

Thames Valley School - How we meet the Gatsby Benchmarks

Benchmark	Descriptor	How we meet
1	A stable career programme.	<p>Careers at Thames Valley School is taught as part of the curriculum, through discrete lessons in both Key Stage 3 and 4 across three half terms. This programme has been developed through resources from PSHE Association and Jigsaw, as well as considering the Autism Education Trust's 'preparation for adulthood' outcomes.</p> <p>A summary of our careers programme is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Different types of employment and employment skills • Year 8 Work life behaviours and gender stereotypes • Year 9 Finance and labour market information • Year 10 CV writing workshop and post-16 choices • Year 11 Budgeting and interview skills <p>The use of the Compass Benchmark Tool for self-evaluation of careers in school is completed and reviewed regularly.</p>
2	Learning from career and labour market information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To expand upon our small group Career lessons, pupils in year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are provided with 1:1 careers advice through Adviza • We utilise resource programmes such as 'Talentino' which give pupils personalised career information based on their choices and interests. • The school will have access to an Enterprise Adviser as part of our collaboration with the Berkshire Careers Hub. The adviser will be able to source information relevant to LMI. • There will be an annual Careers Fair in the summer term where pupils will be given the opportunity to meet local employers and apprentice providers to find out about careers/current opportunities.
3	Addressing the needs of each pupil.	<p>This is taught as part of the curriculum from primary onwards and is referenced in long-term planning documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impartial careers advice is available to every pupil from Year 7 - Year 11 from a qualified careers advisor. • Pupils from Year 9 - Year 11 participate in a one-to-one meeting with their key worker or the Careers Lead to discuss their choices for the next stage of their academic journey. This will be adapted accordingly to the needs of the individual pupils. • Our Quality of Life framework, delivered through weekly Life Skills lessons and keyworker sessions, consider the wider skills pupils need to develop in order to access their future goals. • Yearly annual reviews consider the 'Preparation for Adulthood' outcomes pupils are developing as they work towards life after school.

4	Linking curriculum learning to careers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All academic departments have subject-specific resources that link their subject to careers. This is also referenced when supporting our pupils to choose their 'options' as they move into Key Stage 4. • We continue to find opportunities to link our curriculum to careers throughout each year group. • We display inspirational posters such as Women in Science across our school. • Each year, pupils participate in an enterprise unit, expanding their understanding of the world of work.
5	Encounters with employers and employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers Fair – From the summer term 2024, TVS will be running its own Careers Fair for pupils (and parents) in the secondary department. • Speakers for Schools, as an organisation with established links to the school, will be invited to deliver assemblies and workshops to pupils either directly or online. • Mock interviews for Years 10 and 11 will be delivered by linked businesses via Speakers for Schools programmes. • Via the Berkshire Careers Hub, TVS is developing a number of links with businesses that routinely support careers initiatives including Care UK. • A Careers Day is planned for all pupils in June 2024, with visiting speakers.
6	Experiences of workplaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Year 10 pupils will have the opportunity to spend one week with an employer in the summer term, 2024. • We are currently establishing links with 'Care UK' to provide a range of link placements. • Through Life Skills lessons, pupils have visited, and are scheduled to visit a range of workplaces. For example, Year 11 pupils visited The Oracle Shopping Centre, and considered the variety of job roles that are needed to support the effective running of this, and Year 9 and 10 visited a local theatre.
7	Encounters with further and higher education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local providers of further education are invited to attend the annual Careers Fair and to present in school to pupils who are considering a vocational pathway. • Speakers and outreach officers are invited to engage with our pupils through invitations to visit our school. Reading College have visited and spoken to Year 11 pupils. • Opportunities for Open Days are identified and promoted with Y11 pupils. • Pupils in Y11 have been supported to visit local college providers and engage in transition visits.
8	Personal guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS4 pupils have one-to-one sessions with a qualified careers advisor. • All Year 9 pupils have an options interview with a member of SLT in advance of confirming their options. • All Year 11 pupils have an options interview with the Careers Lead to discuss the suitability of their Post-16 options. • Life skills and Careers sessions allow for pupils to discuss their plans and intentions for careers with a member of staff. • Keyworker sessions and the Quality of Life Framework

		<p>consider the 'Preparation for adulthood' our pupils require on an individualised basis.</p>
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- Pupils annual reviews from Year 9, consider the individualised provision pupils require to effectively prepare for their next steps.