are other web sites students can use to look for them, including the company web pages. Year 13s should be looking and applying now for September starts. You can find more information on our school web page, in the careers section.

Year 12s

A third of year 12 students have a work experience placement updated on Unifrog. Please continue to encourage your student to secure one. The experience they gain could be the difference between securing an apprenticeship or not, with many students being offered them after completing a successful work experience.

All year 12s have just arrived back from the National Apprenticeship show. There were lots of opportunities to find out about different industries and apprenticeship opportunities. I am always staggered at just how lucky the youth are today with the wealth of options available to them, many with outstanding salaries for someone straight out of school. For example, the Lidl Degree Apprenticeship scheme to train new store managers starts at an incredible £26,000 and rises to £30,000 after 6 months. A store manager after 4 years training is on approximately £42,000 and an area manager up to £80,000, with no university debt!

Yr 11s

Year 11s have been invited to join us on a trip to the Gatwick Apprenticeship Fair on 12th February. There will be companies from across the airport, including engineering and construction. Students will be taken by minibus and return by lunch time. It will be a good chance to network with one of the largest local employers.

Owen Svoboda

Director of Learning, Careers Leader



**ORIEL
HIGH
SCHOOL**

GATSBY BENCHMARKS

What are they?



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, parents, teachers and employers.	Every pupil, and their parents, should have access to good quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities. They will need the support of an informed advisor to make best use of available information.	Pupils have different career guidance needs at different stages. Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each pupil. A school's careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.	All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. For example, STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide-range of future career paths.	Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.	Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing, and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks.	All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges and in the workplace.	Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance. Interviews with a career adviser, who could be internal or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made. They should be expected for all pupils but should be timed to meet their individual needs.