



21st January 2026

Oriel High School Careers

Dear parents/carers,

I hope the start of the new year and term has gone smoothly for all, and everyone is settling back into routines. Here is the latest update of the careers news and upcoming events. Please do take the time to have a look and highlight pertinent events for your students.

Dare to Dream

The Dare to Dream programme has concluded for this academic year with all of the assemblies and workshops for year 9 completed just before Christmas. This year also saw an introduction to the programme for all of year 8s, with a year group assembly at the start of term delivered by Adam Virgo, ex Brighton and Hove Albion Captain. The assembly engaged students about their aspirations and striving for their dream careers. We hope to continue the partnership in September 2026.

Year 8s Gatwick trips

The Stem visits re-commenced last week with two classes joining the team at Gatwick, learning about sustainability in and around the airport. Trips will continue into march, with the final date confirmed now. Students should register as normal with their mentor and be in full school uniform. Students are to head to reception and the corridor leading to the main hall to meet with me at 8:30, ready for departure at 08:35. They will need a snack/drink and will return to school by the start of p4.

Date	Class
11 th February	8c/Ma1
16 th March	8c/Ma2
18 th March	8c/Ma3

National Apprenticeship Week 9th-13th February

With the ever-increasing costs associated with going to university and the expansion of the apprenticeship programme, many people are looking at apprenticeships as a viable alternative to going to university where they will get on the job training, a salary and further higher level/professional qualifications. Although highly competitive to secure, they offer students a fantastic opportunity to begin their work lives. During apprenticeship week, we will be running events for students to highlight this pathway. There are other events taking place during the week and you can look out for these on the opportunities letter sent out regularly by the careers team.

Year 12 Trip to the National Apprenticeship Show- Sandown Racecourse 10th February

All year 12s will be taken out of school to visit the event. Once there, they will have the opportunity to learn about apprenticeship opportunities being offered from lots of local and national companies. Please ensure your child makes the most of this event by engaging with as many different stands as possible. Too often students will not make the most of a trip like this by not speaking with companies because they either don't

know what they do, or they don't want to work in that industry. Students need to be reminded that companies, especially large ones, offer opportunities in lots of different departments. A finance company may have the accountancy apprenticeships, but they also have managerial ones, IT ones, HR ones, marketing and social media ones and potentially legal ones. Students need to have the conversations to find out this information, not just dismiss the company out of hand. Please remind students to register and gain their ticket.

BDO Year 11 workshops 11th February

The business team are arranging some work shops where the 5th largest finance company in the world will be coming into school to work with selected students from year 11 for the day on team tasks and activities. BDO have local offices and regularly look for apprentices, so this will be a great opportunity for students to get an inside view of life working for the company.

Gatwick Apprenticeship Fair 10th February

Gatwick will be holding an apprenticeship fair on 10th February from 10 am -12 pm and will give students the chance to meet employers offering apprenticeships in aviation, construction engineering, hospitality, retail and more. Students could get tips and insights from apprenticeship and industry experts.

Unfortunately, I am taking the year 12s to Sandown, but I have enlisted the support of some other teachers to run the trip in my stead. Should you like your child to attend, please email me with their names/mentor, or ask them to come and sign up at the careers office. It will be a first come first served basis, with priority being given to year 11s.

Year 12s

Year 12s should be in the process of finding work experience for March. They have a week assigned to completing a work experience (16th-20th) whereby they should be ideally gaining experience in something relating to their potential future pathways. They have had assemblies and tutor time on this subject. It would be worth reminding students who have no idea about their future pathway yet, that any experience is good, and can teach them core soft skills so desired by employers; it can also give them a great reference opportunity for when they need one applying for their first full time job in the future.

Creative Trip to Chichester

The Performing Arts department are taking a trip of KS4 students to Chichester to explore careers in the creative world on 3rd February. On the day they will have a chance to hear from industry professionals, colleges and universities about the range of opportunities in this sector. If you have any queries about this trip, please contact Mr Thurley.

Owen Svoboda
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