



# CAREERS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Welcome to Penistone Grammar School's Careers Newsletter. Our strategic lead and Careers Leader is Mr. Green, our Careers Adviser is Miss. Blakeman and Mrs. Want is the Careers Co-ordinator.

In this section, you will be able to access information regarding all aspects of our **Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)**.

CEIAG forms an integral part of student life at Penistone Grammar School. We encourage all our students to develop high aspirations and consider a broad and ambitious range of careers. We use contacts with the world of work and further and higher education to help them understand where different choices can take them in the future.

It is our duty to make it possible for our students to engage proactively in decisions about their education pathways and their journey to a career, in a rapidly changing world.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting events that have been going on in school this term.

If you have any questions please contact me via [hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk)

Regards

Miss Blakeman

Careers Adviser

## Year 11 Career Guidance Appointments

All students in Year 11 have now had 1 guidance appointment with Miss Blakeman. These 1:1 sessions are to support students with their Post 16 choices, ensure they receive impartial advice and explore all the options available to them. Personal guidance helps students to consolidate and reflect upon their vocational identity and career decision making.

The Careers Department also offers individual appointments at key stages throughout the school year, such as Year 9 GCSE options, Year 10 support and guidance support in Years 12 and 13. We welcome any parent or carer who may wish to discuss any queries with us by telephone 01226 762114, email [hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk) or in school by a prior appointment being made.

We would like to wish all our students in Year 11 the best of luck in their upcoming sixth form and college interviews.



## Cutler's Programme - Year 9



[www.betterlearnersbetterworkers.org.uk](http://www.betterlearnersbetterworkers.org.uk)  
@CutlersBLBW

We have 12 students from Year 9 enrolled with the 'Better Learners Better Workers' programme - an employer-led approach that develops in young people, the skills needed for employability and the world of work.

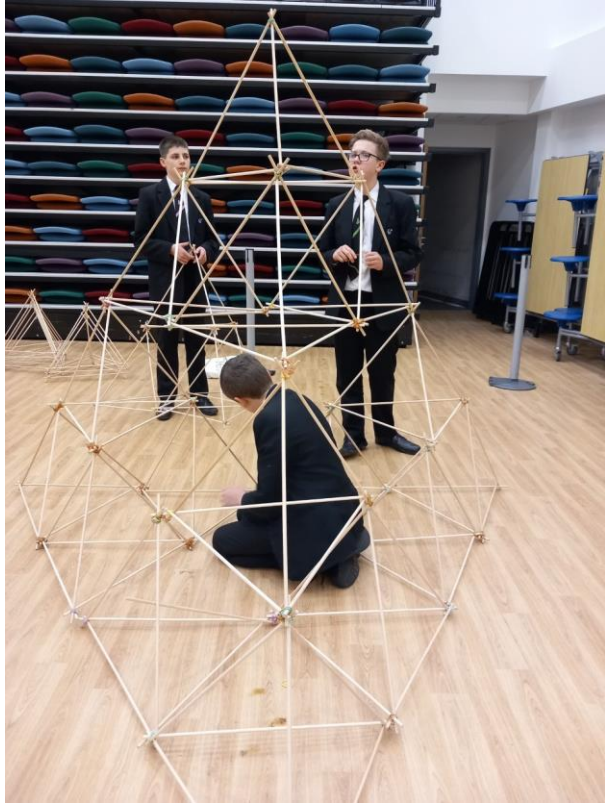
The group attended a Finance workshop at King Edward's school in Sheffield to learn how to budget and manage money.

We welcomed the MD of Thessco Group, an engineering company to discuss engineering as a career and apprenticeship opportunities.

We recently had NG Bailey construction company visit school to provide information on careers in construction and set our students the challenge to build a 4m x 4m tetrahedron. We had 2 groups of students competing to build the largest structure and both groups demonstrated excellent teamwork and leadership skills.

On 1st March the students visited Sheffield Cutler's Hall to present their work they had been doing in school for the NHS competition for preventative medicine. We are very proud of the mature attitude and confidence the students displayed in presenting their work to an audience of local schools and parents.

We will keep you updated on the events planned for next term.





## Introduction to our new Enterprise Adviser



We warmly welcome Enzygo company as our Enterprise Adviser. Enzygo provide an environmental consultancy service to councils, construction and environmental companies on a wide variety of issues such as flood risk planning, air quality and hydrology. They are based in Stocksbridge with additional offices in Bristol and Manchester.

The Enterprise Adviser role is to support the school in the careers education programme through visits into school and to their workplace. We are looking forward to the workshops sessions planned

with our GCSE and A Level Geography students and will keep you updated on other events they will be supporting us with.

## **Brightside Mentoring**

We are delighted this year to continue our tie-up with the Spotlight Programme delivered by Brightside Mentoring. As one of the pilot schools chosen last year, we are continuing to offer their support to students in Year 7 and 10.

Brightside Online Mentoring puts young people in touch with mentors who can help them with their education and career options. Some of our Year 10s have already been matched to their mentor in sectors such as healthcare and apprenticeships, and have started to receive advice and support to gain confidence to make their own informed decisions in the near future.

Our younger students in Years 7 will be taking part in The Career Game next term.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the students.



## **Ask Apprenticeship Visits**

The Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge for schools and colleges programme (ASK programme) is funded by the Department for Education and aims to support schools and colleges in England to increase awareness of apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels amongst students, parents, carers, teachers and careers advisers.

Launched in 2015, the ASK programme has transformed the careers landscape across England by engaging individuals and wider school and college communities to better understand how amazing apprenticeships are.

We have had Harry from Ask Apprenticeships visit school twice this term to deliver a Year 12 assembly on higher and degree apprenticeships, a workshop to support our Year 13 students interested in this route and a Year 11 workshop for those considering an apprenticeship as an alternative to college.

The Careers staff can support any student with preparation for applying for apprenticeships, CV writing and interview practices.

The following sites are useful for Year 12 / 13 student and parent/ carers:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/apprenticeships>

These sites are aimed for school leaver students:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians>

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships>

<https://careers.startprofile.com/page/apprenticeships-apply>



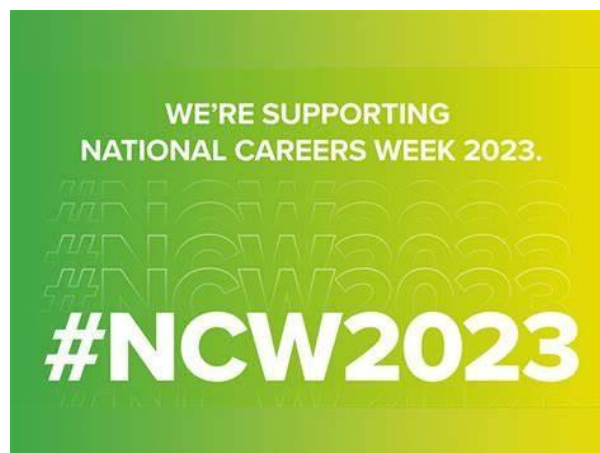
## National Careers Week

We celebrated National Careers Week which ran from 6th to 10th March with a series of Careers focused assemblies, spotlight on careers in the curriculum and external visits.

Unfortunately the snow on Friday forced us to cancel our lunchtime visitors from Barnsley College, Jordan Solicitors and T3 Trainers in Architecture and Engineering, however, we will be rearranging this.

The National Careers Website has information and advice for both parent / carers and students as well as a virtual careers fair with links to some of the largest national companies in the UK.

<https://ncw2023.co.uk/>



## HEPP - Year 9 Workshops

We welcomed two visitors into school on Wednesday 8th March to deliver workshop classes to some of our Year 9 students during National Careers Week.

The Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP) works across South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire to encourage more children, young people and adults to consider higher education opportunities.

Jointly funded by Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield, they provide impartial advice and guidance about higher education to all schools in South Yorkshire.

The sessions focused on myth-busting in Higher Education and provided information on finance, student living and future job prospects.



## Parent / Carer Survey

As part of our ongoing evaluation of our careers programmes in school, we value feedback from parents / carers to support this. We will be emailing a survey out shortly and would kindly appreciate you taking a few minutes to answer the questions.

The results of the survey will help shape our careers education programme for next year.

We welcome any parent or carer who may wish to discuss any queries with us by telephone 01226 762114 or via email [hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk).

## Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

Since the pandemic there has been an increase in companies offering online work experience encounters for students. These sessions count as work experience and can be used on personal statements or CV's. They can help students to learn more about a sector of interest, connect with industry experts and help their decision making process at Post 16 and 18.

The sites listed below all offer free sessions with leading companies such as Bentley, Clifford Chance, Vodafone, Network Rail and Fujitsu and have been used by students in the school. The majority of these are aimed at students in Years 10 and above.

**Springpod** - <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience>

**Young Professionals** - <https://young-professionals.uk/> students can register on Instagram too to receive updates of events. Some of these have started to be 'in person' again. [@youngprouk](#)

**Speakers for Schools** - <https://www.speakersforschools.org/work-experience/>

## Understanding Post 16 Choices

It is statutory guidance that every child enters into education, an apprenticeship or employment with training when they leave school. The full range of options include:

**A Levels** – you would normally choose 3 subjects to do at a sixth form college, these subjects are more 'academic' and there are exams at the end of each year.

**Vocational** – can often be referred to as BTEC, you would choose one subject and usually has a more of a job related interactive approach and involve coursework.

**Apprenticeship** – on an apprenticeship your training place is usually one day a week at a college or training provider, and you will work for the rest of the week with an employer.

**T Levels** – equivalent to A levels, this has been developed with employers and businesses. It prepares you for work, further training or study through academic work and work placements.

### Levels

**Entry Level** – no qualifications or GCSE Grade1

**Level 1** – usually require at least 3 grade 2's

**Level 2** – usually require at least 3 grade 3's

**Level 3 (BTEC)** – usually require minimum 5 Grade 4's and above including English Language and maths

**Level 3 (A Levels)** – usually require an average of Grade 5 or above preferring 5's in English Language and Maths.

### Apprenticeship Information

An apprenticeship is a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid.

You're an employee with a contract of employment. By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge to embed into your chosen career.

It can take between one and six years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience. It's funded from contributions made by the government and your employer.

To become an apprentice, you must:

- be 16 or over



- not already be in full time education

As an apprentice you will:

- learn and gain hands-on experience in a real job
- get paid
- get training for a specific job role
- be on a career path with lots of future potential





# CAREERS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

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It is our duty to make it possible for our students to engage proactively in decisions about their education pathways and their journey to a career, in a rapidly changing world.

'The careers education and guidance programme at Penistone Grammar School seeks to positively support all our students to acquire the educational, social and employability skills necessary for lifelong success in a diverse and changing world of work. We will seek to motivate and inspire students to consider all opportunities open to them within and outside Penistone Grammar School' - PGS Careers Vision Statement

## **Aims**

At Penistone Grammar School we aim to provide all students with an education that enables them to:

- Aim High
- Be Determined
- Be Brave
- Be Supportive
- Be Proud

We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting events that have been going on in school this term. In fact, we were so busy during the last 2 weeks of the summer term with Career Events we didn't have the time to share these with you too.

If you have any questions please contact me via [hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk)

Regards

Miss Blakeman

Careers Adviser

## Year 11 Mock Interviews 16th November

All our Year 11 students attended a mock interview on Wednesday 16th November and our interviewers were very impressed with the maturity and confidence of this year group. We were fortunate to have nearly 40 volunteers to interview ranging from NHS managers, solicitors, university staff, hotel management and landscaping. Without the support of our local businesses we would not be able to run such an event, and a huge thank you to all involved.

The experience will help our students with their upcoming Post 16 college and apprenticeship interviews and the feedback from the volunteers was wonderful to hear. We felt very proud as staff watching them all being interviewed.





## Cutler's Programme - Year 9



[www.betterlearnersbetterworkers.org.uk](http://www.betterlearnersbetterworkers.org.uk)  
@CutlersBEW

We had 12 students selected from Year 9 to begin their Cutler's Programme at the Cutler's Hall, Sheffield on Wednesday 16th November. The 'Better Learners Better Workers' programme is an employer-led approach that develops, in young people, the skills needed for employability and the world of work. The students will be visiting local companies and working closely with students from participating schools in South Yorkshire.

We will be keeping you updated on their progress throughout the year.

## Careers Fair 29th September



Thursday 29th September saw our annual Careers Event for our Year 10s, 11s and Post 16 students. This year was our largest event with 50 visitors in school for students to engage with and discover more on future careers and pathways. We had companies from local solicitors, accountants, NHS, the Police, green energy, engineering, architecture, project management the Civil Service as well as local colleges, apprenticeship providers and a wide range of universities.

A special thank you to Sytner Audi in Wakefield who brought 2 very expensive cars for the students to look at and sit in. A few lucky ones were revving the engines and you may have wondered why your child had selfies on their phones from the front seat of an R8 !









## Year 11 Career Guidance Appointments



Every student in Year 11 will have at least 1 Career Guidance Appointment with the Careers Adviser, Miss Blakeman. The appointments are to help and support your child with their Post 16 options. The session can help students with:

- Exploring the range of options available to them such as A Levels, T-Levels, BTEC's, Apprenticeships
- Researching where to look for information to support decision-making.



- Planning out career ideas and putting them into practice.
- Managing difficulties and setbacks with strategies such as back-up ideas.
- Deciding on an action plan for the student and careers adviser to work on.

You will be notified via text message when your child has a careers appointment, and a summary of the appointment and an action plan we will be emailed afterwards. Please take the time to have a chat with your child after the appointment as support from family members and carers can have such a positive impact.

The Careers Department also offers individual appointments at key stages throughout the school year, such as Year 9 GCSE options, Year 10 support and guidance support in Years 12 and 13. We welcome any parent or carer who may wish to discuss any queries with us by telephone 01226 762114 ext. 1075, email [hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk) or in school by a prior appointment being made.

## Understanding Post 16 Choices



We will be supporting our Year 11 students with their college applications over the next few months. It is statutory guidance that every child enters into education, an apprenticeship or employment with training when they leave school. The full range of options include:

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## *Year 8 World of Work Week*



Year 8 students in July were incredibly busy right up to the end of term! Our young students have been hard at work at:

- Twiggs Garden Centre, SpringVale
- Enzygo - Environmental Consultants, Stocksbridge
- Cannon Hall

Despite the hot weather, our determined students experienced work tasks set by the employers and learnt about the many jobs available in each company and sector. A huge thank you to all our local employers who gave their time to make these days possible. We hope we didn't send too many of our Year 8's home tired after a busy day of work!

We are looking forward to running this event again next summer and opening it up to more Year 8 students.















## Speed Networking Event July 2022



Our Year 10 students took part in a Speed Networking Event on 12th July. Students were placed in small groups and had 5 minutes interviewing our visitors in school who kindly gave their time to help. We had representatives from local solicitors, accountants, college providers, the Police, Civil Service, Creative Media companies to name a few.

Our visitors were most impressed with the behaviour and mature attitude from our students, and we know, many were nervous before the session but grew in confidence when talking with our business professionals. Feedback from our students was positive and many commented they had not realised that there were so many choices and pathways available to them.

We will be making this an annual event in school and would welcome any support from parents who may work for a company or are self employed and can offer to help. Please email Miss Blakeman [hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:hblakeman@penistone-gs.uk)





