

## 8. CAREERS

### Careers Advice and Guidance

Students are introduced to careers from Year 7 as part of their PSHE+ programme.

Careers Education formally begins in Year 8 with some lessons devoted to helping students plan for their futures.

Students make their first decisions that may have an impact on their careers choices in Year 9. During this year you will be sent a GCSE Opportunities Guide and asked to discuss with your son/daughter which subjects he/she should like to study for GCSE.

Advice is offered to the students at this time by their tutors and during PSHE+ lessons by our teaching staff. The school's careers consultants also conduct group interviews with Year 9 students to help them reflect on their subject choices.

In Year 10 as part of our Enrichment Week students participate in a range of careers related activities.

In Year 11 every student has a personal interview with a senior member of staff to discuss their post 16 choices. These tutorials can be supported by interview with a careers consultant. Students are also invited to undertake a profiling exercise created by an external provider that helps them develop an understanding of potential careers that may suit them.

Students in our sixth form are given high quality guidance about their possible next steps - university applications for the majority and apprenticeships or general employment for others. All students are encouraged to engage in work experience placements in a week in the summer term. We run a "Moving On" conference in Year 12 to help students to sharpen up their decisions. Once those decisions are made there is a great deal of advice available from tutors and careers consultants. There is a comprehensive programme preparing students for making an application through UCAS – this includes a parents evening and student UCAS day, as well as a visit to Birmingham University Open Day. Students are supported by their tutors and the Sixth Form Leadership Team when writing their personal statements at the start of Year 13. Those making early applications to Oxbridge or for medicine, veterinary science or dentistry are supported from the start of year 12 in order to make strong applications for these most competitive courses.

Once examination results are released at the end of Year 13 we continue to offer support for students who need to change their plans. We also give advice and support to "Year 14" students who have needed to change direction or resubmit applications.

Each year we are delighted with the numbers of students who move on to their first choice university or employment.

