

Careers 2024-25

At Wanstead High School, we facilitate a progressive Careers curriculum that is designed to evolve and grow with our learners at a proportionate rate to their cognitive capacities as well as dovetail with key points throughout their school journey.

In Year 7 when making the transition into secondary school, pupils are encouraged to explore what interests make them unique. We encourage pupils to reflect on which skill sets and experiences they already possess and which ones they would like to develop further. Opportunities are given to explore this through the exceptional range of extracurricular activities Wanstead High School - Clubs and Extracurricular Activities and initiatives as well as the diverse curriculum offered Wanstead High School - Curriculum by subject.

In year 8, Pupils continue to develop their interests with a more developed and focused attention towards which areas they have a flair for and which they are yet to develop. A growth mindset is adopted and pupils are encouraged to continue to aim big and aspire highly, having identified areas they would like to focus more on. Pupils learn about barriers to careers and how these can be overcome. Skills and achievements are formally logged.

In year 9 pupils identify the areas of the curriculum which they enjoy as well as those that will support them in their further life progression through the GCSE option choices. Pupils work collaboratively with their families and teachers to choose options that support their future, having reflected on the potential pathways these choices could afford them.

In Year 10, pupils will have started their GCSE courses and now have the opportunity to work with employers and gain exposure to the workplace. These interactions come in various forms, including career drop down days, visits within their curriculum areas to associated workplaces as well as receiving direct feedback on their performance from individuals in their chosen industries. Preparation for life in the workplace ramps up with career interviews. Bespoke processes of careers and pathways continue with individual advice and guidance and action plans. These action plans are returned to Year 11.

In Year 11, the pupils will concentrate on their GCSE studies that are key to securing the next steps in their education, employment and training. Pupils are exposed to the likely destinations on mock results day and are exposed to higher and further education opportunities as well as vocational routes. The action plans are returned to and progress reflected on. Pupils are supported through the choices they make with regard to their destinations.

In Year 12, pupils again have exposure to the real world of work through work experience. Pupils are encouraged and nurtured through the process of finding their own placements that are tailored to their interests. These experiences are reflected throughout year 13 and the UCAS application process. The UCAS process in turn allows pupils to make informed choices about their further education and training.

In Year 13, having navigated the whole school, pupils are given the opportunity to consolidate their career experiences and once again reflect on this with destination interviews.

Throughout Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 there are regular industry and further education exposure seminars and classes that are communicated on a regular basis to pupils who have the opportunity to sign up and explore as many of these as they are interested in.

The Wanstead Careers process is underpinned by the Gatsby Benchmarks and illustrated below:

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



| Year Group | Activity | When | Gatsby Benchmark |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 7 & 8 | Skills Builder | Form Time throughout the year | 1, 3, 8 |
| 8 | Skills Builder Drop down Session | Careers Week | 1, 3, 4, 8 |
| 8 | Equalities Act in the workplace | Autumn PD lessons | 1,3,8 |
| 9 | Options Evening with careers focus | Spring | 1, 3, 4, 8 |
| 9 | Unifrog | Form Time throughout the year | 1, 3, 4, 8 |
| 10 | Unifrog | Form Time throughout the year | 1, 3, 4, 8 |
| 10 | Individualised career interviews with action plans | Ongoing | 1, 3, 8 |
| 10 | Careers experience drop down day | Spring | 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 10 | Mock interview day | Summer | 2, 3, 5, 6 |
| 11 | Mock results day | Winter | 3, 4, 7, 8 |
| 11 | Unifrog | Form time throughout | 1, 3, 8 |
| 11 | Sixth form Assembly | Winter | 4, 7 |
| 12 | Work Experience | Summer | 2, 5, 6, 7 |
| 10, 11, 12, 13 | Online Work Exposure | Ongoing | 2, 5, 6, 7 |
| 10, 11, 12, 13 | Online High education Courses Exposure | Ongoing | 1, 7, 8 |

