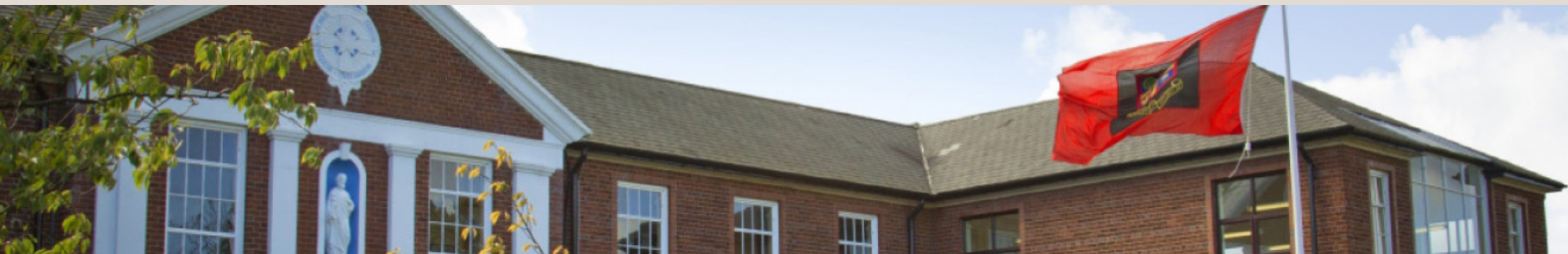




CAREERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024
EDITION #3



Welcome to the termly 'SJC Careers Newsletter'

The Careers team at St. Joseph's College continues to be absolutely committed to ensuring that our students from Y7 upwards receive the guidance, support, opportunities and information needed to shape their decisions for the future – to help every student find their best next step.

We are thrilled to welcome Ms R Thomas to the fold – who brings with her a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. Her contributions since joining us in September have been fantastic. Ms Thomas is located in the library (as she is also our librarian), and is an excellent contact if students want to ask questions about careers including careers appointments, Y10 work experience, business breakfasts or indeed, the best place to find out about careers.

We are also delighted to have the support of Ms Gater, Assistant Head of Year 12, who is taking a lead in our first Y12 work experience full week which is scheduled for early July this year.

Whilst our Careers programme has grown considerably over the last couple of years, we continue to review it and are always looking for ways to expand the offering across each year group. If you have ideas to include in our programme or perhaps, are able to offer your time as a speaker for one of our Business Breakfasts, to support our Y9 Industry Day, to offer a Y10/12 work experience placement or indeed, offer to support with interview practice, please do get in touch!

Business Breakfasts at SJC



What is a Business Breakfast?

We invite people from different industries to come and share with our students their career pathways. How did they become what they are today? What does their job involve? What qualifications/skills do you need? What advice would they give to students? And the question that is always asked...what do they earn?

Who can attend and where can you find out more?

Some talks are targeted at specific year groups, but all year groups will have the opportunity to attend several talks. The Breakfasts are advertised on Teams and the screens around the school, students can book their place by messaging Ms, Thomas.

What has been going on so far?

So far this term, we have had talks from a Police Inspector explaining digital forensics, an ex-pupil who is now a Doctor an Occupational Therapist who brought many things to try, a Pharmacist who is also a lecturer at Keele University, Apprentices from BBC Radio Stoke, a Solicitor who came to offer work experience opportunities and to talk about degree apprenticeships, a Marketing firm and a Broadcasting journalist from Signal 1 Radio.



What is coming up?

Date	Topic
18/01	A Lecturer in motor sports and engineering
01/02	Apprenticeships in outdoor pursuits
22/02	Career options in the RAF
21/03	From the army, to motorbike display team to tree surgeon
18/04	The world of accounting
02/05	A Social Worker

If parents/ guardians are able to offer time as a speaker at one of our Business Breakfasts, please do get in touch! (See back page for contact details.)

Year 7 Mock Interview Day

On Wednesday 13th December, Y7 took part in our first ever Mock Interview Day. Y12 students supported the event by acting as the employer, with a set of pre-prepared interview questions to use with Y7.

Y7 have spent time researching their personality type using Unifrog and the Buzz quiz. They researched the link between personality and career choice and have an understanding of why it is important to choose a career pathway which aligns to interests, personality and individual skills.

Students used Unifrog to research the careers profiles and prepared their responses to the five interview questions.

Y7 Mock Interview Questions... the questions Y12 will ask!



On Mock Interview Day, Y7 students demonstrated confidence and excellent communication skills. They were able to articulate their responses in a very professional manner. Well done Y7! You're hired! The event was a huge success and the support from our wonderful Y12 students was invaluable. They showed excellent leadership skills, and patiently encouraged Y7 to shine. Thank you Y12 Careers Ambassadors!



Meet Clive Shaw our independent careers advisor Interviewed by Alicja Y12



How did you become a Careers Advisor?

I went to a careers advisor when I was at university and it was like a spark, I knew this was something I was interested in. I then worked for Stoke Council in the careers service for many years, and when I was made redundant I decided to become a self-employed consultant. I had already been working with St. Joseph's in my previous role and enjoyed working with such motivated students, so was keen to continue.

What is your role as a Careers Advisor at St. Joseph's?

My role is to give impartial advice to students and to help them focus on their future. In preparation for their interview, students attend a pre-appointment where they research their potential next steps and prepare questions for me to help them. During our interview we look at options open to them, what is the best choice for them, open days they could attend, and interview techniques. Following the appointment they give feedback.

What are the most popular careers?

The labour market is constantly changing, and with advances in technology the opportunities and types of career change with the market. It is important that you have a spark for a career, an unbreaking passion for something that does not fade.

What is the best advice you could give someone?

Find out about yourself, your likes and dislikes and what you are good at! Research the career you are interested in think about what would be the best fit for you, make a list and tick off the most interesting job ideas; attend open days at colleges and universities. It is never too early to start preparing. Mistakes are part of the process and you learn from them; remember you can always change direction!

Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience Launch

On Wednesday 22nd November, Y10 took part in our work experience assembly hosted by MPloy, who provide services to assist our work placements. The students were given guidance on how to approach employers, what criteria to use when planning their placement, what activities they could be involved in, and the benefits of work experience for their futures.

The students now have time to go away and research their options, contact employers and find their work placements. Y12 have been set a similar task to research and contact employers for their work placements. Over recent weeks we have had a number of talks from employers offering apprenticeships. In particular a local Law firm came in to present information about degree apprenticeships and offer the possibility of work experience placements.

Year 12 Biomed Club

As part of the extracurricular offering at St. Joseph's, more than 40 Y12 students have signed up for the Biomed Club this academic year.

Alongside sharing on-line lectures and articles to support students with their personal development, we have also welcomed some external speakers.

In October, Mitch Licata, a St. Joseph's College Alumni and previous Head Boy, came to share his journey from applying to medicine to recently qualifying. Mitch shared his engaging, honest and candid views about his experiences including his current placement at a psychiatric unit, and was more than happy to answer the many questions. In November, Dr Dent (Academic Lead for Admissions, Recruitment & Marketing and MBChB Admissions Tutor at Keele University) came in to provide advice and guide on medicine as a career and to offer incredible useful advice on the application process. Students submitted a range of thought provoking and well considered questions in advance which Dr Dent answered in great depth.

The group have also had the opportunity to review and collectively debate the issues raised in a British Medical Journal regarding a large-scale malaria vaccine study and this half term, will be reviewing the ethical considerations & wider issues raised in the Charlie Gard case from 2017.



Dr. Mitch Licata
St. Joseph's
Alumni/Former
Head Boy

Dr. Gordon Dent
Sharing his advice and
guidance



Stoke-on-Trent
& Staffordshire
Careers Hub

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

On 5th October, Mrs Gilding and Mrs Cumbo attended the launch of the new academic year for the Careers Hub at the Yarnfield Training and Conference Centre.

As background, the Careers Hub is formed from a group of schools and colleges across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. We work in collaboration with each other, business partners, education and training providers to help improve careers outcomes for students. Importantly, as a Hub school, we have access to a dedicated team of support, expert knowledge and resource and as such, we work closely with our Careers Consultant – Andrew Stephens - to shape our offering.

The day provided a wealth of opportunity to share ideas, find out about upcoming projects and attend a number of talks from 'Shifts in Careers Education' to updates on 'Apprenticeship and Technical Education options' – an important topic that Andrew delivered a training session to our staff on in September – see further information on Apprenticeships in this edition of the newsletter.



Mrs Cumbo, Mr Stephens
(our Careers Consultant)
and Mrs Gilding



Having commenced a Level 6 qualification in Careers Leadership at the University of Derby in September 2022, we are pleased to share that

both Mrs Gilding and Mrs Cumbo passed with flying colours in June 2023 and are now fully qualified Careers Leaders!

The course involved both lectures and personal study on topics ranging from Careers theory and Labour Market Information Provision to Legislative and Good Practice Requirements. It was quite an intense period of study but both are thrilled to have completed the course and are already putting into place what they learnt!

We are grateful to the Careers Hub for their funding and support of the course which also facilitated attendance at the National Careers Leaders Conference at Derby University in summer 2023.



**Gemma
O'Donnell**



*BMus(Hons) University
of Huddersfield
A'Levels Music, Theatre
Studies, English
Language and Media*

Careers in the Curriculum

Music Careers evening

"Where words fail, music speaks."
- Hans Christian Andersen

The Music department were very excited to hold our first careers evening at the end of November, for students from Y7-13 and their families. The aim of the evening was to give students an opportunity to learn about the variety of careers they could aspire to, should they choose to study Music or Performing Arts at GCSE or A'Level. It was also a chance for students to learn more about careers in the music industry and discover some occupations that they may not have known about or considered before.

We were incredibly fortunate to have four fabulous speakers to share their career journeys and speak to us about how studying music has impacted them in their professions. It was wonderful to hear from Sam - a partner in a law firm, Stephen - a headteacher, Hassan - a representative from Keele Medical School and Matt, a sound engineer: about how studying music can facilitate a career in four completely different areas and how it really benefitted them in so many ways. The students then had the opportunity to chat to our speakers and ask them any questions about their careers and experiences with music.

It was a very successful evening with lots of positive feedback and it was lovely to see so many positive and productive conversations happening around careers

both in and out of the creative industry. We will definitely be looking to hold the evening again next year.

In addition to the careers evening, the music department are really excited to be working on building opportunities to learn more about creative careers within the department. Amongst other things, we are building up a collection of videos and testimonials from St. Joseph's alumni and industry professionals to give students an insight into a range of careers and opportunities that studying music could open up to them. It is very exciting to see the range of information being made available to our students and we are looking forward to seeing the positive impact this will hopefully have on the students.



I have always been involved in and had a passion for Music, both in school and as a hobby so I think I always knew I wanted a career in music. After my degree I worked in various areas as a self employed musician, including running extra curricular groups and one to one lessons in schools.

A recent innovation in music which has inspired me is studies into the impact of music on dementia patients - The Light up my Life study on music and dementia has shown that patients displayed improved signs of memory recall after playing a keyboard and producing a recognisable song.

CAREERS ENRICHMENT IN SCHOOL SO FAR THIS YEAR:

Launch of Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
Creative Writing Workshop - Sandon Hall Literature Festival
Trip to Bronte Parsonage Museum
Drama/Theatre careers talks at performance of A Christmas Carol
Y13 Physicists workshop on renewable energy and developing technology

Next Steps Focus Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs with real employers, allowing you to work, earn a salary and gain valuable qualifications and experience.

With over 600 different apprenticeship standards covering everything from accountancy to zoo keeping, there is an apprenticeship out there for everyone. Apprenticeships offer choice, opportunity, qualifications, support and a head start into a future career.

An apprenticeship includes:

- paid employment with holiday leave
- hands-on-experience in a sector/role of interest
- at least 20% off-the-job training
- formal assessment which leads to a nationally recognised qualification

Some apprenticeship facts:

- 2.2m+ have started an apprenticeship since 2015.
- 1500+ apprenticeship roles available
- £1.5m average lifetime earnings of a higher apprentice.
- 93% of apprentices remain employed upon completion.

Where can I find out more?

Unifrog



Amazing
Apprenticeships



Higher and
Degree vacancies



gov.uk



UCAS



What is an apprenticeship?

8 key facts you need to know

1 An apprenticeship is a real job.

Available to individuals 16+ (with no upper age limit), apprentices are typically employed for at least 30 hours per week.

2 Apprentices are paid a salary.

All apprentices will earn a salary of at least the National Minimum Wage. Many employers pay more!

3 Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months

Most apprenticeships take between 1 - 4 years to complete. It will depend on the level and delivery model of the apprenticeship.

4 Apprenticeships range from level 2 to level 7.

There are apprenticeships at levels equivalent to GCSEs right up to Master's level and you can now achieve a degree through an apprenticeship.

5 Apprentices do not pay for their training.

All apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government meaning that an apprentice will never have to pay for their training.

6 Apprentices will receive paid off-the-job learning.

The equivalent of 6 hours per week of an apprentice's paid time will be spent undertaking off-the-job learning, gaining valuable skills and qualifications.

7 Apprentices will spend the majority of their time on-the-job.

Most of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience of the workplace.

8 There are thousands of apprenticeships in more than 170 industries.

New apprenticeships are advertised each week covering a wide range of job roles. You will be amazed at the variety and breadth available!



Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Careers Hub
**“ Helping every young person find their
best next step ”**

LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, ST4 5NT | WWW.STJOSEPHSTRENTVALE.COM



Careers - upcoming highlights for this term

Career Development Activity	When	Year Group
Independent Careers Guidance - appointments Monday and Friday each week	08/01/2024 - the end of term	Y10 - Y13 (and KS3 at point of need)
Apprenticeship Assembly - Staffordshire University	23/01/2024	Y12
Apprenticeship Week - activities in school	05/02/2024	Y7 - Y13
Y9 Industry Day	20/02/2024	Y9
Careers Week - activities in school	04/03/2024	Y7 - Y13
Best Next Steps Fair	07/03/2024	KS4
Y9 Options Assembly and Options evening for Parents/Guardians	20/03/2024 21/03/2024	Y9

Careers Team

SLT Careers Lead -

Mrs S Gilding
(sgilding@stjosephsmail.com)

Personal Development Lead -

Mrs S Cumbo
(scumbo@stjosephsmail.com)

Careers Coordinator -

Ms R Thomas
(rthomas@stjosephsmail.com)

Careers Link Governor -

Mrs G Kay

We thank you for your continued support towards our Careers Programme, and if you have any questions, or would like to contribute in some way, we would love to hear from you!



Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Careers Hub

***“When students are clear on their future,
their present will take care of itself”***

LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, ST4 5NT | WWW.STJOSEPHSTRENTVALE.COM