

LYNDON CAREERS AND POST 16 NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Welcome to the first Careers and Post 16 Newsletter for this academic year. The aim of this termly newsletter is to support learners and parents/carers through this year and onto the next exciting stage of their education whether it is onto college or the world of work. We hope that you find the information enclosed to be useful in helping secure a successful transition from Lyndon.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

The government want all young people to continue to gain qualifications once they leave school at 16 so the law has been changed and all young people are required to stay in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. Your child does, however, have a choice as to how they continue in education or training and this could be through:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering as long as this is combined with part-time education or training.
- An apprenticeship or Traineeship

Any young person who does not achieve a level 4 in Maths and English at school, will have to continue to study these subjects up until the end of their 18th birthday and this will be alongside their above choice of study.

Careers Support in School

We are delighted to have been awarded the CSW Quality in Careers Standard Award for the work and support that we offer our learners with regards to careers and their progression. If learners need any careers support, they can contact one of the below members of staff. The school website also has lots of useful videos and careers information. Definitely worth a look!

Mr Kelly – Careers Leader and SLT Responsibility for Careers
Mrs Carey – Careers and IAG Manager

Careers Interviews

Careers interviews run throughout Year 11 and are available to all Year 11 learners so if your child would like an early interview, they should speak to Mrs Carey or their tutor to arrange an appointment. Once learners have had a careers interview, they will receive a 'Careers Action Plan' via their tutor which will detail what was discussed during the interview and list the actions or next steps that they should be taking. Learners can also see Mrs Carey if they have any concerns or queries. This includes help on college applications, CVs, applying for apprenticeships or any other queries that they may have.

Careers Convention

We are pleased to be able to invite all Year 11 learners and parents/carers to attend our Careers Convention on Wednesday 4th October from 6pm-8pm. We will have many of the local colleges and sixth forms in attendance plus some local universities, training providers and employers. Attendance to this event is crucial as it is an important source of information for all learners. During the evening, Mr Kelly will be giving two information talks to share information on next steps, entry requirements and other useful information to help you support your child to make a successful Post 16 transition whether it be onto college, an apprenticeship or training. Full details will follow.

Careers Week

As we have done in previous years, during 'Careers Week' learners will have the opportunity to complete their college application forms or personal statements. Solihull College will be sharing information about their courses and those learners who wish to apply can do so during a designated time. This is an activity we do every year as it gives our learners the opportunity to receive support in submitting early college applications. We have always encouraged our learners to apply early which was particularly valuable during the past uncertain years as those learners who applied early had already received their offers prior to the lockdown.

We always recommend that learners apply to more than one college as a back-up plan so we would like to see as many learners as possible submitting applications during this week.

Career Ideas

Learners need to research their career ideas in depth to ensure that they are making the right Post 16 choices. Learners currently have access to a careers software package called Job Explorer Database (JED). JED is an interactive multimedia careers resource that offers information on over 840 jobs with pictures, videos and quizzes. Learners can search, explore and research different careers to help them to prepare for their next steps. The website link is <https://jed.ckcareers.org.uk/> and the unique Lyndon access code can be obtained from Mrs Carey. Learners who are unsure about their career choice and would like some suggestions, can have a go at the careers quiz which will give them some starting ideas. Shortly JED will be replaced by Unifrog which we feel offers even better support and guidance. Details will be shared shortly.

In addition, the 'Job Profiles' section of the National Careers Service website is another useful tool for learners to investigate different jobs and careers. In particular, learners should look at the entry requirements to ensure that their career choices are realistic. Other useful websites are: www.icould.com <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> and <https://www.ucas.com/>

Applying to College or Sixth Form

As mentioned above, learners should aim to apply to college during the Autumn term so they can secure their place early and then concentrate on getting the best GCSE levels possible. There are many different courses that learners can apply for and these usually depend on the grades that they achieve in Year 11. Most colleges and courses have entry requirements and these can be found on college websites or by visiting college open events. Generally, if learners are likely to achieve 5 GCSE grade 4/5 or above including some grade 6s then they can apply to do a Level 3 course such as a BTEC Extended Diploma, T Levels or A Levels. If expected grades are below this, learners can apply for a Level 2 or a Level 1 course. Some courses such as Motor Vehicle or Construction may start at a Level 1 regardless of the grades achieved. We suggest that learners research colleges and sixth forms by attending open events and looking at their websites. It is recommended that learners apply to 2 or 3 different colleges/sixth forms to keep their options open. A list of upcoming open events is below and this is updated throughout Year 11. If learners need further support with regards to this, please ask them to see Mrs Carey in school or parents/carers can email Mrs Carey on julie.carey@lyndon.org.uk or telephone 0121 743 3402.

School Reference

Learners need to maintain good attendance, good punctuality and a good attitude to learning during Year 11 to ensure that they receive a good school reference. All colleges, sixth forms and employers will look at attendance and school references when deciding whether to make offers.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a great opportunity for young people to work for a real employer, earn a salary and achieve a recognised qualification while gaining invaluable work experience and skills. Whilst there are no set entry criteria for apprenticeships, entry requirements do vary and depend on the individual company. Many are looking for GCSEs grade 4/5 or above including Maths and English but not all.

Most apprenticeships are advertised on the government's website - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. Learners need to create an account which allows them to search and apply for any vacancies that they are interested in. Realistically, most apprenticeships that are open to school leavers are advertised from around March onwards, although some of the bigger companies will open their schemes earlier as they have a more rigorous application process. Learners can set up email or text alerts for when new vacancies appear.

The Amazing Apprenticeship website is also a great resource for both parents/carers and learners who want to find out more about apprenticeships or T levels. The website address is <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

We must, however, stress that apprenticeships are highly competitive, so we suggest that all learners also apply to college or sixth form as a back-up.

Upcoming Dates and Open Events

****The below information is subject to change so please check with the college before attending. **Most colleges insist that places are booked or reserved online prior to attendance ******

King Edwards VI Camp Hill for Boys	Thursday 21st September 2023 5.30pm – 8.30pm
Lyndon School Careers Convention	Wednesday 4 th October 2023 6pm-8pm (Further information will follow)
UCB	Saturday 7 th October 2023 10am-2pm
Cadbury College	Thursday 12 th October 2023 5pm - 7pm.
BOA	Thursday 12 th October 2023 5.30pm
Birmingham Metropolitan College	Saturday 14 th October 2023 10am -1pm
Solihull Sixth Form College	Saturday 21st October 2023 9.30am -3.30pm Early booking is essential to secure a place. Booking is open.
Joseph Chamberlain College	Saturday 21 st October 2023 10am
WMG Engineering Academy Solihull	Thursday 26 th October 2023 5pm – 8pm
Access Creative	Saturday 4th November 11am – 2pm
Stratford-Upon-Avon College	Saturday 11th November 2023 10am – 2pm
Alderbrook Sixth Form	Thursday 16 th November 2023 Time to be confirmed
Solihull College Blossomfield and Woodlands Campuses	Saturday 25 th November 2023 10am – 2pm
South and City College /Bourneville College	Not yet announced.

Useful Careers Websites:

Research career ideas: <https://jed.ckcareers.org.uk/> & <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

To search and apply for apprenticeships or traineeships use <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
<https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/> <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>.

Other Useful Websites:

www.ucas.com www.icould.com <https://targetcareers.co.uk/> <https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/>

Follow @LyndonCareers on Twitter for careers information, events and updates.

