



30th April 2025

Oriel High School Careers

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the summer term which will be over before we know it! Work continues in the careers department to secure meaningful encounters with the workplace, and ways in which we can improve student employability skills. We will be taking students out to the Bluebell Railway in June for a careers inspired day of workshops and talks, and of course a chance to ride in their historic carriages. There will be two trips with one specifically aimed at students with SEND.

Planning for next year is also underway for more STEM centre visits for year 8s; a trip for students interested in public service where we will go to Gatwick Firestation; Engineering trips to Gatwick to see how the 2nd largest UK airport is maintained. More information to follow in due course.

Speed careers Event 24th April 2025

Year 7s and 9s

Year 7 and 9 enjoyed the Speed Careers Event last week, and we were lucky to have approximately 50 volunteers from local business join us for the morning to help our students. Students enjoyed learning about different pathways like apprenticeships and university. They learnt about important subjects in industry and about different roles and companies in the local area and as such should know more about potential careers. Year 7s had to visit as many volunteers as possible, whilst year 9s had to develop their communication and questioning skills to be able to engage with the volunteer and guess their company and job. Please do ask your student about the day.

Year 9s

In June, Year 9s will be taking part in preparing for success days, during which they will be given lessons on presenting and public speaking. A daunting task for many I am sure you will agree, but an important skill to develop for the workplace. The culmination of this event is a one minute 'Elevator Pitch' to local business representatives. The elevator pitch is based upon the idea that you meet the CEO of your company in the lift and have one minute to take that chance and impress them enough to remember you. Students are often apprehensive before the event, but after they have completed it, they leave with their heads held high and a newfound confidence that they would do well in any future scenario.

Year 10s

We are less than a month away from the deadline for work experience details to be uploaded to Unifrog. So far, we have 99 placements registered which is fantastic, but far short of the whole year group. If you haven't registered your placement or secured one, please do make this a priority, as we cannot guarantee that a placement registered after the deadline will be approved in time, with all the relevant documentation being received.

If your student is struggling to log into Unifrog, please reset the password. Enter their school email address on the reset and a new one will be sent to their school mail inbox. If you are struggling to find a placement, do speak with Mr Thornton because we have several companies who are willing to take people on work experience.

Failing to secure a placement will result in your child needing to be in school for those 3 allotted days, completing other learning related to careers and pathways.

Year 10 and 12

Mock interviews will take place on the 7th and 8th July for years 10 and 12. This is one of our biggest and most worthwhile events. For this to happen requires lots of volunteers from local businesses, so if you feel you could help, please do get in contact. Over the two days the aim is that each student will receive a 20-25 minute 'real world' job interview. They will then receive feedback immediately afterwards. Students will be sent a list of companies and job adverts/descriptions before the event, to be able to choose any which they have a particular interest in and begin preparing and rehearsing their answers. Any student who doesn't choose an employer with us will be assigned a company. I am sure you will all support us and your student in helping them to prepare and understanding how lucky they are to receive this type of opportunity.

Year 11s

All year 11s should by now have a secure destination post 16. We took the last group of uncertain students out to visit colleges last week, to aid them in making their decisions. Students can have more than one application and offer, even for the same college/sixth form and this is what we recommend. Ideally students near to missing the entry requirements for their preferred pathway should also have an insurance offer, should GCSE results not go their way. Students can apply even on results day for colleges, but we hope to avoid any uncertainty or rash decisions when opening those results, by being prepared now, and not potentially missing out on courses that are full at that time. There is still time to visit colleges should you still be unsure.

Year 12s

Far from things slowing down, year 12s should now begin to consider their future plans. With many interested in the university pathway, students should begin actively searching for universities and courses, if they haven't done so already. Students should use Unifrog to develop 3 lists; aspirational universities and courses, secure ones and insurance ones based upon predicted grades. Students and parents should also now begin to consider making/ spreading out those expensive trips to open days. It is vitally important students visit prospective choices, especially given the cost of going to university these days. Students will be receiving advice and guidance in tutor time, particularly surrounding the writing of their personal statement, which for 2026 entry has been slightly adapted. These statements will need to be concluded by end of the summer. Even if a student is intending on not going to university, it is best to actively engage in this process, as every year we have students who change their mind at the last second.

Enjoy the sunshine and let's hope it lasts over the bank holiday!

Owen Svoboda
Director of Learning, Careers Leader

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 tailored to meet their individual needs.