

Spotlight on Careers

Welcome

This has been a very busy year at Witchford Village College. The students have taken part in activities and trips relating to Careers and the wider world. We have forged further links with local employers and providers. Our aim as a school is to ensure that all students are exposed to different employment sectors and routes that they can follow after Witchford Village College.

What is new this term—PAL

From January 2023, in order to adhere to the updated provider access legislation (PAL), the school will provide at least four encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all students:

- Two encounters for students during Yr 8 & 9 (one per year) that are mandatory for all to attend
- Two encounters for students during Yr 10 & 11 (one per year) that are mandatory for all to attend. A provider, to whom access is given, must deliver an encounter that includes the following:
 - Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
 - Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead
 - A description of what learning or training with the provider is like
 - Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

In response to the above Witchford Village College will be ensuring that opportunities are offered that meet the legislation.



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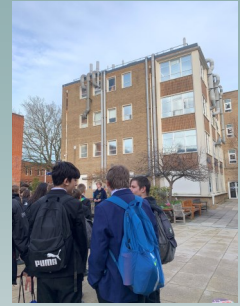




EYES ON THE PRIZE—JANUARY 2023

All Year 9 students attended Eyes on the Prize at Anglia Ruskin University at the start of January 2023. This is the first year since the pandemic that this event has been in person. Year 9 Students had the opportunity to listen to and speak to student ambassadors, who are present students at Anglia Ruskin University, talk about what student life is like. This could be from how to be independent to why they choose certain courses. This gives a real

insight into the variety of courses that you can study at University—not just ARU. Students also had a tour around the campus looking at the on site accommodation and some of the great facilities. The morning ended with a mini Careers Fair where students could speak to providers of Post 16 Education and also some employers who spoke about Degree Apprenticeship route.



“I found the event really interesting and feel like I understand what it could be like at University a bit more”

MYCHOICE@16

The application process for Year 11 students started in earnest during October 2023. Sixth Form Providers invited students to book visits at their centres and welcomed them on tours. It gave students the chance to see what the sixth forms were offering and to gauge a feel for the provider. Witchford Village College also offered parents and students an open event on the 28th September 2023 and invited all providers in as well as some local businesses, who provide apprenticeships. There was also an opportunity for parents and students to attend a Apprenticeship workshop to increase their understanding. We were also grateful to be supported at the event by our Enterprise Advisor Harvey Bibby, who also presented to parents and offered his continuing support to Witchford Village College with employer engagement.

MAGISTRATE COURT EXPERIENCE—20TH JANUARY 2023

A group of Year 9 students had a Magistrate Court Experience at the Ely Court House. Students were given a tour of the Court, even the cells and took part in a mock trial. It gave students an opportunity to think about the type of careers that might be available in Law and consider if this might be a route for them. Students also watched a very emotive video on knife crime, understanding this from both sides—the victims family and the young man who committed the crime.





Students in full flow interviews and the local businesses and representatives that offered their time and expertise—February 2023

INTERVIEW SKILLS DAY

On the 1st February 2023 we welcomed in representatives from the local business community who offered all of our Year 11 students a one to one mock interview. This experience for students is so invaluable and allows them to practice before a real interview. Each student had an interview slot and had to complete a "Dream Job" application form, which the interviewer then talked to them about. The students then received verbal feedback and will also have the opportunity for written feedback to. This has given these students a taste of what an interview would feel like and how they present themselves could be the difference between achieving their desired employment or not.

Students commented "It was really helpful and made me think about how to prepare myself". "I was anxious to take part, but it was really great to talk to different people".

We can not thank the businesses and individuals enough who gave up their time and shared their expertise. Witchford Village College is always looking for ways to ensure that our students have experiences that will improve outcomes for them in the future and this was such an event.

The companies involved were: Grove-mere, Growth Works, G's Fresh, Chair of Cambs Chamber of Commerce, Governors an Governors from WVC, Lovell-Blake, Cheffins,, Millrose Telecom, Red Shoes Accounting, AIM Apprenticeships and NEACO (Anglia Ruskin University).

National Apprenticeship Week 6-11th February 2023

During National Apprenticeship week we were grateful to have local employers coming into school offering pop up stands at lunchtime so students can come and talk to them about opportunities or just discover what the apprenticeship route is like. This valuable opportunity meant that all students from all year groups could start to experience different employers and start to understand what the apprenticeship route may look like.

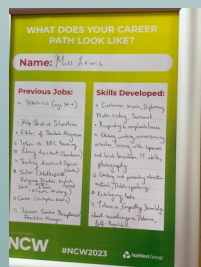
Hopefully seeing all of these different employment sectors sparked an in interest in students to find out more.

Link to National Apprenticeship Week 6-12th February 2023 for Parents <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians#>



National Careers Week 6-10th March 2023

Accessing local employers to offer students pop up stands is part of our offer during National Careers Week. It is important that we can offer a range of opportunities as well as careers information. Staff complete door plaques so initiating conversations with students. WVC has its own version of Careers Pong where students throw ping pong balls into cups and answer careers questions on skills and busting myths. This is open to all year groups and proved popular.



ARU LAW EXPERIENCE

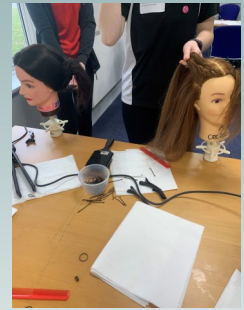
Accessing subjects that students do not study at GCSE but have a real interest in was made possible at Anglia Ruskin University. Students were able to ask questions of a Degree student who was studying Criminology and also debate against other schools. Students were also quick to try on robes and wigs to get the full experience.



CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE TASTER MORNING YEAR 9—3RD MARCH 2023

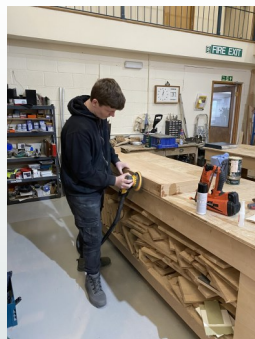
Witchford Village College welcomed Cambridge Regional College on the 3rd March 2023 for an event delivering a range of vocational subjects to Year 9 students. The tutors that came from CRC were all specialists in their field and the students were able to engage in subjects such as Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Games Development, Performing Arts, Sport & Uniformed Services and Care. The morning progressed really well with our students being able to consider some of the options that may be available for the future. We were also lucky enough that some of the present students from Cambridge Regional College, who were studying the subjects,

were able to support and talk to students about life at CRC.



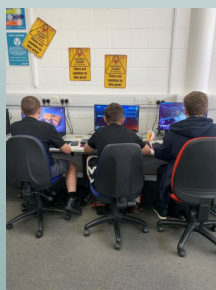
YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Students in Year 10 had the opportunity to source their own work experience placement for four days from the 6th to the 10th March 2023. We were so fortunate that local employers accommodated students and gave them a real chance at having a meaningful few days as an employee. Students commented when they returned to WVC “that it had given them an insight to what work was about”. “The days were much longer than a school day but it felt great to be treated like an adult.” Employers fed back to us that they were impressed at the level of maturity that students had shown and how they had fitted in well to the working world. Well done to all who took part you were a credit to yourselves and Witchford Village College



CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE YEAR 10 TASTER DAY—JUNE 2023

CRC offered an opportunity for Year 10 students to access vocational subjects at their Campus. Students could choose from a variety of subjects so that they could experience what a Sixth Form College may be like but also courses that may be offered to them after Witchford Village College. They could think about career paths that they may be interested in before making their choices in the Autumn Term.



YEAR 10 CAREERS DROP DOWN DAY

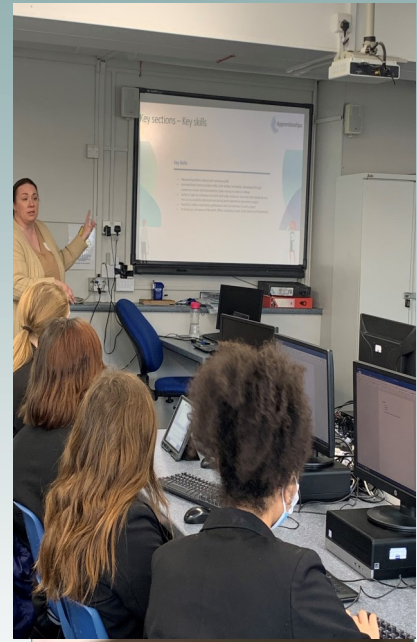
Ensuring that students are able to access information about all routes and employment sectors is really important at Witchford Village College.

On the 20th June the MyChoice@16 application process was launched to Year 10 students. This gives them a start on thinking about Sixth Form Providers they want to attend and the courses or career paths that may interest them.

One of the sessions during the day also focussed around apprenticeships and CV Writing. Students spent time discussed

what were good qualities to include in a CV and what impression an employer might gain from reading their CV. Apprenticeships were also discussed as a route, right up to Degree Level.

Students also have the opportunity for a one to one session with a qualified Careers Guidance and these will carry on for students throughout the coming months to ensure that all students have this opportunity.



CAREERS FAIR 5TH JULY 2023

We were grateful to local employers who supported us with our Careers Fair. Year 10 students had the opportunity to speak to companies from many different employment sectors. Students were prepared for the event and were asked to come in professional dress. They also had a workbook to complete when speaking to employers so that they could record meaningful interactions. Some of the companies and providers who took part were Thorlabs, Bellway Homes, JS Sports, RAF, The Army, Police, The Old Hall, Red Shoes Accounting, Kier, NFU, Amey Cespa, Cambridge Commodities, G's Fresh, Millrose to name a few.

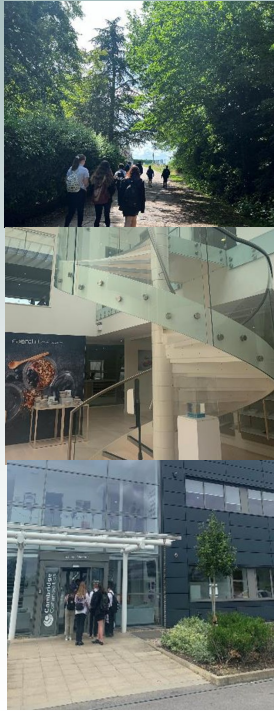
Students really enjoyed the event and it gave them an idea about what opportunities there could be in the world of work.





WALKING TOUR OF LANCASTER WAY BUSINESS PARK—JULY 2023

Through our Enterprise Advisor we are able to access an opportunity for a Walking Tour of Lancaster Way Business Park. We have run this event now for two years and it has been an amazing experience for our Year 8 students. The business park has a wealth of employers and opportunities that our student population are not always aware of. We are invited into businesses on the park and follow a route around. We have time on this walking tour to access the RAF Museum and also take a well earned break at the Apex Coffee Shop. This opportunity would not be possible without the support and input of Grovemere Properties and Harvey Bibby our Enterprise Advisor. WVC are very grateful for this connection and ongoing opportunities that it provides.



NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

We welcomed the NCS into WVC during November and December to talk to our students about opportunities that they could offer for taking part in activities, volunteering and residentials. The offer goes out to Year 11 but it is useful for the whole school to understand this experience.



YEAR 11 DROP DOWN DAY

During October we invited in AIM Apprenticeship, Anglia Ruskin University and the Department for Work and Pensions to participate in our Year 11 Drop Down Day. Students also took time to work on their Sixth Form Applications and Personal Statements. It is an important time for students to consider their option choices and the routes that they could follow after Witchford Village College.

For further information about the Careers Programme please contact

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INTERVIEW SKILLS MORNING CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS



We accepted an opportunity to attend an event at CUP which offered the students an experience of workshops relating to writing personal statements and interview protocols. Year 10 students took this opportunity as it gave them an insight to expectations for Year 11.

We have been so grateful to all of the businesses and individuals that have taken part in events in school. It makes such a difference for young people to see different employment sectors and understand the different routes into those businesses. Witchford Village College are always looking for more volunteers to help work with students in this capacity and if you, as a parent, would like to take part in any events or offer work experience or want to be involved in anyway please get in touch. Juliet Martin, Head of Careers jmartin@wvc.tmet.org.uk

