



Brentwood School

CAREERS POLICY (SENIOR SCHOOL)

Careers education and guidance programmes make a major contribution to the preparation of young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Brentwood School endeavours to make pupils aware of the world of work and assist them with academic choices to ensure they fulfil their potential. Similarly, the School provides a multitude of opportunities for pupils to gain direct experience of the workplace as well as knowledge and understanding of the diversity of different potential career paths. This ensures that they are well positioned to choose appropriate university courses or career pathways and, ultimately, to gain satisfying and rewarding employment.

In order to achieve this, pupils need to:

- develop a growing awareness of the multitude of possible educational, training and careers opportunities available;
- receive advice to help them select their GCSE options and Sixth Form subjects and make the choice between the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and A Levels, or indeed vocational pathways offered by other providers, such as BTEC and apprenticeships;
- develop knowledge of themselves, and how their interests, strengths and weaknesses relate to the world of work and the opportunities available to them;
- have access to information about different careers and career paths and an awareness of the entry requirements for certain careers and higher education;
- participate in work experience.

Extensive personalised guidance is provided for pupils in the form of dedicated members of staff with specific expertise, for example the Head of Careers for alternative Sixth Form pathways or the Deputy Head of Sixth Form (Careers) for school leavers' schemes. From the Third Year, pupils have access to the "Fast Tomato" online platform to help them begin exploring career options. All Fifth Year and Sixth Form pupils have the opportunity to undertake the Morrisby Profile careers aptitude test and to meet with an independent careers adviser. There is also an annual Careers Convention, visiting speakers who give presentations on different careers to students, and further advice and contacts are available through the School's extensive alumni network. Fifth Form pupils undertake work experience following their public examinations enabling them to reflect further upon potential careers. In the Sixth Form, students have access to "Unifrog": an online platform that helps them to identify university courses, apprenticeships and school leavers' programmes. This is supported by further talks and sessions on areas such as interviews, finance, gap years, and applications to international universities.

The School aims to meet its needs in this area through the work of the university guidance and pastoral support staff, through the Wellbeing Programme, and through the information

evenings which are run for pupils at all stages of the School prior to the making of major academic choices. Sixth Form students are encouraged to research apprenticeships and workplace school leavers' schemes, as well as researching university courses. The Sixth Form Team provide guidance and support for students completing their UCAS application forms. Pupils applying for work and apprenticeships are supported with fortnightly meetings, one-to-one CV guidance and assistance with covering letters or any other documents required for applications. The School is also aware of the need to inform parents and involve them in the choices made by their sons and daughters. Pupils and their parents may make an appointment at any stage to discuss options and pathways with the Head of Careers, Director of Sixth Form or Deputy Head of Sixth Form (Careers).

Conscious of the importance of preventing stereotyping, we work to ensure that girls and boys from all backgrounds and diversity groups consider the widest possible range of careers, including those which are often portrayed as primarily for one or other of the sexes.