

Shire Oak Academy

Careers Newsletter



November 2021

A careers update for students and parents/carers

Welcome to the first edition of the Shire Oak Academy Careers Newsletter for this academic year. Applications for year 11 to join our Sixth Form in September 2022 are now OPEN! Mr Jones, Director of Sixth Form Studies met with all year 11 students last week and told them to look at the academy website where they will find information videos, our prospectus and the online application form to complete. The deadline for applications is 10th December 2021.

<http://shireoakacademy.co.uk/sixth-form>

This year many year 11 students stayed on at Shire Oak sixth form and are studying subjects from an extensive range of A level and or Level 3 vocational qualifications. Studying in the sixth form allows students to develop their independence in how they study and to be involved in a wide range of enrichment opportunities, all of which prepare our students for their next steps whether it be university, apprenticeships or employment.

Careers Advice and Guidance

Our careers adviser, Gaelle Holford, is based at the academy every Thursday and Friday (8.30am-3.00 pm). Her office is located in the library. To book a careers meeting appointment please email Ms Holford, her email is holford.g@shireoakacademy.co.uk. In addition, please feel free to email Gaelle with any questions you may have regarding careers information, advice and guidance. Gaelle is meeting all year 11 students for a one to one careers meeting, students will be given details of their meeting during Monday form time together with an email about their appointment time. Following the careers guidance meeting students will receive an action plan by email. Students are encouraged to discuss career plans and next steps with their form tutors, head of year, teaching staff and of course parents/carers.

For students who are considering progression to college or traineeship following Year 11 they are advised to apply via the college website before Christmas. Students who require advice and guidance in applying for a college course should contact Gaelle Holford by email.

After the Christmas break year 9 students will be making some important decisions about their key stage 4 option choices. Thursday 27th Jan 22 is our year 9 options evening where students and parents/carers will be presented with information about the options process and more importantly staff will be able to speak to students and parents about key stage 4 subjects. During the options process students will receive an email via their Shire Oak email account and will be invited to make their option choices through an online system.

As careers leader for Shire Oak Academy I am always on the lookout for employers/organisations (local or national) that would like to be involved in delivering any careers related guidance and/or activities to our students. Please contact Mrs M Carter (carter.m@shireoakacademy.co.uk) if you would be interested in forming a link with our academy. Employer engagement is an area that I wish to expand, develop and grow to provide our students with a wealth of careers related experiences and indeed develop sustainable partnerships between the world of work and our future workforce.

Careers events and activities

Year 11 Walsall College talk - 9th Dec 21, 9.00-10.00, venue tbc

Year 11 Apprenticeship Workshop - Thurs 6th Jan & Thurs 20th Jan 22, 9.00-10.00am

Year 11 and 10 NHS talk for students interested in NHS careers - 20th Jan 22, venue tbc

Year 9 Take Your Child To Work Day, July 2022 (dates tbc). Students will be given the opportunity to spend a day gaining some work experience with an adult (parent or friend).

Sixth Form – Mr Jones, Director of Sixth Form Studies

Shire Oak Academy 6th form offers students a wide range of A level and or Level 3 vocational qualifications alongside an exciting enrichment programme, all of which prepare students for their next steps whether it be university, apprenticeships or employment. Our current year 12 students have thrown themselves into their studies and other activities such as running and taking part in sporting events, reading leaders, helping out at open evening and in departments. Our experienced team of sixth form staff ensure that students have the required support and access to up to date information and guidance throughout their 6th form studies. Students are taught by highly experienced teaching staff and are encouraged to aim high and reach their potential following the 6th form.



UCAS Applications 2022 entry - Information for year 13 students

Year 13 students are currently making their applications to UCAS to apply to study at universities in 2022 and they should now be well on their way to writing personal statements that support their applications. If university is not a student's desired career path they should still be preparing for apprenticeship and job applications. Year 13 will be taking part in enrichment with the sixth form team this half term, this is aimed at helping students make the best applications for university that they can. This web link has some tips to help writing a strong personal statement.

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/ucas-progress/how-write-ucas-progress-personal-statement>

Information for year 12 students

Looking ahead, year 12 will be out on work experience placements from 11th July 2022 for 2 weeks. Students will be expected to secure their own placement. Year 12 will also complete a "Next Steps" programme starting on 4th July for a week. Information regarding UCAS, apprenticeships and employment plus interview practice will be delivered through workshops along with guest speakers.

Mrs L Hodgetts, our student sixth form student support adviser, is available to support students looking for alternatives after 6th form. The web sites below provide excellent resources in finding out more about apprenticeships.

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

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/Choices/Apprenticeships/HigherApprenticeship.aspx>

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships-223/filter/subcats/higher-apprenticeship-228>

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/higher-apprenticeships/>

Any queries about Shire Oak Sixth Form please contact Mr Jones (jones.g@shireoakacademy.co.uk)

Apprenticeships - useful information

An apprenticeship is a real job with training so you can earn while you learn and pick up some recognised qualifications as you go. Students aged 16 to 18 may be interested in apprenticeships from Levels 2 and 3. It is possible to apply for an apprenticeship in year 11 (normally from April - May 2022 onwards). The legal age to start an apprenticeship is 16 years and over. Entry requirements vary but most employers are now asking for grades 4s and above to include English, Maths and Science. To browse advertisements for apprenticeships, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>.

Useful websites related to careers

Shire Oak Academy- Careers webpage includes links to a wealth of information
<https://www.shireoakacademy.co.uk/careers-education-information-advice-and-guidance/>

Unifrog - www.unifrog.co.uk

UNIFROG is the complete destinations platform; a one stop shop for students in all years but of particular interest to KS4 and KS5 students. It gets students thinking about what they might want to do in the future, whether it be university or an apprenticeship or just general careers advice and guidance, where students can search extensive career subject areas. Every course and apprenticeship in the UK is on UNIFROG. There are also global options as well. It really has transformed the way young people find and apply for post 16 and post 18 opportunities. All students in the academy have been emailed an invite to sign up to this website. Email V Barber to reset your unifrog password if you need to. barber.v@shireoakacademy.co.uk

Labour market information - local and national

Useful information about local and national labour market information can be found via this website
<https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/our-strategy/people/labour-market-intelligence/lmi-toolkit/>

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Gaëlle Holford - holford.g@shireoakacademy.co.uk - *Independent Careers Advisor*

Mrs L Hodgetts - hodgetts.l@shireoakacademy.co.uk - *Sixth form student support adviser*

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