

Careers at Mercia School

At Mercia School, we have placed a high value on our focus of careers and the development of future choices. You know that we are incredibly ambitious for all our pupils and we believe that we can help all our pupils achieve their career goals, even those pupils who may not know what they are yet! We know from our experiences of working with young people that direction and ambition are central to keeping pupils going when times are hard, we also know that keeping the conversation about careers going at home is central to fostering ambition and aspiration.

All pupils made a Mercia promise at the start of their journey with us. This 'promise' is our first step in the encouragement of pupils to consider university and beyond. We know that pupils need to see it and hear about it to believe it. We have spent time in Mastery sessions studying careers and routes of employment. Pupils know what Russell Group Universities are and the requirements needed to get there. They are also aware of what the Ebacc qualification is and why it is favoured. We have attributed curriculum time to teaching explicitly what is often assumed, exclusive or for the privileged. We have made it our aim to give pupils the knowledge they need to make the right choices. We know this is an important step in the process of making deliberate decisions and you should be reassured that we are here to support and our focus on careers can really help make a difference. Our Big Challenge work exposed some real business potential across school. Our charity work has illustrated some much-needed philanthropy amongst pupils and our hosting of guest speakers and careers guidance has allowed pupils to start to ask questions with very important answers. We know this is a dialogue and we know we will keep it going and we know you are a part of that too. That is why you will have a much needed one to one with us, so we can discuss and decide together.

You should also be aware that we have a package of careers support around our pupils. We adhere the Gatsby Benchmarks closely. These are the standards set for exceptional careers guidance in schools. These benchmarks include...

The eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

Our focus throughout the year will be the ongoing personal guidance and encounters that pupils need. Encounters with careers, exposure to workplaces and access to understanding what is out there should not be a benchmark, it is an entitlement, and we will ensure your child has knowledge of it all. With knowledge, we feel Mercia pupils will make smart choices and have successful futures. That's our Mercia promise.

Please keep the conversation going at home, read and research together. Committing to something always fosters a greater determination than a passive acceptance. Make it your business to be informed and enthusiastic and come to us with any questions. We are here to help and already so excited about our Mercia Alumni! We know they will do brilliant things, so here is to the start of their amazing options ahead...