



Halesbury School Careers Newsletter 23/24 Summary

Summer Term Newsletter:

Welcome to the Summer edition of our Careers newsletter. We're now fast approaching the end of this academic year so it seems like a great opportunity to reflect on all of the fantastic career-related activities that have been completed by our young people this year. It's been fantastic to see our learners adapt so well to the Preparing for Adulthood Day that was implemented across Secondary this year and from their feedback it's clear to see they have enjoyed many of the activities that they have undertaken!

Within this issue you'll also find feedback from our most recent parent/carer survey, information relating to our plans for the new academic year as well as details of how to register for clubs and activities that are taking place over the Summer break within the Dudley borough.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Summer term and a wonderful Summer break!

Mrs Harris

Inside this Issue:

- **Dudley HAF:** Details of Summer clubs and activities that may be relevant to your child
- **Parent/Carer Survey:** Feedback on the most recent parent/carer survey
- **Our Year Review:** A snapshot of the exciting work-related activities that took place last term
- **Plans for Next Year:** An overview of the support that will be available to you/your child
- **Dates for your Diary:** Upcoming events that may be beneficial to you/your child

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Parent/Carer Survey Feedback – February 2024:

Thank you to all those parents/carers who responded to the survey that was sent out in February. These surveys really help us to identify your priorities for our Careers and Preparing for Adulthood programme and means that we can make changes that reflect the needs of our young people and their families.

The results of the survey showed that:

Strengths of Provision	Areas for Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Community Inclusion: Parents/carers recognise that there are many opportunities being offered to our young people in order to support them to develop the confidence, skills and awareness needed to access their local community.+ Communication: Parents/carers appreciate the effort that is being made to share information, feedback and photographs of the careers-related activities that are taking place in school thorough the website, Class Dojo and termly Careers newsletter.+ Named Careers Lead: Parents/carers are now recognising that there is a named person who can support them with their concerns, questions or queries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work Experience: Whilst parents/carers appreciate the breadth of opportunities that are being offered, a suggested area for improvement is refining work experience so that students are matched with opportunities that are more closely linked to their personal interests and aspirations.- Transition to Adult Services: Parents/carers find this transition particularly daunting and confusing so it would be beneficial to develop relationships with this team and increase their presence within school to enable parents/carers to make informed decisions.- Travel Training: Parents/carers are keen to see more travel training opportunities embedded within the curriculum. This is not currently offered by Dudley so alternative options are being explored.

We will continue to develop our provision in line with your feedback over the next academic year.

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Reviewing our Year:



Hippodrome Education Network:

This year, we have partnered with Birmingham Hippodrome and this allowed every class in school to experience creative drama sessions with Sam, our learning and participation artist.

Pupil Feedback:

'We enjoyed every minute of it' – Pathway 2 Pupil

'I liked Sam – he was really funny' – Pathway 1 Pupil

'The only bad thing was when it was over' – Squirrel Class

Employer Project - Scarecrow Festival:

This year, we continued to develop our partnership with Forge Mill Farm by joining in with their Scarecrow Festival that ran over the Whitsun holidays. Pupils from Badger, Pathway 2, Amethyst and Emerald all made a fantastic scarecrow based on the theme of 'tradition and culture'.

Pupil Feedback:

'Our Scarecrow was called Morris. He was a Morris dancer. That's a May Day tradition' – Emerald Class



Employer Project - Midland Metro Alliance:

This year, pupils from Amethyst, Emerald and Pathway 1 also produced some amazing Bug Hotels for Midland Metro. Winners were chosen from each class and these were sent to Midland Metro so that they could be used to provide a safe haven for wildlife in amongst all of the construction work being done!

Pupil Feedback:

'We liked it when Tom and Tim (from MMA) came to visit. We got to talk to them about our ideas' – Pathway 1

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Reviewing our Year:

Work-Related Learning at Forge Mill Farm:

Pupils from Pathway 2, 3 and 4 have completed two blocks of work-related learning at Forge Mill Farm. They have carried out a wide range of jobs on the farm including showing visitors round and taking part in lambing!

Pupil Feedback:

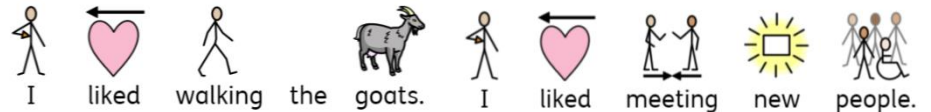
'I don't want to work on a farm in the future but this was still good experience because I had to work in a team, follow instructions and follow health and safety' – Pathway 4 Pupil



Work-Related Learning at Riverside Farm:

Pupils from Pathway 1, Amethyst and Emerald have completed two blocks of work-related learning at Forge Mill Farm. This has helped them to understand how the farm changes with the seasons.

Pupil Feedback:



Work-Related Learning at Riverside House:

Amethyst, Emerald and Post 16 have continued to attend Riverside House this year, where they have worked hard to contribute positively to the conservation work that is taking place.

Pupil Feedback:

'I like going to Riverside. Sometimes we do arts and crafts and sometimes we do outdoor work. Outdoor work is my favourite but it does make me tired' – Post 16 Pupil



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Reviewing our Year:



DPD Sensory Sessions:

Ruby Class, Amethyst, Emerald and Pathway 1 also experienced sensory-based sessions with DPD. This was an opportunity for them to explore the sights, sounds and processes associated with delivering a parcel. Students also had the opportunity to practice using the hand-held computers and dress up in DPD uniforms.

Pupil Feedback:

'I liked dressing up in the uniform. It made me feel like I was at work' – Emerald Class Pupil

Community Engagement:

This year, Halesbury School has continued to have a visible presence within the local community with students frequently accessing facilities such as cafes, parks, libraries and leisure centres. Some groups have also carried out charity work and visits to a local care home in order to make a positive contribution to the community.

Pupil Feedback:

'We really enjoyed speaking to Horace, who was 105 years old. We enjoyed playing games with the residents and chatting to them' – Pathway 3



Year Review:

Overall, this year has been very successful as we have been able to successfully implement Preparing for Adulthood Day onto the Secondary timetable and increase the opportunities that our students have to develop the important life-long skills that they will need in order to lead happy, fulfilled adult lives. However, as we look to plan for next year, it will be important to sustain relationships with existing providers whilst also reaching out to new ones in order to continue to develop and diversify the learning experiences that we can offer our students!

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Planning for Next Year:

As some of you may be aware, Mrs Harris will be on maternity leave from September onwards, however, we wanted to reassure you that there will still be support in place for both you, as parents/carers and your children as they begin to navigate future planning and transition.

Support for Parents/Carers

Summer Workshops

Throughout this term, a range of workshops have taken place designed to support parents/carers to understand a range of topics such as Post 16 options, Post 19 options and Capacity Assessments.

Connexions

In September, our linked Connexions advisors will be contacting all Year 11 and Year 14 parents/carers to clarify your preferred option ahead of the EHCP Review.

PFA Worker

From September, Dudley LA are looking to allocate a named PFA worker to Halesbury School. This person will be on-hand to signpost and support with any queries you may have regarding next steps.

Support for Students

Summer College Visits

Throughout this term, Year 10 pupils have visited a range of colleges and training providers to support them to make an informed decision about their future provision.

Connexions

In September, our linked Connexions advisors will be carrying out guidance sessions with all Year 11 and Year 14 pupils in order to allow pupil voice to be shared in the EHCP review.

PFA Day

All Secondary-aged pupils will continue to access a range of work-based learning opportunities, employer engagement projects and community-based activities in order to support them in Preparation for Adulthood.

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Dudley HAF:

Dudley Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) provides free school holiday activities for children aged 5-16 who are eligible for Free School Meals. Some activities are also funded for children and young people aged 5-19 who do not receive Free School Meals but do have an Education, Health and Care Plan, however, due to overall capacity of the programme, these places are limited and not guaranteed.

HAF activities will be available to book very soon (expected mid-late June). In order to access the booking site, you will need to be registered with HAF so that a personalized booking link can be sent to you.

To register, you need to register using the following link: <https://register.bookinglab.co.uk/dudley/37001/register> If you are not Free School Meals, you will be asked to name a professional who can verify your child's needs – this can be a member of staff from within school e.g. class teacher, member of family support etc. or an external agency such as GP, family support worker etc.



Dates for your Diary:

- **Thursday 4th July:**
School Closed to Pupils – Voting for General Election
- **Thursday 11th July:**
Parent's Evening at Halesbury School (3.00-5.30pm)
Appointment Letters to Follow
- **Wednesday 17th July:**
End of Term for Pupils
- **Monday 22nd July:**
Dudley HAF Activities Begin
- **Thursday 22nd August:**
GCSE Results Day



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