

21st January, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parental Update 82: Careers Week Special**

Welcome to another *Parental Update*; I trust this week's edition finds you and your family in good health and spirits.

If your son is in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11, I hope they've told you all about Careers Week! Mrs Torpey and her team have put on an amazing week of activities for our students, and you can read about what each year-group have been doing in a Special Careers Supplement (*ie*, pages 3 and 4). If your son hasn't talked to you about it, please ask them!

In my own Assemblies with Year 10 and Year 11 students today, I've followed this up by talking about the importance of *planning*. Planning has been quite a theme in our school over the last few weeks as we've responded to our Ofsted report by revising our Academy Improvement Plan (more on this in *Parental Update* 84 by which time – I trust – the Plan will have received our Governors' formal approval). If your son has been inspired by who he's met this week, or by what he's found out this week, please do plan with him how you can take that interest forward. You could:

- research how to get into a particular area of work
- find out about apprenticeships or degree courses that might lead into a particular field
- contact a company or organisation to find out more, maybe even ask about visiting in half-term
- contact Mrs Torpey (through [this link](#)) if you want any support, contacts, or further ideas...

Deep thanks to Mrs Torpey, her team and all who have been involved in putting on such a great week of activities for our students.

### Covid vaccinations

Our colleagues at the School-based Immunisation Service have asked us to pass this message on to you:

*“All 12 to 15 year olds are now eligible for their COVID-19 vaccination*

*“Vaccinating your child can help to reduce the need to have time off school and avoid disruption to their education whilst also reducing the spread of COVID-19 within schools*

*“During this second phase the immunisation team will be delivering COVID-19 dose 1 or dose 2 vaccines in school. Doses will be dependent on consent being received and will be 12 weeks after dose 1, a positive Covid test or Covid illness.*

*“We kindly request you complete your child's form following [this link](#) even if you don't want your child vaccinating before Sunday 30.01.22 to help support campaign planning.”*

For the avoidance of doubt, we are simply providing the team with a room where they can vaccinated consented students – we are not involved in the vaccinations ourselves; and **no-one will be vaccinated unless a parent has consented that this may happen.**

### Face-masks

The Government announced earlier this week that face-masks no longer need to be worn in classrooms. However, **please still send your son or daughter into school with a face covering** (unless they are exempt) as face-masks are still compulsory in 'communal areas' around school (essentially, every area except the classrooms).

## For Year 11 parents: Revise Till Five

After a successful first week, we're in a position to be able to confirm our 'early bird' 8:30am revision sessions for next week:

Day	Venue	Subject	Topic
Monday	Room 16	Maths	Area and perimeter of sectors
Tuesday	Room 16	Computer Science	Data - Binary, conversion to decimal, two's complement (negative numbers)
Wednesday	Room 16	Science	Chemical Bonding
Thursday	Room 16	English	Poetry (focussing explicitly on the upcoming Mock)
Friday	Room 16	History	Creation of a Dictatorship: mind mapping and exam technique (interpretation question)

Mr Slater writes:

*"If you would like to register your Year 11 child for any of these morning sessions (or the afternoon Revise Till Five sessions if you have not yet done so) please visit [this link](#). This is the same system as you have previously used to book appointments for Parents' Evenings and Lateral Flow Testing and works in a very similar way. Login with the following information:*

- *your details: Your title, your first name, your surname and your email address.*
- *your child's details: Their first name, their surname and their date of birth.*

*If you have any questions please email Mr Slater at [through this e-mail address](#)".*

## Admissions Policy: consultation

We're currently consulting on our Admissions Policy for the 2023 intake – *ie* for the cohort currently in Year 5. The proposed Policy is essentially unchanged from previous years, although there are some variations to reflect the fact that not all churches have been able to open during the pandemic (thus affecting the period during which we can ask about applicants' church attendance). More details can be found [here](#); the consultation closes on 31st January.


## Dr Silverstone writes:

*"YPAS, the Young Person's Advisory Service, is a charity focused on Mental Health and Wellbeing of young people in Liverpool. They have recently received funding to offer Mental Health Drop-in services where families and young people can walk into any of their 3 hubs located across the city. Details of what they offer are on their website [here](#). While times and dates are on the website, YPAS are currently advising children and families to telephone them ahead of time to double check, given current staffing limitations."*

## Finally

We'll be in touch again in a fortnight's time (Friday 4th February). In the meantime, please accept our best wishes for a peaceful (if chilly) weekend!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.

# Careers Week

Each year-group has had different activities, helping them to think about the world of work.

**Year 7** have spent some time looking at marketing. “*What’s my brand?*”, a workshop organised by the Elevate Education-Business Partnership, focussed on the role of marketing in the workplace, and applied that to how we market ourselves when we’re applying for jobs. I know a number of our Year 7 students particularly appreciated a visit from Liverpool Football Club’s marketing team, who helped them develop their ideas.



This year the careers programme for **Year 8** has concentrated on helping students identify their skills and strengths, and recognise the areas they need to develop to make them even better-rounded individuals. They’ve also learned about Creative Careers and the Visitor Economy – two vital employment sectors in our city.



On Tuesday, Year 8 spent some time looking at how our dreams and expectations compare with reality – and why money can often be a reason why the two don’t match up! Led by a team from Young Enterprise, they thought about the inescapable necessities of life, and how they need to be taken into account in a budgeting process. The Young Enterprise team was very impressed with year-group and their willingness to join in all the activities.



**Year 9’s** Careers programme to date has focussed on local labour market information (eg which particular sectors of the economy are particularly successful in our city), and stereotypes in the workplace. To help with the latter focus, Elevate Education-Business Partnership arranged for a selection of male businessmen to talk to the year-group about their ‘non-stereotypical’ roles at work. Year 9 have also learned about the 300+ careers available in the NHS (did you know there are over 300?) and about the different levels of apprenticeship that are available.



This week a carousel of employers, hosted by Elevate EBP, came to talk to them about their careers and how they got to their current role. We were joined by employees from Lidl, Amey, Regenda and Cadent to name but a few. Students were able to listen to their story and ask wide-ranging questions about what their working lives are like.

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The focus for **Year 10** students was ‘employability skills’. Over the course of several hours they were introduced to the art of writing a good CV, and of answering interview questions effectively.

With work experience week not so far in the distant future, their careers guidance this year has been devoted to the local job market and the workplace for young people aged 16+ – as well as ongoing work reflecting on their skills, their

strengths, and how they mark them. Guest speakers have introduced them to the career options within the Royal Navy, for example; one spoke on the topic ‘Do what you love, love what you do’ – great advice for all of us!



With the imminence of significant choices in the summer, Year 11 have been actively engaged in a number of events. Before Christmas, an Army Elite Team came into school to work with the boys on their team-building skills; as usual, the students were a credit to St Margaret’s, showing how well they were able to work together and get the best outcome. We hope it gave them an insight into how essential these transferable skills are in the outside world.



This week, they spent their time looking into post 16 options

including apprenticeships, ‘A’-levels and getting ready for the world of work. They started to create CVs and cover letters and to give it all some purpose, this week they have been



having mock interviews for a job in a well-known Carvery establishment.

Armed with a job description, the students prepared themselves for an interview, and a team of parents and volunteers from Hope University and Job Centre Plus duly interviewed them. The team of volunteers and parents were keen to tell us how polite and well-mannered Year 11 were – some even said that they would hire certain members of the year group in a heartbeat!



All in all it’s been a fantastic Careers Week. We’re deeply indebted to all those who have helped make it possible – colleagues from Elevate, contacts from industry, parents and volunteers – all of whom have given that most precious of gifts, time. I know their generosity will have had a real impact on our students, and I am incredibly grateful to everyone involved.