

Careers Bulletin



Bishop Milner Catholic College | Careers Lead, Sarah Wilkins | For more Information, please contact swilkins@bmilner.dudley.sch.uk

Welcome to the first edition of Bishop Milner's careers Bulletin and a very warm welcome from Sarah Wilkins, Careers Lead. I joined the college after working for 7 years as a careers Lead at a large secondary school. With a career background in both Recruitment and Industry my main aim is to enhance career preparation throughout the school providing an inspirational and motivating careers service for all students. I have a varied program of events planned over the course of the year, which will support students in choosing their options as well as supporting their career journey. My door is always open and with impartial advice from Connexions every Thursday and Aspire to HE every Wednesday and Thursday the students will always be able to drop in for support and guidance. I'm excited about September and cannot wait to continue inspiring and raising the aspirations of your children. On a final note, I am very keen to develop links and to build relationships with local businesses, charities and universities and more importantly you as parents. I have also worked very closely since starting with our ever growing Alumni of ex-students so if you are an ex-student or have any older sons or daughters who would like a chance to come back into school to inspire the students please log on to

www.networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/bishopmilner

If you are a parent who would like more involvement in the future of the school, we are looking to set up a Parent Teacher association letters will be going out the first week of term however if you are interested please do not hesitate to drop me an email.

To keep you up to date of some of the things that have happened so far this year

"Future Friday's event".

Every Friday morning at 8.30am I host our ever growing and becoming more popular "Future Fridays"

As part of the government careers strategy 'The Gatsby Bench Marks' were developed so schools can be confident that they are fulfilling our legal duties as outlined by the DfE. The 8 Gatsby benchmarks, are described as defining a "world-class standard of excellent careers guidance" Benchmark number 5 is titled "Encounters with employers and employees" My aim is to expose Bishop Milner pupils to as many different career paths as possible.

So far this year we have welcomed:

- A Lawyer
- A Blogger
- A Designer for Jaguar Land rover
- A Finance Manager from Marston's Brewery
- A Female Firefighter
- A Nurse
- A Big cat trainer from the Birmingham Wildlife trust
- An IT Trainer for the West Midlands NHS
- A Lighting engineer for Dudley council.
- A Communications officer for West Midlands Police
- A Female Financial Advisor
- A Finance Apprentice
- A Neonatal nurse

All students are welcome to these sessions. Please encourage your children to attend these sessions as the more information they have on future professions the better equipped they will be.

As well as Future Fridays I have tried to engage the students in as many different events as possible. From a large whole school STEM event to individual events such as our very popular “Explore the store” trip to Tesco for our year 7’s to our Mock interview day for our year 10’s where 16 employers gave up their time over a day to interview every single one of our students giving them invaluable feedback and helping to increase our student’s success during application processes and also prepare them for work experience.

As you may be aware Work experience is becoming increasingly difficult to source for our year 10’s so next year we are changing the process slightly and moving the date to March, where we know we will have no competition from other local schools around the area giving our students a better chance of gaining a meaningful experience over the week.

Alongside our employers, I have also gained a link with Oriel College Oxford ready for next year to come into school and work with our pupils and teachers to upskill us in the processes behind gaining places at Oxbridge Universities. They will be working closely with our students helping them understand essay writing and offering subject specific workshops.

We have also welcomed a whole host of various visitors to the college to talk to and inspire our students such as:

- *The Royal Marines*
- *Sandwell Council*
- *MW Fitness*
- *Stourbridge Catenians*
- *Aspire to HE*
- *Speakers Trust*
- *The Brilliant Club*
- *Newman University*
- *Wolverhampton University*
- *Birmingham University*
- *University of Leicester*
- *Positively Mad*
- *Department of work and pensions*

Just to name a few and we have enjoyed getting out and about visiting various employers and institutions such as

- *Wolverhampton University for a Pathology Course and an outreach day*
- *TESCO for our Explore the store*
- *The NEC*
- *Local schools for various public speaking and poetry slams*
- *JLR for an engineering day*

Our plan for next year is looking even Busier so watch this space for our next event. You can follow all of our engagements and interventions on our social media site. Hope you all enjoy the summer and see you in September.

Ms Wilkins

Careers Lead.

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