



Woodbrook Vale School

Careers Strategy

Date approved by Trustees: 19 November 2024

Review Date: Annually Autumn Term 2025

Headteacher's Signature: *R Fraser* Date: November 2024

Print name: Rachael Fraser

Chair of Trustee's Signature: *Gavin C Brown* Date: November 2024

Print name: Gavin Brown

Contents

	Page
Overview	1
Aims	1
Careers Education	2
Work related learning	2
Careers Information	2
Advice and Guidance	3
Action Planning	3
Management and Co-ordination	3
Overview of Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)	4
Parents and Carers	4
Partnerships	4
The 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance	5
Appendix 1: Outline of Typical Careers Programme through: Years 7 - 9	6
Years 10 & 11	7
Appendix 2: Additional opportunities through the Careers Programme (Years 7-11)	8

Woodbrook Vale Careers strategy

Woodbrook Vale School (WBV) is committed to providing a planned programme of careers education for all students in year groups 7 – 11, as well as providing information, advice and guidance. We aim to inspire students, and provide real-life contact with employers and professionals, so that when students are required to make important post-16 decisions, they understand where different choices could take them.

We will ensure that each Year 11 student leaves WBV having made an informed choice regarding their post-16 education. We will provide individualised, timely and proactive guidance which recognises each student's strengths, weaknesses and aspirations. We will ensure that all students possess the skills and knowledge to enable them to thoroughly consider the pros and cons of each option and the potential consequences of their choices. All decisions will be supported by objective evidence.

The careers programme includes careers education sessions, careers guidance activities (group work and individual interviews), information and research activities, work related learning and individual learning activities. Careers lessons are part of the school's Personal Development Programme. Other events and activities are planned and organised separately throughout the year. We have strong links with local Post-16 providers, the North Charnwood & Loughborough Inclusion Partnership (NCLIP) and the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).

- Careers guidance at Woodbrook Vale is presented in an impartial way; we show no bias towards any particular institution or work option.
- We aim to inform students on the wide range of education and training options, including apprenticeships and technical routes.
- CIEAG at Woodbrook Vale always aims to promote the best interests of our students.

Aims

Woodbrook Vale School's Careers policy has the following aims:

- enable students to make informed choices for the next stage of their education
- contribute to strategies for raising achievement, especially by increasing motivation
- support inclusion, challenge stereotyping and promote equality of opportunity
- encourage participation in continued learning including higher and further education
- develop enterprise and employment skills
- reduce drop-out rates and 'course-switching' in education and training
- contribute to the economic prosperity of individuals and communities
- meet the needs of all our students through appropriate differentiation
- focus students on their future aspirations
- provide parents/carers with relevant information regarding post-16 education to enable them to assist their child in making informed choices
- the careers policy links to other policies for example: Equality Information and Objectives, Pupil Premium Policy, SEND and Access Policy.

Through Careers education and guidance our students will:

- Develop a positive self-image in relation to future learning and work related roles, based on an accurate assessment of abilities and aptitudes.
- Acquire a sound understanding of the range of opportunities available through learning and work, and of career progression pathways.
- Develop skills to form and implement effective decisions and a reflective approach to learning from experience.

To do this we will:

- Work in partnership with local employers and other education and training providers like schools, colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers.
- Use the 8 Gatsby benchmarks to ensure our provision meets the required standards
- Stress the importance of academic achievement in all GCSEs including English and maths.
- Promote equality of opportunity for all students, including SEND, boys/girls and disadvantaged students.
- Provide opportunities for students to develop entrepreneurial skills.
- Support all students to make informed choices, taking account of those with high aspirations, those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with SEND and tailoring the support accordingly.

The Careers Education and guidance entitlement at WBV consists of five elements which together provide a coherent and progressive programme for all students.

1. Careers education programme
2. Work related learning
3. Careers information
4. Advice and guidance
5. Action planning

Students and parents are made aware of the programme through the school website and the weekly newsletters.

The statutory requirement to deliver independent careers guidance from Year 8 to Year 11 is fulfilled through the following (please also see Appendix 1):

1. Careers Education

Careers education is delivered through a variety of means including assemblies, registration periods (15 mins per day), Personal Development (PD) sessions, 'drop-down' days and standalone opportunities throughout years 7-11. Careers education includes opportunities for our students to engage with employers from a range of industries. The careers education materials are updated to include changes around careers in society. Unifrog is updated regularly with support materials for new and existing careers.

2. Work related learning

Work related learning is part of the careers education programme and is taught through the PD curriculum. In Year 10 all students take part in a full week of Work Experience which is funded entirely by the school budget.

3. Careers Information

The Careers room is open all day, every day. Students have access to online prospectuses, college and 6th form information, apprenticeship vacancies, training information leaflets and brochures. The library is maintained by the Careers leader and the Deputy Headteacher i/c careers. Students receive input on how to use Unifrog in 1:1 Careers Guidance meetings, tutor time and Personal Development lessons

Year 11 students and their parents/carers attend the school's Post-16 Information Evening in October each year to have a chance to meet a range of post-16 providers, training organisations, employers and representatives from Higher education.

In the autumn term of Year 11, local post-16 providers share information with the students about their offer. This may include assemblies about the opportunities at their institution as well as provider open days. This coincides with an individual careers interview and the Post-16 Information Evening.

4. Advice and Guidance

The statutory duty to provide independent and impartial careers advice and guidance is fulfilled. Each Year 9, 10 and 11 student also has a careers interview annually with a level 6 Careers Advisor, so in total a student will have 3 individual appointments during their time at Woodbrook Vale with additional interviews available if needed. Student referrals for meetings can be made directly to the careers leader and SEND, PP and LAC students are prioritised for their interviews. The careers adviser is available for drop in sessions during tutor time, break, lunch and after 3:00pm.

This provision is being extended so all Year 7 and 8 students also benefit from personalised careers advice in line with new legislation from 2022-23.

Extra support is provided for all PP students in lessons and pastorally through Pupil Premium Champions, and HLTAs. SEND students have support through HLTAs and the SEND Dept. Career plans are discussed at review meetings for SEND and LAC and the careers leader can attend these meetings if required. Support includes help with Post 16 application forms, financial support for travel to work placements and any specialist clothing required, reduced cost for school trips and equipment. Work placements are carefully matched for students with additional needs. Career advice takes into account the diverse range of abilities and needs of each student. SEND students have the same access to careers provision as all students.

Each young person receives individualised one-to-one guidance about their choice of post 16 options from a designated member of staff, usually the form tutor, using knowledge about the student and his or her academic achievement, and evidence within the local context (including examination results and, if available, destination data). Staff do not show any favouritism or bias towards a particular institution.

5. Action Planning

All students discuss their careers plan during each careers interview. The careers adviser explains that career discussions are confidential unless there is a safeguarding concern. Notes are recorded and will be uploaded onto student's Unifrog accounts. Action plans can be shared with other members of staff, form tutors and parents, with the student's permission. The action planning section of Unifrog can be explored during tutor time and also at home with parents. Action plans are differentiated and accessible for all individual needs.

Management and Co-ordination

The CEIAG programme is co-ordinated by the Careers Leader working with the Deputy Headteacher i/c Careers, the Careers Link Trustee and the Lead for Personal Development. The Careers Leader and Deputy Headteacher are responsible for:

- Producing and updating the CEIAG Policy
- Managing the careers library
- Liaising with LEBC, including the annual partnership agreement (if applicable)
- Identifying the careers needs of students and making appropriate referrals
- Organising trips and visits relating to careers
- Work experience
- Promoting CEIAG within and outside school
- Providing guidance to tutors and relevant staff on how to deliver post-16 advice
- Monitoring tutors effectively to ensure appropriate advice is given to students
- Careers CPD is offered to all staff and is delivered at inset days and staff meetings. The careers leader also promotes online training opportunities for teachers. The careers leader regularly attends local Career Hub meetings and keeps up to date via the CEC and CDI. The careers leader is able to attend CPD throughout the year both in person and online.

The Lead for Personal Development is responsible for:

- Producing and updating the careers education scheme of work, lesson plans and materials in conjunction with the careers leader. This includes 'drop-down' days and arranging input from visiting speakers and providers.
- Liaising with tutors and other staff delivering the careers education elements of PD as well as its place in the Futures Award.

Overview of CEIAG (Link to learner entitlement)(Road map)

In Year 7, the focus is on students knowing themselves well. Jobs and careers are introduced and students begin thinking about the vast number of careers and the future of jobs. Students start to look at their skills and interests and align these with possible careers pathways. The content then focuses on linking plans and dreams to reality. The connection between working hard at school, developing skills and interests and being more able to get a chosen job or career is made.

In Year 8 students start to explore possibilities and understand better how skills and interests link to careers. Students will start to look at Labour Market information and consider the future of jobs.

In Year 9, the focus is self-assessment and career management to include exploring possible pathways and options post-14. Students look at options which link to career pathways and jobs. We organise trips, employer engagement and speakers in order to give students ideas about the real world of work.

In Year 10, the focus is the world of work, being responsible and creating opportunities for work experience. We also look outside school for inspiration. On return from work experience students evaluate their understanding of how subjects link to the world of work and begin to consolidate or rethink their ideas about career pathways. This will include considering strengths and interests and how these will influence their Post 16 plans.

In Year 11, the focus is post-16 options and the application process. Students are now focussed on the reality of applying for college, sixth form, and apprenticeships. They write personal statements, CV's application forms and prepare for interviews.

Parents and Carers

In Year 9, parents are invited to an options evening where they are informed of the option choices and have time to talk to subject teachers. This is followed by a parents' evening. The options booklet is published on the school website with key dates.

In Year 10, parents are kept informed of any information and key dates in the weekly bulletin as well as letters and SMS messages. They are informed of the work experience programme and can contribute by offering placements to students. The careers leader can be contacted with any queries about work experience

In Year 11, parents are made aware of the options open to students Post-16 and a list of key dates via email, text and the weekly careers newsletter. Parents are spoken to at Year 11 Parents Evening and most also attend the Post-16 Information Evening with the student where personalised careers advice is available from the Careers Leader.

Partnerships

- A Service Level Agreement is ongoing with LEBC, detailing the contributions to the programme that each partner will make.
- Links with local 14-19 Providers and local Universities are strong and opportunities to engage students are looked for.
- Links with parents / carers are maintained using a variety of methods (parental leaflets, letters, newsletters, social media and options evenings etc.) Parents/carers are invited to complete an annual survey which informs the careers programme. Parents / carers are also encouraged to contribute to assemblies, talks and stakeholder meetings.

Any education or training provider who would like to share their opportunities with our students contacts Mr P Hynes (phynes@wbvs.co.uk) in the first instance.

We then ensure that the request is appropriate for our students and then arrange a suitable session that may be part of a dedicated careers (Personal Development) lesson, an assembly or an existing calendared school event.

There are a variety of spaces that are used for such sessions that include classrooms, the lecture theatre, the drama studio or the dining hall. Full audio-visual and wireless Internet is available in all areas.

The 8 Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance

The 8 Gatsby benchmarks have been adopted by the government for schools to use as a framework for improving their careers provision. More information can be found at <http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>.

The 8 Gatsby benchmarks are:

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

The school will continually evaluate its careers provision against the Gatsby benchmarks using the Compass tool to assist in further developing the existing provision. (<https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/schools-colleges/compass-benchmark-tool>)

The first self-assessment using the Compass tool was completed in **April 2018** to help formulate our Careers action planning from 2018-19 onwards. Progress has been reviewed every term since.

The latest Compass+ evaluation can be found at <https://compass.careersandenterprise.co.uk/shared/wM4U6U1o2vw3gE5LAA5SnuNPQpgMqNcG>

The school also uses the 6 learning areas of the CDI Careers Development Framework (<https://www.thecdi.net/New-Career-Development-Framework>) whose purpose is to clarify the skills, knowledge and attitudes that individuals need to have a positive career.



An outline of the typical Careers Programme through Years 7-11

Year Group	7	8	9
Element 1 – Careers Education Programme	<p>PD lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building Learning Power (BLP). ● My Progress File ● Achievements ● Decisions and choices ● My dream job ● Economic Well Being ● Exploring careers ● A working world and school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dream wish list ● Types of jobs ● Reality check ● After work ● Getting away ● Fair play ● Realising your dream ● It all starts at school 	<p>PSHE/PD content: Options process The use of Unifrog</p> <p>Activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your job or theirs? ● Superwoman ● Which way now ● Changing work patterns ● Young Enterprise ‘Learn to earn’.
Element 2 – Work-related Learning	Careers week activities	<p>Careers week activities</p> <p>Enterprise 10x challenge</p>	<p>Careers week activities</p> <p>Your job or theirs?</p> <p>Changing work patterns</p> <p>Young Enterprise ‘Learn to earn’ considered</p>
Element 3 – Careers Information	<p>Widening Participation events</p> <p>Careers week activities</p> <p>Possible introduction to Unifrog</p> <p>Careers Interview</p>	<p>Widening Participation events</p> <p>STEM activities (e.g. CGI 2019)</p> <p>Careers week activities</p> <p>Careers Interview</p>	<p>Unifrog</p> <p>University visits</p> <p>Careers Interview</p> <p>‘Have a Go’-style events at Loughborough College (TBC)</p> <p>Options taster lessons</p> <p>Options evening</p> <p>Widening Participation events</p>
Element 4 - Advice and Guidance	Careers assemblies	<p>Careers assemblies</p> <p>Careers interviews</p>	<p>Careers assemblies</p> <p>Options discussions with tutors and class teachers</p> <p>Careers interviews</p> <p>Loughborough University mentoring programme (TBC)</p> <p>Future scholars programme</p>
Element 5 - Action Planning	Start initial careers awareness	<p>Use of Unifrog</p> <p>Start initial careers awareness</p>	<p>Use of Unifrog</p> <p>Start initial careers awareness</p> <p>Careers action planning through Options process</p>

Year Group	10	11
Element 1 – Careers Education Programme	<p>Work Experience preparation in Dec/Jan. Lessons on what it is and how to choose Self-placements arranged.</p> <p>Economic Well Being: can we live without money, how you make the most of your money, inflation, taxation, etc.</p> <p>Work Experience – preparation for placement (June/July)</p> <p>1:1 Careers Interview</p>	<p>Post-16 choices</p> <p>Decision making</p> <p>Skills for work</p> <p>Personal statements</p> <p>CV writing</p> <p>Applying for jobs</p> <p>Interviews</p> <p>Money</p> <p>1:1 Careers Interview</p>
Element 2 – Work-related Learning	<p>Mock Interviews</p> <p>Work Experience placement (June/July)</p> <p>Young Enterprise ‘Companies Programme’ (TBC)</p> <p>3M Young Innovators challenge at Loughborough University (TBC)</p> <p>Bridge to Work event (TBC)</p>	<p>STEM activities</p> <p>University challenge day</p> <p>Mock Interviews (external provider)</p> <p>Talks from various employers/alumni</p> <p>Bridge to Work Event</p>
Element 3 – Careers Information	<p>Bridge to Work – Year 10-11 with Loughborough College</p> <p>University trips</p> <p>Widening Participation events</p> <p>Careers week activities</p>	<p>Post 16 Assemblies</p> <p>Attendance at WBVS Post-16 evening (October)</p> <p>“Ask Apprenticeships” assembly .</p> <p>Widening Participation events</p> <p>Careers week activities</p> <p>Oxbridge presentation</p> <p>Alumni input</p>
Element 4 - Advice and Guidance	<p>Careers interviews for all students with priority for PP students and SEN students</p>	<p>Careers interviews for all</p> <p>Action plans uploaded to Unifrog.</p> <p>Talk ‘Why should I go to University’ by Leicester University (Why HE?)</p>
Element 5 - Action Planning	<p>Through Unifrog</p>	<p>Through Unifrog</p> <p>Personal statements written</p> <p>Unifrog CV builder</p>

Additional opportunities through the Careers Programme (Years 7-11)

Every year opportunities arise that are not part of the standard careers offer. These opportunities are evaluated and then included where appropriate.

Examples from the past academic years include:

- Travel and Tourism students visiting Stonehurst Farm Park to explore careers in the tourism industry
- Travel and Tourism students visiting East Midlands Airport to explore careers in the tourism industry
- Volunteer It Yourself session for 15 students to experience a joinery trade taster building benches for the school
- Leicester college - creative/media/vocational courses taster (Years 9/10)
- Stephenson College visit - experience a newer college outside the usual local post-16 providers
- STEM day with CIG - activities and presentations on careers in the STEM industries
- Opus SEND project to mentor, support and give work experience to SEND students in a variety of industries (employers provide work experience, trips to employer's sites, visits schools to provide cv workshops, mock interviews, careers fairs, one to one mentoring etc.)
- Wolfson degree show (Year 9s)
- Teen Tech festival day (Year 8/9)
- University of Creative Arts (Cyanotype workshop) (Year 10 Fine Art students)
- Bank of England careers workshop (2019-20 TBC)
- Cartoon Art workshop (Years 7/8/9)
- Apprenticeship workshop (Year 10 and 11)
- Design/engineering project - Year 9 with Loughborough University students
- Loughborough University Higher Education experience day (Year 9 and 10 Pupil Premium students)
- Willmott Dixon Eco Village Design
- The 'Big Ideas' programme
- Medic Mentoring – Leicester University
- Employer talks – veterinary science, chef, law etc.
- Slack & Parr Engineering workshop
- Bank of England careers
- Why HE? – Loughborough University