

Careers Programme at Harrytown Catholic High School

Like other secondary schools, Harrytown Catholic High School has for many years run a careers unit as part of its Personal Welfare programme. This is now to be enhanced to comply with Department for Education requirements that all schools meet the Gatsby Benchmarks with effect from 2020. These benchmarks for the delivery of careers education and support within schools were developed following national and international research and relate to the following:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market Information
3. Addressing the needs of each student
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

Detail of what each of these points means in practical terms can be found in the DfE document 'Careers guidance and access for education and training providers, 2018', and Harrytown is now working towards compliance with the benchmarks as follows (see relevant benchmark number following each bullet point).

- As an initial step to adopting the benchmarks, Harrytown has registered with the Careers and Enterprise Company (set up by the Government to bring together employers, schools, training providers, etc, and more generally to support schools with implementation of the Gatsby benchmarks), and has used its Compass tool to establish current strengths in its careers provision and areas which require further development.
- Responsibility for Careers falls within the remit of Mr McCreesh, Assistant Head, with Mr Barry asked to work with him from September 2018 on implementation of the benchmarks. Personal Welfare staff will continue to deliver a unit on careers, but the content of this unit is being reviewed in the course of this academic year to ensure inclusion of information about the labour market, career paths, avoidance of stereotyping, etc, as required to meet the Gatsby benchmarks. Details of the revised careers curriculum will be made available to parents and carers in due course. (1,2,3).
- Wherever possible, and especially within STEM subjects, career options will be promoted. In non-STEM subjects, employability skills (such as research techniques, analysis, report writing, etc) will be emphasised. We are currently establishing the extent to which this already happens and identifying ways in which it can be enhanced. (4)
- In the autumn term 2018, a group of Year 9 Pupil Premium students attended a STEM careers day at the BBC in Salford and we will look for other similar local opportunities. (4)
- Pupils in Years 7&8 already help out in the School Office. (5)
- Harrytown has registered with the Careers and Enterprise Company and is has been assigned a mentor to assist with implementation of the benchmarks and especially with employer /workplace encounters, seen by the DfE as a key strategy. There is a careers fair organised by Stockport Council which our pupils and encouraged to attend. (5,6)

- A Careers Advisor is present at both GCSE and Post-16 Options Evenings. Representatives of local 6th form colleges and a range of apprenticeship providers are present at Post-16 Options Evenings. We will investigate the possibility of having university representatives present. (7)
- Pupils in Year 11 have an individual interview with Stockport's Careers Advisor. Records are kept of these interviews to which both the pupil concerned and the school have access. Records are kept of the destinations of school leavers. (3,8).
- Chris Mack from the Growth Company visited Harrytown in January 2019 to talk to Year 11 pupils about apprenticeships and other careers opportunities, and a second visit to talk to Year 10 pupils is under consideration.
- At the end of the current school year, and hopefully having made additional progress following advice from our Careers and Enterprise Company mentor, we will assess progress against the Gatsby benchmarks using the Compass tool once again, in order to determine further steps to support our pupils in understanding the world of work and the steps they need to take in order to enter their chosen career. Following this, a new report will be made available at the beginning of the academic year 2019-2020.

Comments, suggestions and/or questions on the above are welcome, and in the first instance should be directed to Mr Barry, preferably via email (n.barry@harrytown.stockport.sch.uk) or by phone (0161 430 5277).