



12th October, 2021

Dear Parents,

Careers Programme 2021-22

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 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, Louise Howard.

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.

Following the success of the new virtual format for the Careers and HE Evening last year, we have decided to once again utilise a virtual format for some of our events this year. We have however decided to offer two events instead of the usual combined evening, and have organised a **Virtual Higher Education Evening on Tuesday 8th March 2022**, when universities and colleges from across the UK and abroad will be present online and able to offer careers information and guidance. Details of this will be sent out to all parents nearer to the time.

A further **Careers Evening will be held in school on 6th April 2022**, when employers from a diverse range of industries and services will be able to chat with you and your children about possible careers in which they may be interested. Once again, details will be available at a later date.

The purpose of these events 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.

There are also a number of opportunities for business representatives to work with specific year groups, some of which will be provided in-person and others virtually. In the Autumn term, 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 10th November**, for students interested in a career within the healthcare professions. A **Higher Education Evening** will be held in school on **28th April 2022**, for both parents and Lower Sixth students to hear about the process and financial implications of applying to universities and colleges.

Year 10 students will be taking part in a **work experience week** commencing on **Monday 23rd May 2022**. 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.

Lower Sixth students will also be taking part in a **work experience** placement commencing on **11th July 2022**. 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 and Year 11 and 12 students interested in learning more about alternative pathways will be attending a **UK University and Apprenticeship Fair in October 2021**. Students have also been invited to participate in a further opportunity to learn more about apprenticeship routes, through individually registering for a **virtual National Apprenticeship Show, on 17th October from 11am to 6pm**.

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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