

Dear Parents,

I wrote to you earlier this year with regard to the arrangements for Careers appointments for all 5th Year students and thought it might be helpful to update you on this, and on some additional events which have been organised within the school year, to help your son or daughter to make well informed and realistic career and study decisions.

Many students have now had their one to one guidance interviews with the professional Careers Adviser, Mrs Ann O'Connell from the Shine Careers Service, with a small number yet to meet with her in the Spring term. All students in the 5th Year have also researched courses and career options over a number of weeks within tutorial time and learned how to use labour market information in order to enhance their career planning skills and awareness of anticipated demand for future areas of employment. We have used two software packages, New Kudos and Eclips, both of which can be accessed through the Careers Information page on the school website, either in school or at home: <http://www.ripogrammar.co.uk/academic/careers>

All students have a personal user name and password for New Kudos, whilst the generic school login for Eclips is HG4 2DG. It is hoped that students will feel encouraged to undertake individual and continuing preparation and planning, to help to ensure that they are making informed choices in respect of subject choices, and realistic plans of action relating to their career ideas. It is worth noting that the value and quality of information derived from 'My Assessment', the career and skills-matching online questionnaires within New Kudos, is substantially enhanced through students indicating likes and dislikes rather than "does not matter" answers, which preclude the software from identifying the specific suitability of different career choices.

The A Level Fair on 8th December provided an opportunity for students to meet with students from the Sixth Form and to hear from them about what is involved in studying the many subjects on offer at A Level, including several which would be entirely new to them.

On 31st January 2018, 5th Year students will participate in an Exploring Pathways afternoon, which is a new event aiming to broaden students' knowledge of different routes into employment including Apprenticeships at all entry points up to and including Degree Level, Further Education and Higher Education. Students will visit a carousel of five activities, including a 'mini careers fair', through which they will be able to investigate a variety of job roles and meet with employers to explore progression routes.

The Careers and HE Evening will take place in school on Wednesday 14th March 2018, from 6:30 to 8:30pm, with Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Sport as the themes for this year. However many universities and colleges will be attending, as will a number of public sector employers, who will be able to discuss study and employment routes across a broader range of areas. I do hope that you will be able to join us for the event which gives students and parents the opportunity to explore a wide range of career pathways with the participating employers and organisations.

A Student World Roadshow will be visiting school on the morning of 20th March, when students will be invited to come along to meet with representatives of a number of universities from around the world and to find out more about the options for study abroad and what this would involve.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes,

Jill Locke
Head of Careers