

CAREERS PROGRAMME AT LANGLEY PARK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

At Langley Park School for Girls we are proud of our Careers Academy and are committed to supporting every student on their career journey.

A wide range of information and experiences are available to help students make informed decisions about their future learning and career pathways.

Every student at LPGS is allocated a UNIFROG account and can also access careers information on the Careers Academy Firefly pages. These offer information on career choices; university; further study at FE or specialist colleges; employability skills; apprenticeships and local opportunities with numerous links and information sources and are available 24/7.

All students and parents are also updated on various careers information, such as careers events, open days, apprenticeships and virtual work experience opportunities in the monthly newsletter which is produced and sent to every home.

Key Stage 3

Students are involved in "A Day at Work", giving them the chance to actually experience what it is like to spend a day in industry. Students are prepared to make the most of their day and encouraged to ask questions and see how people within that industry have made choices about their own careers.

Year 8 students are given the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise 10X Challenge National competition. Students learn how to set up their own business, work in a team, work to a budget, market their product or service and make a profit.

In Year 9, students are helped with their option choices during a full PSICHE day and a 1:1 options career interview with Mrs Hayden, our qualified Careers Advisor.

Careers sessions are run to ensure that all students fully benefit from their Unifrog account. Unifrog is the "Complete Destinations Programme". Initially taking personality and interests quizzes, the students are then able to read about and research the number of careers associated to the type of "frog" that they are.

Early research highlights to students how important their school qualifications are in achieving their goals and career aspirations. This is then supported by a talk from our careers adviser who also organises drop in sessions where students can discuss their specific questions or aspirations.

During parents' evenings our Careers Adviser is also available for scheduled appointments.

As part of our programme and utilising the services of our partner, Future First, students also hear from guest speakers on a fortnightly basis who work in a huge variety of careers about their pathway from the moment they picked their GCSE options. Hearing from speakers about the subjects they picked and why they picked them brings what they are being taught in PSICHE lessons to life. Students also have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Our Careers Advisor, Mrs. Hayden is always on hand to take requests from students wishing to hear about a particular career, she will then do her best to source a speaker from that field.

Key Stage 4

As part of the curriculum, all Year 10 students are expected to complete a one week work experience placement.

LPGS uses the services of Bromley Education Partnership to complete all of our placement safeguarding checks. Students are expected to source their own placement; with the help, advice and encouragement of Mrs Hayden.

During Year 10 students have the opportunity to visit a local further education college so they can understand what their options are and what other vocational opportunities exist locally.

All students have access to a 1:1 careers guidance interviews with our Careers Adviser, who will talk to them about their options and choices.

Year 10 students are also given the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise 10X Challenge National competition. Students learn how to set up their own business, work in a team, work to a budget, market their product or service and make a profit.

In Year 11 students are given the tools to help them start to make their choices and raise their own aspirations of what they can achieve in their future. We look at their own personal strengths and weaknesses and show them how to carry out online research into different career options, information on the academic requirements for these opportunities and higher education research. Unifrog is used in all PSCHE lessons to assist with this.

Students will also be shown the importance of their extra-curricular activities, their personal skills and work experience.

Year 11 students are invited to take part in termly "business breakfasts" with local employers or education providers.

All Year 11 students also attend a session on how to write an application letter and CV and how to find virtual work experience.

Throughout the year, students are educated about the changing labour market and how factors such as a global pandemic, change in environment, competition from overseas suppliers and declines in various markets can affect the number of jobs in a particular industry.

As part of National Careers Week, students are able to choose what career areas they would like to know about and then hear from speakers within that area. Students are encouraged to go outside their own comfort areas, to look at jobs and careers they may not have considered before and ask questions of the speakers. This is an opportunity for students to start their own network of contacts.

Every student will also be given a chance to have practice interviews with people from industry and feedback is given to each individual student on their interview techniques and how they can improve.

Every Year 11 student has access to our Careers Adviser for either 1:1 or small group interviews. Our adviser is also available during parents' evenings and other school open evenings.

As with all other year groups, we utilise the services of our partner, Future First, to source speakers for students to hear from on a fortnightly basis. The speakers, who work in a huge variety of careers, talk about their pathway from picking their A-Level or BTEC courses. Hearing from speakers about the subjects they picked and why they picked them brings what they are being taught in PSCHE lessons to life, students also have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have

Key Stage 5

During Year 12 students are involved in a full year enrichment programme every other Wednesday afternoon. They have the opportunity to improve their skills, learn new skills, attend work experience and get a full range of experiences that will help them both by raising their awareness of opportunities and also getting very useful experience to use in their UCAS personal statements, apprenticeship applications or CVs to find employment.

External speakers regularly come into the Sixth Form to give talks. Guests will give advice on CVs, interview skills or more focused occupational areas including; accountancy, insurance, law, psychology, banking, teaching or working for the NHS. Speakers are recruited both from local employers and also larger employers from Central London. All students in Year 12 attend the UCAS exhibition at the Excel centre and the UK Universities and Apprenticeship Fair, accompanied by LPGS staff.

Year 12 and 13 students are also given the opportunity to attend a visit to a local university to meet staff, ask questions about individual courses on offer, see the campus, sit in a lecture hall, hear about student finance and see the halls of residence.

Students are encouraged to attend the talks we arrange about university, funding, how to research and navigate the application process as well as specialised degree areas, such as medicine. At the end of Year 12 students have the chance to go on accompanied days into London with our staff and Careers Adviser, visiting key organisations and hearing talks on their recruitment, the jobs that are available and the skills these organisations want.

Students in Year 12 and 13 have access to our UCAS Advisor, who is able to offer help with personal statement writing.

Once students have submitted their UCAS and are offered interviews by universities, Mrs Hayden is on hand to make sure they are fully prepared and receive a mock interview (at their request, appointments have to be made to allow for the preparation time and mock interview).

Students wishing to explore the Oxbridge selection process are also offered the opportunity of an Oxbridge University mentor to give them advice about the college and course they are thinking of applying to and assistance with their application.

All Year 12 and Year 13 students have access to our fully qualified Careers Adviser by appointment. All students can email for information advice and guidance and can use the services of our Careers Adviser up to a year after they have left our Sixth Form.

All Year 12 students are expected to complete a one week work experience programme as part of their course and they are helped in their preparation of this by our careers adviser. Understanding the importance of how people behave at work and the opportunities of making and keeping contacts we have a great success rate in students being offered further work experience and employment opportunities in their futures.

Year 12 and 13 students are all able to request a career specific mentor. Students are then put in small groups and can meet their mentor on a termly basis. We introduced this scheme last year and already have groups running in medicine, dentistry, law, accountancy, midwifery, psychology, primary school teaching, film, photography and nutrition.

Those students not wishing to go to university attend sessions with Mrs Hayden who can give them advice on how to find and apply for apprenticeships and employment utilising LinkedIn, job boards such as indeed.com and reed.co.uk as well as the National Apprenticeship Service <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>.

Employers often attend these sessions to promote their schemes and offer opportunities for the students to take part in employment mock interviews.

The LPGS Careers provision is regularly monitored, students and speakers provide feedback on all of their activities as well as 1:1 interviews.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of careers programme, please contact Mrs Hayley Hayden on: hha@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk.