

Careers Work

As part of my role as the Careers Link Teacher, I have been engaged in numerous activities that will provide the students with a variety of opportunities and allow them to make a more informed decision about their own futures.

Mock interviews

For the first time ever, the entire Year 11 cohort have had a mock interview with people from the world of business, including Cardiff Council and Lloyds Bank. This process started with the pupils completing an application form, which was then used in the interview itself. The feedback from both the students and the employers was very positive. It is definitely something we will continue to do.



Work Experience

In the Summer, four of our Year 11 students did a week of work experience at the Civil Service offices. The feedback from both the service and the students was excellent.

We have offered various other work experience placements to the students. The most recent offer would be a week with HSBC.

Careers Wales

Pupils have been continually involved in careers interviews with Emma and Gael, our careers Advisors, on a weekly basis since September. Emma and Gael visit the school every Tuesday and Friday.

Cardiff Business Exchange

Mr Roberts and Mr Furness have been trained to use the Cardiff Business Exchange programme, which allows the school to access thousands of potential employers for the students. So far we have had visitors come into school to assist with Health and Social lessons and Photography lessons. This is something we are looking to develop over the course of the year.

CAVC Drop in days

Jo Tanner, from Cardiff and Vale College has started her monthly “drop in” days to offer pupils extra help with finding and applying for college courses that suit them – so far numerous Year 11 pupils have sat with her to find out more information regarding college applications. These meetings usually last about 25 minutes.

Open evenings

Pupils have been informed of, and attended, a variety of Open evenings - including CAVC, St David’s College and Cardiff High School.

Assemblies

There have been, and continue to be, a variety of different employers and colleges conducting assemblies for the Year 11 students to give them as much information as possible about what to do when they leave school. These bodies have included: -

- St David’s College
- NHS
- BT Call centre
- Retail industry
- Cardiff High 6th Form
- Admiral Insurance
- CAVC
- BBC Radio
- Careers Wales – interactive assembly

Destination data

As part of our commitment to the students, I have also tried to ensure that all of last year's Year 11 pupils are actively engaged in something productive since leaving school. With the assistance of careers Wales and the Youth Mentoring system, we have ascertained that 95% of pupils who left Willows in the Summer of 2019 are currently involved in numerous ventures. These include: -

- St David's
- ACT
- CAVC
- Cathays 6th form
- Agricultural college
- ITEC barbering
- Apprenticeships
- Working

Role Model day

February 2020 Willows hosted a second Role Model day for Year 11 pupils. 5 employers, all Willows High School alumni, from a range of industries visited school and hosted workshops for the pupils.

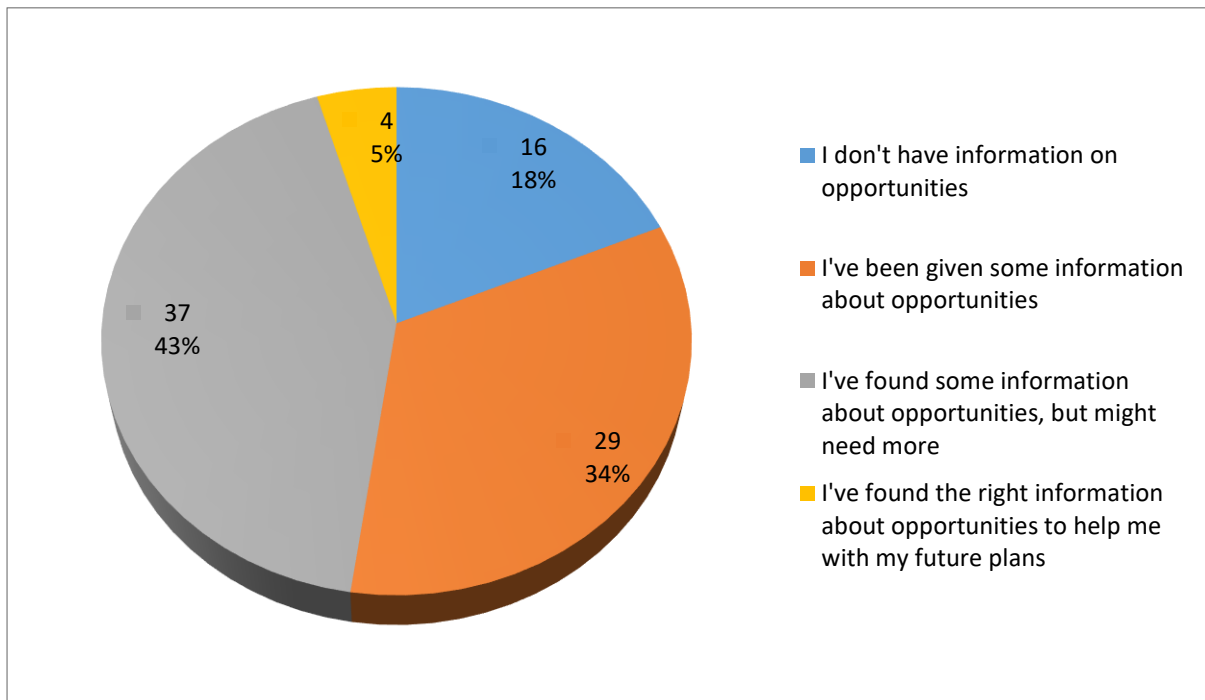
Some pictures from the Role Model day show the pupils interacting with the visitors.



Yr. 10 Careers Check Survey

All pupils in Year 10 will be completing a survey highlighting their areas of interest and possible career paths. This will give the school and Careers Wales an idea of the types of interviews and assemblies that will be of interest to those pupils with a view to their future college or job choices.

An example of the information gained by last year's survey is; -



Year 10 - Jobs for the Future Sessions

Careers Wales has hosted these sessions. They involved all year 10 pupils for one lesson and the aim was to highlight the ever changing world in which we live, specifically related to work and the world of work.

Year 9 Job match Quiz

All year 9 pupils have been given a password now to access the careers Wales website, which allows them to search for any potential job or college course they may be interested in.

Year 9 Construction Course

Pupils from Year 9 were invited by Cadwyn Construction to express an interest in attending a monthly project which involved them visiting a local construction site. The pupils were introduced to a variety of activities, such as bricklaying and plastering, as well as given an understanding of what was involved in the construction of a building – in this case a block of flats. One of the most pleasing aspects of the course was the gender make-up of the pupils, with over 50% of them being female.



Year 7 and 8 Job Match Quiz

All pupils in year 7 and 8 will take part in a Job Match survey, via the careers Wales website, for them to start considering potential careers they may be interested in. Pupils with a possible career in mind should be more motivated to achieve well in school.

Year 7 Open Your Eyes week

Willows took part in a project which involved several companies and organisations interacting with the Year 7 cohort, to give them an insight into what is involved in their job. The companies involved were :-

- GE Healthcare
- Armed Forces
- Galliford Try Construction
- ACT Training
- Network Rail
- igloo Healthcare
- Renishaw
- HMRC
- Cardiff Blues
- Principality Building Society



Some feedback from the event was; -

“We enjoyed the experience and would be happy to run more of these events for the school and on behalf of HMRC. Thanking you again for your hospitality and welcome to the school”

Nick Boughton V.R. (Rtd)
HMRC

“We really enjoyed it and were very impressed by all the questions and how well the students listened and interacted. Please let me know if you would like to get another visit in the diary as we can offer team building activities, site tours, industry talks and I can also run a girls only intro to women in construction.”

Laura, Galliford try Construction

Genius Hour

Year 8 students have undertaken a project, under the guidance of Mentors from the University of South Wales, designed to show them how to design and create their own computer games. This project allows students to work independently and use their imagination in the design process. The idea of entrepreneurship, working for yourself, is very much one of the focuses of the Genius Hour project.

Careers Wales Mark

At the end of last half term, we were successful in gaining the Careers Wales Mark. In recent weeks, I have undertaken an audit of the school curriculum and provision within school against the Careers and World of Work framework. This has been followed by a school self-evaluation against the 5 Estyn inspection guidelines. As a result, a development plan has been produced which is aimed to further enhance the significant Careers and World of Work

activities currently being undertaken by the school and the staff. This award is a benchmark award for excellence in Careers provision.

Gatsby Benchmark

Now that the Careers Wales mark has been approved and awarded, the school will be working towards gaining the Gatsby Benchmark award. The school will strive to highlight how it meets the 8 standards of the award, which is the gold standard in careers provision.