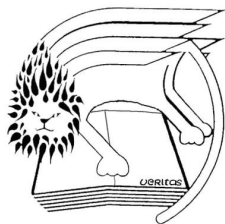


CEIAG at St Mark's



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Summer 2021

This has been another challenging year for so many people and job uncertainty has certainly been an issue that many people have had to face. However, the London Borough of Hounslow was awarded a contract from the Mayor's European Social Fund Project and is using part of this funding for the **Career Clusters networks**. The focus of this initiative is on linking schools, further education providers and businesses to support the work readiness of pupil groups and prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW CAREERS CLUSTER: Expanding Horizons, Raising Aspirations

St Mark's is one of the secondary schools in Hounslow participating in this project. We have just launched our first pilot project for 30 of our Year 9 (2021-2022) students that aims to improve student confidence and increase employability skills. We are working closely with Spark! who have matched us with [Accenture](#) as our lead employer. This project will run up to December 2021. We are also, as part of our Career Clusters network, being able to offer 20 students in Year 10 (2021-2022) a week's work experience in November 2021. We hope to be able to offer this opportunity to more groups of students and build relationships with the employers and businesses we will be working with.

We are being supported in these initiatives by Spark! <https://sparkcharity.org.uk/about-us/>.



As part of this initiative the organisers of the London Borough of Hounslow Careers Cluster are making plans to find opportunities to come into schools to have more engagement with parents and carers.

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Udya



Ria

In March two of our Year 12 girls were fortunate to get a place on the CONNECT mentoring programme organised by Spark! Both of the girls who took part felt, on completion of the programme, that they were better equipped to achieve their goals. CONNECT mentoring is a six-session mentoring programme, where the students were matched with women in leadership positions.



SPEAKERS for schools

As many students who look at their Careers Google Classrooms will know, Speakers for Schools organised many brilliant webinars during lockdown. They also advertise work experience opportunities, but with some of those opportunities students have to meet certain criteria to be eligible. During this academic year students have managed to secure 44 virtual work experience opportunities through Speakers for Schools.

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In December Karen Heaven a Managing Director in Investment Consulting, Redington had a live meet with our Year 12 students. The students asked Karen questions and she answered them.

This was organised through Speakers for Schools. Karen explained her current job working with pension schemes and in answers to questions, explained why she went into finance and the different routes into finance. She explained what she looks for when interviewing someone for a job in finance.

What do you look for when you interview someone for a job in finance?

This is what Karen said:

Academic qualifications will differ depending on the role, but degree or A-levels don't need to be finance-focused.

Demonstrating an **interest in the role** is critical – understanding what we do, who our clients are, what you might be doing day to day.

The other most important thing is **attitude** – keen to work hard, willing to get stuck in, use initiative to get things done, not afraid to ask questions.

Karen explained that interview questions aren't designed to catch you out – they are just trying to understand whether there is a genuine interest and aptitude for the role.

Karen recommended <https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/index.htm> as a good website for help with interview questions.



YOUTH CARD

Live Your Best Life

Launching nationally from Summer 2021, Youth Card is a free mobile app that offers unique developmental opportunities including work experience.

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WHAT IS [YOUTH CARD](#)?

[Youth Card](#) is a free mobile app that provides a one-stop shop for 11-25-year-olds for self-led discovery of educational, career and personal development opportunities in a safe environment.

[Youth Card](#) helps students by offering:

- Free access to UK-wide work experience placements and workshops with leading employers, including: *Spotify, Bentley Motors, bp, Google, NHS, Virgin Atlantic, The Financial Times, Santander* and the *BBC*.
- Free access to UK-wide financial and enterprise programmes.
- Free access to a UK-wide network of 7,000 youth organisations.
- Free access to inspiring podcasts, broadcasts and short films by heads of industry and high-profile speakers like:
 - Nick Ross (TV broadcaster)
 - Rich Waterworth (GM of TikTok)
 - Shai Weiss (CEO of Virgin Atlantic Airways)
 - Gareth Southgate (England football manager – men's team)
 - Roger Federer (professional tennis player)
 - Dame Kelly Holmes (former Olympic athlete)
- Free access to a wide range of youth-friendly discounted services in the UK and Europe.

Speakers for Schools aim to improve the social mobility of 1 million young people through [Youth Card](#) by August 2022-2023.



Through Springpod 25 students managed to secure VWEX (virtual work experience) with Heathrow this month, in a range of sectors: engineering; IT; marketing; business and construction. We are working closely with Springpod and all students in Year 10 and 11 next year will be able to have the opportunity of at least one VWEX through Springpod.

More details about this will be shared in September.

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During the summer Springpod are running Careers programmes that are entirely free, completely virtual and don't require hours upon hours of time commitment. Students will have the opportunity to learn from the likes of Airbus, the NHS and Fujitsu!

Use the link below to find more information:

[Find Virtual Work Experience | Meet Springpod](#)

Hounslow Connexions

We have been supported throughout the year by Aman Kaur, our Careers Adviser, from Hounslow Connexions, who will be in school on GCSE Results Day. Throughout the year Connexions are running Summer workshops for 16-24 year olds. More information can be found at:

[Hounslow Connexions - Careers advice for young people | Hounslow Connexions - Careers advice for young people](#)

Finally, we were so disappointed that our two Careers Days for Year 10 could not go ahead at the end of term due to the whole of the year group having to self isolate. (Due to covid the same had happened to the previous Year 10.) Through the Year 10 Careers Google Classroom we were able to share lots of resources from Day 1. The second day, the Business Challenge Day, involved students having the opportunity to engage with a number of employers: GSK; SharkNinja, Tideway and Lego. We are hoping to arrange this event for the students in January 2022.

Our local ASK (Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools) adviser, Annice Abanda, was due to speak to all of our Year 10 students. Annice will return in the new academic year to speak to Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

I am sure we are all looking forward to a year without the interruptions and challenges that this pandemic has forced upon us.

Have a lovely summer!

**For any enquiries regarding Careers - please contact:
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