



28 September 2020

Dear Parents,

Careers Programme 2020-21

At Ripon Grammar School we recognise that an effective careers programme can help prepare young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that lie ahead. The Careers team comprises Mr Walker and myself, offering advice and guidance, education, work experience, events and enterprise activities across the school and we are pleased to be once more back into school and able to provide all of these services for our students once again. In addition, Year 11 students will also benefit from individual careers appointments during the Autumn and early Spring terms, with an external and impartial Careers Adviser, Ann Ritchie, though this is likely to be provided through virtual appointments.

The careers education programme is delivered within school across all year groups, through PSHCE, Tutor Groups, Enrichment and off-timetable events according to year groups, and a summary of activities is available on the website and within student planners. Students can arrange guidance appointments by email to lockej@ripongrammar.com or by dropping into the Careers Room, either to organise a specific time or just to chat informally and to use the available resources.

The next **Careers and Higher Education Evening** will be held on **Wednesday 3rd March, in a new virtual format!** This is an annual themed event, with the aim of affording an insight for students into a greater breadth of career areas. **In 2021, the focus will be on Business, Law, Languages, the Arts, Finance and Creative careers.** The purpose of the event is to raise our students' awareness of the wide range of career and educational opportunities that lie ahead of them and to provide inspiration and ideas about ways which enable them to stand out from the crowd in future university or employment applications. University and college advisers will additionally be able to answer questions about study of subjects outside of these areas, and gap year and study abroad representatives will also be happy to help with these specialist areas.

A virtual **Study Abroad presentation** is being hosted by Student World, in place of their usual Roadshow visit to Ripon Grammar School, on **Wednesday 7th October between 4 – 8pm**, when students and parents will be able to learn about the opportunities for study outside of the UK from a very wide range of universities across the world. The link for this is as follows:

<https://fairs.thestudentworld.com/ukstudents>

There are also a number of opportunities for business representatives to work with specific year groups, and these are expected to be provided virtually on this occasion. Later in the year our Lower Sixth students will be given the chance of a virtual **practice interview** in order to increase their confidence and to develop the skills needed in relation to gaining work experience during the forthcoming year. **Medical mini interviews** will additionally be offered in a virtual format, on **Wednesday 18th November**, for students interested in a career within the healthcare professions. A **Higher Education Evening** will be held in **April 2021**, for both parents and Lower Sixth students to hear about the process and financial implications of applying to universities and colleges. The firm date and format for this will be advised nearer to the time.

Year 10 students will be taking part in a work experience week commencing on Monday 24th May 2021. This is an excellent opportunity for students to experience the world of work, gain and improve their soft skills and to think about their future progression. Mr Walker will be guiding them through the application process and all students will have access to NYBEP's work experience database to search for suitable placements. If, as an employer, you might be able to offer one or more of our students a work placement please contact Mr Walker at school. Currently there is no commitment by Harrogate Hospital to take on work experience. However, this situation is under constant review by the hospital for Year 10 and Lower Sixth students.

Lower Sixth students will also be taking part in a work experience placement commencing on 12th July 2021. By this stage, students have a clearer picture as to which career path they wish to follow and therefore these placements are carefully matched with their career aspiration and progression. Again, students will be guided through the application process by Mr Walker and will have access to the NYBEP work experience database. In addition to this opportunity, there are a number of virtual experiences and placements available, which will be emailed to students as and when they become available

In addition to work experience, there are a whole host of exciting and challenging work-related opportunities throughout the year. Students across Years 7 to 11 and Lower Sixth will take part in annual enterprise events and workshops organised in conjunction with NYBEP.

Lower Sixth students can take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. This is an excellent and very demanding opportunity for Economics and Business Studies students to run their own business. The school has been very successful, winning local and regional competitions over several years. Students interested in participating in this activity must be fully committed for the whole year.

Students in the Lower Sixth who are interested in Law can take part in the Bar Mock Trial. Together with other students in the region, students will take part in a virtual mock trial in November and a barrister will advise them virtually to guide them through the legal process. The school has been very successful in this competition in previous years.

If any Lower Sixth students are considering accountancy as a future career, the school will be taking part in this year's ICEAW Accountancy Challenge. In previous year students have gone on to the UK final in Birmingham.

These are just a sample of the work related opportunities available already to our students. We are always actively seeking to develop further links with employers and representatives from businesses and other organisations and as and when they arise we will inform students. If you feel that you, or your organisation, would be able to contribute to our careers, work experience and enterprise programme, please complete the attached pro-forma or e-mail lockej@ripongrammar.com or walkerb@ripongrammar.com. Further information about our careers programme and links to useful careers and higher education related websites can be found on the careers pages of the school website.

Yours sincerely,

J. Locke



Jill Locke, Head of Careers and Bob Walker, Enterprise, Work Experience and Events Coordinator

Please tick as appropriate and return to Mrs Jill Locke/Mr Bob Walker, Careers Department

(For those parents who have offered to help previously, there is no need to complete, unless details below or offer of help has changed or is affected by the requirement for activities to be provided virtually).

- My organisation may wish to participate in future virtual careers evenings
- I, or a colleague may be able to help with virtual practice interviews or virtual medical mini interviews (please delete as appropriate)
- I would be willing to give a virtual presentation / informal talk to Careers Club / run a workshop relating to my field of employment (please delete as appropriate)
- I would be willing to offer employer engagement activities within curricular areas (please specify subject area/s)
- My organisation may be able to offer a virtual work experience placement to a suitable student
- Other (please give details)

Name.....

Parent of..... Form

Organisation.....

Job Role.....

Contact Details (please include email and telephone number)

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