

Careers Provision at Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy

Ripley St Thomas recognises the importance of excellent Careers guidance to prepare students for life beyond school and to be able to use their talents to make a positive difference in society. Careers guidance at Ripley St Thomas is a progressive journey from Year 7-13.

Aims and objectives

The school is committed to providing a programme that meets all 8 national Gatsby Benchmarks:

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. Experience of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal Guidance

In line with the above Ripley St Thomas currently provides a Careers programme that aims:

1. To develop positive attitudes towards study and work.
2. To develop employability and enterprise skills, such as teamwork and communication.
3. To help students to plan and take control of their future making informed choices at key points in their education.
4. To provide students with the relevant careers guidance that is suitable to their personal needs including age, ability, attitudes and aptitudes.
5. To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of opportunities post 16 and post 18 including traineeships, apprenticeships and all other further education possibilities.
6. To help students to reflect on themselves – their abilities, skills, aptitudes and attitudes – so that they can use this knowledge to consider their career choices.
7. To provide students with impartial advice about options that are available to them.
8. To provide equal opportunity of access to careers inspiration and guidance.

The annual Careers plan gives a more detailed overview of our tailored approach for the different age groups. Our current priority is to increase the opportunities for young people to experience workplaces and meet with employers.

Implementation of Careers Education

All strategies are in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks. Careers Compass is a key tool that we as a school use to evaluate our provision against the national benchmarks. This informs us of our next steps and how to improve the school careers provision to be the best it can be. The careers compass is completed a minimum of once per academic year. The Compass assessment tool has helped Ripley St Thomas design a comprehensive plan for careers to benefit all of our students.

Our Provision

The school's careers provision is outlined in appendix A. The emphasis at Ripley St Thomas is on tailoring our approach for each year group and trying to ensure a progressive and expansive careers curriculum across Year 7 to Year 13.

Evaluation/Quality Assurance

The school regularly monitors and evaluates its provision, conscious that career opportunities locally and nationally change frequently:

1. Careers strategy and provision are formally reviewed in the summer term.
2. Regular professional development is provided for personnel involved in Careers Guidance.
3. Regular meetings with Inspira advisors and the School Enterprise Link ensure that our programme is up to date and meets all the criteria of the Gatsby Benchmarks and Government Statutory Guidance.
4. A student/parent voice survey is completed annually in July in order to assess the views of our young people and their parents and establish where any gaps in provision may be.
5. The school also attends Lancashire Enterprise Adviser Network & Careers Hub to share best practice in improving provision.

Destinations

All student destinations are collected in house by the school in collaboration with the Local Careers Connect Service and changes are made to the Careers programme accordingly.

Most recent data shows that 99% of pupils stayed in education or employment with training for at least 2 terms after KS4.

Inspira Enterprise Co-ordinator

Ripley St Thomas has an enterprise Co-ordinator who provides access to contacts and support with Careers activities. An Enterprise Advisor has also been provided to assist in the delivery and development of Careers education within school.

Parents

Parents who are seeking further information or who would like to contribute to the Careers Education Programme should use the contact details for the School Careers Leader below:

Mr P. Wilson

Assistant Principal

Tel: 01524 64496

Email: RSTCareers@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

The next review date for Careers Education will be the Summer Term 2020.