

CAREERS



St. Michael's Middle School

Careers Newsletter

Issue 4 – Spring 2024

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING ISSUE

Our careers programme continues to blossom and we have had an excellent start to this academic year. Pupils have met with outside industry representatives, learnt more about apprenticeships, visited a further education provider and engaged with politics on a local and national level. Read on to find out about what has been going on and what is coming up for 2024.

CALLING ALL PROFESSIONALS !



We are looking for a few more volunteers for our Year 7 Careers Day. The event is on Wed 24 Jan from 9.40am—12.15pm. You would be involved in our Speed Talk sessions talking to small groups of our students about your education and career and taking questions from them.

We would like to represent a wide range of professions and industries, especially food and hospitality, hair and beauty, photography, the trades, scientists, architects, technology, sports instructors, PA's/HR and retail.

If you can help, please get in touch.

HAVING YOUR SAY

Thank you to so many of you who completed our Parental Support 2023-24 Questionnaire and kindly offered your ideas, support and involvement in our careers programme.

If you haven't had a chance to complete it yet - there is still time - please click [here](#).



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Rock Reef

Careers in Local and National
Politics



If you think you can help us with our careers education or if you have any comments or suggestions to make about our careers provision then please contact **Rebecca Warren - Careers Lead**
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Learning Trust



CAREERS FAIR AT QE

Year 8 pupils and parents attended Queen Elizabeth's School annual Careers & Apprenticeships Fair in October. There were local and national employers, further education, higher education and charitable organisations—so plenty to explore and think about!

The range and number of apprenticeships that are on offer really stood out and highlighted an alternative route into work and an exciting alternative to university.

JON EGGING TRUST INSPIRES YEAR 8's TO FLY HIGH



Kaye from the Jon Egging Trust met with our Year 8 students to launch their Blue Skies JET programme giving an opportunity for our Year 8 students to apply.

Kaye spoke to the pupils about how the Jon Egging Trust was founded and their mission to inspire and motivate young people to have high aspirations.

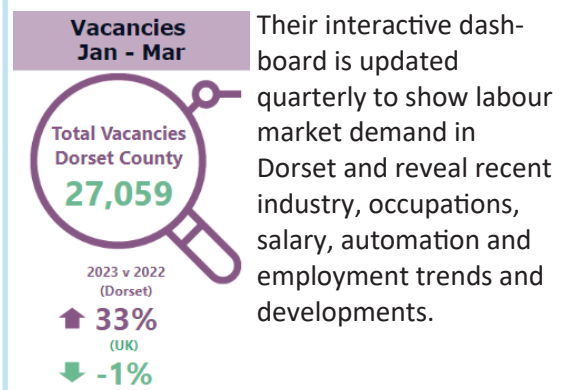
This introductory session also introduced children to some of the different career paths within our armed forces, covering the Royal Air Force and Army as well as Kaye's own career path.

Find out more on the Jon Egging Trust website [here](#).



THE DORSET LABOUR MARKET

Visit this [link](#) to see the latest Dorset labour market insights, designed to identify opportunities and help make informed career decisions.



DORSET YOUTH VOICE



Years 7 and 8 were introduced to Dorset Youth Parliament by Hanna Baxter from the Youth Voice Team, Dorset Council.

They were told about Youth Voice which gives young people the opportunity to give their opinions and help make a difference to young people's rights and responsibilities in the county. Find out more [here](#).

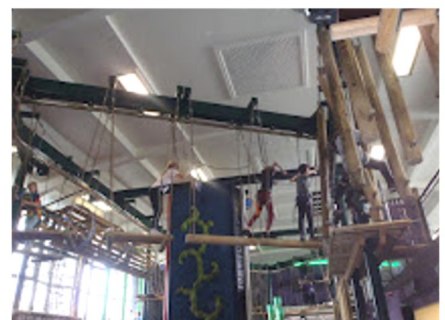
Our pupils also found out how to become a member of the Dorset Youth Council and how they could put themselves forward for the election to become a Member of Youth Parliament. More information on how to get involved can be found on the Dorset Council website by searching for Dorset Youth Council.



CREATIVE INSPIRATION AT ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

A group of Year 7 Arts Award pupils visited Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) in November and were given the opportunity to tour the facilities. The students visited the gallery where they enjoyed studying the artwork on display and shared their views with each other and the gallery staff.

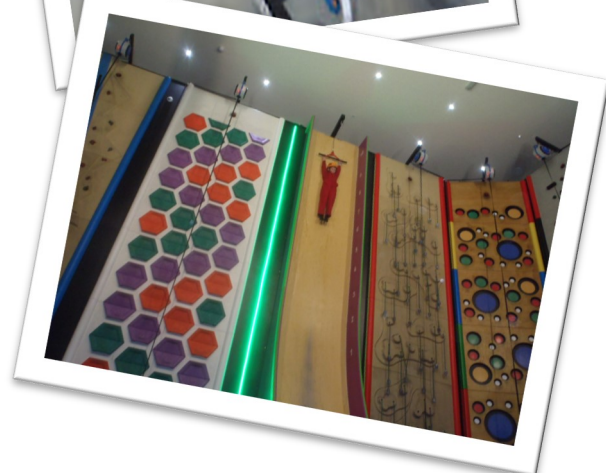
Many of our pupils expressed an interest in a future career in the creative arts industry, as they are now aware of the opportunities that are on offer.



CLIMBING THE LADDER TO SUCCESS

Last term Year 5 students visited Rock Reef, an indoor activity and climbing centre. During their visit they had immense fun as well as developing collaboration skills and overcoming challenges.

The children also learnt more about the leisure industry and job opportunities in the sector. We are very grateful to the instructors, who shared their own experiences and education pathways.





WHY DISCUSS CAREERS NOW?

Although it may still seem a long way off, when you consider young people select their options in Year 9, discussing the different career options now allows them time to consider and reflect which options may interest them. Conversations about careers can also inspire confidence in their abilities and can increase their excitement about their future. A recent study showed childhood aspirations are an important driver of achievement later in life. And it also found that children's aspirations are shaped by parents' expectations. These discussions can also help develop learning about the world around them, broadening their aspirations and challenging stereotypes.

WHAT ARE MY CHOICES FROM YEAR 10 ONWARDS?

The Parents' Guide to
www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

Level	Qualification / educational route				
8	Doctorate (PhD)			NVQ 8	
7	Masters degree (MA)			Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7	
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4			Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4	
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D,E,F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route		Applied / work route

The most recent qualification, the T Level was introduced in 2020 and is less well known. Here is some information and a link to [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for a fuller explanation.

↑ EQUIVALENT TO 3 A LEVELS

T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. Equivalent in size to 3 A levels, a T Level focuses on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships.

↑ A 45-DAY INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

Each T Level includes an in-depth industry placement that lasts at least 45 days. Students get valuable experience in the workplace; employers get early sight of the new talent in their industry.

↑ 80% CLASSROOM, 20% WORK

T Level students spend 80% of the course in their learning environment, gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where they put these skills into action.



POLITICS IN ACTION

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed an interesting and engaging talk with local Conservative MP, Michael Tomlinson, who visited St. Michael's last term.

We gained an insight into the life of an MP in government and what a day in his working life looks like. He also told us more about what happens in Parliament and gave the children a further insight into the world of politics by seating them as if they were in the House of Commons.

Fortunately, no-one had to call for "Order!" as everyone was very well behaved!

THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS—GUEST SPEAKER SIMON CONSTANTINE

We were delighted to welcome Simon Constantine to our school when he came to speak to Year 7 and 8 students about his career journey.



Simon is perhaps best known as the former head buyer and perfumer at Lush Cosmetics, before he moved on to create the '['and' fragrance range](#)'. He shared his passion for ethical buying and sustainability in his industry.

He also spoke about his new project, Carey's Secret Garden, a walled garden open to the public focusing on permaculture and sustainability. It really struck a chord with students, especially those interested in green careers. For more information, please visit the garden [website](#).

CAREERS INFORMATION ONLINE

We frequently update the careers information on our school website. It includes excellent career links for you to view with your child when discussing career choices and ideas.

Go to the 'learning' tab on the St. Michael's home page to find the careers guidance page and you will find links to other helpful sites such as Career Pilot and First Careers.



Wed 8 Jan: Career Talk on advertising from Jim Cole (Years 7 & 8)

Wed 16 Jan: Illustration Workshop (some Year 7 students)

Wed 24 Jan: Careers Day (Year 7)

Mon 5 Feb: Enact - Year 8 Options and 'Choices' Drama Presentation

Tues 23 & Wed 24 April - Year 8 Trip to Bournemouth University