

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Aims

At Stroud and Cotswold Alternative Provision School we are passionate about supporting students through the process of deciding upon the direction they take after finishing school, to maximise their life chances and prepare them to make an active contribution to society. The values and ethos of our school support the students to develop their knowledge, skills and attributes to equip them to successfully find training and employment.

- For students to develop positive attitudes towards study and work.
- For students to evaluate their own strengths and to build on their own areas for development. To help students fully engage in career planning.
- For students to understand and develop the skills that are required to be successful in their future pathway.

The objectives of the policy are as follows:

1. To ensure that all students receive a stable Careers programme
2. To enable all students to learn from information provided by the Career and labour market
3. All students will have access to an individualised careers programme that has been devised to address their specific needs
4. The curriculum has cross curricula links to careers learning
5. There are planned opportunities for students to meet employers, employees and higher education providers
6. All students will have access to experience of workplaces

We provide impartial guidance and advice on further education, training or employment across KS3 and KS4 and involve outside agencies such as employers and education providers, these aims are achieved through the Careers curriculum, which is outlined below. All strategies are in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks. Careers Compass is completed twice per year and action points are used to inform improvements. The compass assessment tool has identified areas that require improvement and informed our action plan for each Benchmark.

Personal Guidance

Our Careers Leader is Marc Ward. If you have any queries about careers, higher education or work experience please contact him on 01453 767293. Email:marc.ward@scaps.gloucs.sch.uk

Resources

At SCAPS there is a dedicated careers area and holds a supply of local college prospectuses along with a selection of apprenticeship and industry information.

Professional Advice

One to one support is provided by the 'Jobcentre Plus support for school's adviser', Alan Clark. An adviser visits the school once a week during term time to provide information, advice and support on a one to one basis or in small groups. Our aim is to arrange at least one half hour appointment during KS4 for every single SCAPS student. Most will receive two meetings, with many more students also receiving individual advice in Year 9.

Measuring Impact

Stroud and Cotswold Alternative Provision School will assess the impact of its careers programmes on students by completing an annual student survey and analysing destinations data in line with activities that they have taken part in at school. In addition, the views of students and parents will be surveyed after key events during the academic year.

Policy

To read the full careers guidance, please click on the careers link on our website. Reviewed and Approved by the Management Committee: 21 October 2020

The Provision

1. A key aspect of the students initial meeting is to identify the students hopes and aspiration for their post sixteen destination. This provides the basis for shaping their educational pathway at SCAPS. Many students identify a preference for vocational study and employment. Key Stage 4 students have the opportunity of attending a weekly session at Bridge Training which is a level 1 motor vehicle award.
2. This is followed up with introductory careers lessons allowing the students to reflect on where they are now and on what they want to do in the future. Students are introduced to the online careers information available to them and they get the opportunity to use Careers Pilot. They are also introduced to the National Careers Service Website focusing on job profiles and job sectors

3. Students continue to investigate possible career routes and matching skills and qualities to suitable occupations. Most students are keen to pursue vocational courses and apprenticeships. Stereotyping is addressed in each year group to ensure all students are aware and fully embrace the importance of equal opportunities. Students participate in introductory sessions about the different post 16 routes available giving in depth discussion of the different courses available including an apprenticeships talk. SGS offer a virtual tour and is followed up with Q/A session. Opportunities at other FE colleges are discussed and more bespoke options via Bridge Training are also discussed. "Meet the professionals" workshops which take place throughout the year. (to be arranged)
4. Key stage 3 and 4 students have a timetabled Careers lesson once per week. Students study five topics which include Self Awareness, Stereotyping, Opportunity Awareness, Decision Making and Transition. Transition includes the delivery of topics including pay slips, budgeting, trade unions and organisation charts. During the Autumn and Spring term SGS, offer Key stage 4 students the opportunity to participate in taster sessions, when students have the opportunity to experience a range of building trades. They use the National Careers Service to investigate entry requirements for particular jobs in preparation for their option choices. "Meet the professionals" workshops which take place throughout the year. There is also a focus on employability skills workshop with the schools Enterprise Link.
5. All year 11 students take part in a one-week Work Experience programme. The aim is to give pupils first-hand experience of the world of work. Some placements are found by the school or our Business Advocate, as a result of links with industrial firms; Students are fully prepared for their placement through planned careers lessons during PSHEE, which include a full investigation into Health and Safety in the workplace. At SCAPS Prospect Training and Young Gloucester provide support programme that includes investigating post 16 options, letters of application, CV's, application forms interview techniques, Grit and Resilience. All students have access to a Careers Fair, run by SGS and based at Stroud leisure Centre, which gives advice and guidance on post 16 opportunities in the summer term.