

Careers Policy – Excelsior Academy

There has never been a time when careers guidance has been as important for young people as it is today. The landscape of education, training and employment opportunities that students need to navigate is more complex and more challenging than that faced by previous generations. The raising of the age for participating in learning means that young people face a wider range of choices of courses and places to study.

Excelsior Academy's Careers Plan sets out how we intend to provide a fit for purpose careers programme which will provide our students with the knowledge, inspiration and ability to take ownership of their own career action plans, enabling them to succeed in their chosen career pathway.

Careers education does not just mean informing students about their options after school; but also how their school career will affect their futures. It is our statutory duty to ensure that all pupils receive independent, impartial advice and guidance regarding all options within school and how they will affect their options after school and which careers pathways will become available to them. By helping students with decisions at crucial stages, informing them of all their options and introducing them to the world of work, we aim to prepare them for life after school whichever path they choose.

Careers Plan – Year 7 to Year 13

Year 7

- Students are encouraged to identify personal traits, strengths and skills and develop confidence and have high expectations of themselves.
- Students are introduced to careers resources and informed how to use them.
- START software engaged with, on which academic progress and notes from careers sessions are recorded.
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions, assemblies and arranged talks.
- By beginning careers education early students can make better informed decisions at transition stages and are more motivated in school in order to follow a particular pathway.

Year 8

- Students build on personal strengths and begin to link skills to specific careers enabling realistic and informed decisions at transition stages.
- Students introduced to the world of work and how it is constantly changing.
- Students introduced to other careers software and websites available in school.
- Students encouraged to think about what they might like to achieve after school.
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions. They are also encouraged to use careers resources available and informed where to find out more about specific courses/careers.
- Academic and careers progress is recorded on START profiles.

Year 9

- Students encouraged to reassess personal strengths with a focus on transferable skills.

- What is important in a career? Students encouraged to investigate different jobs and careers and what they mean in terms of lifestyle, budgeting and a good work/life balance and develop economic awareness.
- Students encouraged to challenge stereotypes within the world of work and traditional job roles.
- Students should begin to think about GCSE option in terms of career pathways and plan future within school.
- What is a CV, what is a cover letter and why do people applying for jobs need them?
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions. They are also encouraged to use careers resources available and informed where to find out more about specific courses/careers.
- Academic and careers progress is recorded onto START profiles.

Year 10

- Students begin to explore 6th form options and interview techniques.
- Economic awareness developed further and students encouraged to think about employability, which careers appeal and to identify and set themselves realistic future goals.
- Students agree personal action plans with careers adviser for future and identify what specific action is required to achieve goals.
- Students begin CV and cover letter writing.
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions. They are also encouraged to use careers resources available and informed where to find out more about specific courses/careers.
- Academic and careers progress is recorded on START profiles.
- Students complete work experience and record progress Experience Log.

Year 11

- Students are helped with post 16 choices and encouraged to consider all their options including further study in 6th form and apprenticeships. Interview techniques further developed.
- Students should use careers interviews to help understand different career pathways and entry requirements and encouraged to make contingency plans should results be better/worse than expected and set personal targets for development.
- Specific mock interviews for those with a particular career path in mind also available.
- Students are encouraged to think about the kind of behaviour potential employers look for.
- Students are encouraged to attend careers talks, fairs, college open days and taster days with employers.
- Students are assisted further with CV writing and encouraged to have a completed a CV and cover letter
- Students are kept up to date with post 16 deadlines.
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions. They are also encouraged to use careers resources available and informed where to find out more about specific courses/careers.
- Academic and careers progress is recorded on START profiles.

Year 12

- Students are given specific help with preparing UCAS/applying for apprenticeships.

- Sessions on understanding school leaver and graduate job markets and how to look and apply for jobs.
- Students should start to understand how world of work is changing and how it might affect individuals.
- Students learn how to manage a career in terms of progression, budgeting and planning for the future.
- Students are reminded of different options including higher education, jobs, gap years, apprenticeships etc.
- Students are encouraged to attend university open days, mock interviews, careers interviews and meet potential employers to discuss future options.
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions. They are also encouraged to use careers resources available and informed where to find out more about specific courses/careers.
- Academic and careers progress is recorded on Globalbridge profiles.

Year 13

- Students are given specific help with preparing UCAS/applying for apprenticeships.
- Sessions on understanding school leaver and graduate job markets and how to look and apply for jobs.
- Students should start to understand how world of work is changing and how it might affect individuals.
- Students learn how to manage a career in terms of progression, budgeting and planning for the future.
- Students are reminded of different options including higher education, jobs, gap years, apprenticeships etc.
- Students are encouraged to attend university open days, mock interviews, careers interviews and meet potential employers to discuss future options.
- Students have optional access to independent and impartial advisers via drop in sessions. They are also encouraged to use careers resources available and informed where to find out more about specific courses/careers.
- Academic and careers progress is recorded on Globalbridge profiles.