

4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Careers at Watling – National Careers Week 2024**

National Careers Week is taking place from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. This week-long event is dedicated to exploring various career pathways, providing valuable insights, and equipping students with the necessary tools to make informed decisions about their future. Here at Watling Academy, we understand the importance of guiding students towards fulfilling and rewarding career paths.

**Parent/Carer Engagement with Careers Programme**

We are dedicated to providing our students with comprehensive career education to prepare them for future success. Your input is invaluable in shaping these initiatives to best meet the needs of our students. Please take a few moments to complete the following [questionnaire](#) regarding your employment status and potential involvement in school events related to career education.

Link to online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/g1QC2y9Zw5>

**Getting Involved with Your Child's Careers Education**

- **Open Communication:** Initiate conversations about career aspirations and interests.
- **Explore Together:** Encourage your teenager to explore different career paths by attending career fairs, workshops, and informational sessions together. Visit local universities, businesses, and community organizations to gain insights into various industries and professions.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect your teenager with professionals in fields of interest through networking events, informational interviews, or mentorship programs. Encourage them to ask questions, seek advice, and build meaningful relationships with industry experts.
- **Encourage Volunteering and Work Experience:** Encourage your teenager to participate in volunteering opportunities, internships, or part-time jobs relevant to their career interests.



### **Year 10 Work Experience Overview - Attention Employers in the Wider Milton Keynes Area!**

Are you ready to make a difference in a young person's life? Watling Academy is thrilled to announce that our Year 10 students will be embarking on their very first work experience journey from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

This is an incredible opportunity for local businesses to play a pivotal role in shaping the future workforce, while also giving students a glimpse into the real world of work. By offering placements, you can help these bright minds develop aspirations, gain invaluable skills, and kickstart their career journey.

If your company is interested in hosting one of our eager students for work experience, either now or in the future, please reach out to us at [opportunity@watling.academy](mailto:opportunity@watling.academy) or complete the link above in the parent/carer engagement section.

### **Virtual Careers Fair and Parent Guide to National Careers Week**

We invite you and your child to explore the National Careers Week Virtual Careers Fair, with an array of information from professionals from various industries, learn about different career options, and gain valuable insights. Additionally, the Parent Guide to National Careers Week will provide you with essential information, tips, and resources to support your child's career exploration process.

[Virtual Careers Fair](#) – please click on link

[Parent Guide to National Careers Week](#)- please click on link

### **Watling Academy Careers Page and Subject Pages**

Our website features a dedicated Careers page where students and parents can access information about career provision at Watling Academy, including labour market information. Furthermore, our subject pages offer insights into how each subject relates to potential career paths, providing valuable guidance for students as they make their subject choices. Each has a linked careers guide these can be found at the bottom of each subject page.

### **Information from the South East Midlands Career Hub**

We work closely with the [South East Midlands Career Hub](#), who offer us additional support and resources to support with Careers Education. They provide valuable information, guidance, and opportunities for both students and parents to explore potential career paths and engage with local employers.

### **Talking Futures**

The Talking Futures project in England is a pioneering initiative designed to enhance careers education and guidance for young people. The project aims to empower students by providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to make informed decisions about their future career paths.

At its core, Talking Futures revolves around fostering meaningful conversations between students, educators, parents, and employers. By facilitating open dialogue and collaboration among these stakeholders, the project seeks to bridge the gap between education and the world of work, ensuring that young people are equipped with the insights and experiences needed to succeed in their chosen careers.



Recognising the importance of parental involvement in students' career development, Talking Futures encourages parents to actively participate in their children's career education journey. The project provides parents with resources, workshops, and guidance to support their children in exploring career options, making informed decisions, and navigating the transition from education to employment.

You can access the parent toolkit here: [Talking Futures parents' toolkit](#)

We encourage you to take full advantage of the resources and opportunities available during National Careers Week. By actively engaging in these activities, together, we can empower our students to make informed decisions about their future careers.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the aspirations of our students. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

*Mr Stormer*

Mr Stormer  
Assistant Headteacher