



Autumn Term  
2023

# Careers NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our St Peter's Careers Newsletter!

It has been a term packed full of careers activities spanning every key stage, giving students continual opportunities to link their learning and skills development to their futures. A review of these can be found on pages 2-5.

I am delighted to announce that we have, once again, achieved the Quality in Careers Standard, confirming our dedication to providing outstanding information, advice and guidance to all our students. You can read more on this on page 6.

Our spotlight feature this term is on the value of transferrable skills in the age of AI, what they are and why they matter.

Finally I would like to invite you to become involved in our careers programme. We have several large events during the school year which rely heavily on the support of parents and this issue takes a look at these and how your expertise can be of such benefit to our students. More details can be found on page 6.

With best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Mrs S Calvert  
Careers Lead and Careers Adviser

[scalvert@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:scalvert@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

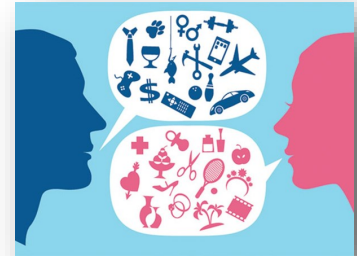
Your Career, Your Future .....	2
Sixth Form Skills Update .....	3
Apprenticeship Opportunities.....	3
Careers Round Up .....	4-5
Quality in Careers News .....	6
Supporting Careers Events.....	6
Spotlight on Transferrable Skills .....	7
Where Are They Now? .....	8



## YOUR CAREER, YOUR FUTURE

Our tutor time careers programme, 'Your Career, Your Future' provides regular bite-sized careers learning to support students to develop skills and knowledge so they can make informed decisions about their learning and career paths both whilst in school and in the future.

**Year 7** have started to understand the term 'transferrable skills' and why they are important. They have also looked at career stereotypes and how to challenge these and have had their first lesson on the START careers platform. This will enable them to explore career ideas in more detail and log their skills development.



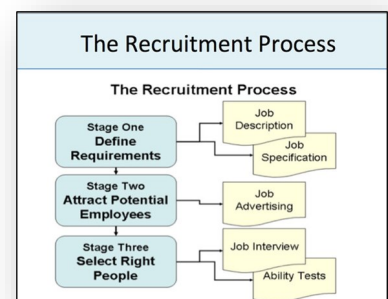
**Year 8** have been looking at self-employment and entrepreneurship and discussing the pros and cons of both. They have also been introduced to Apprenticeships, finding out what these are and how they differ from going to university. They had an assembly with IT company Invotra who talked to them about their apprenticeships and met a current apprentice who was able to answer questions.



**Year 9** have focused on GCSE options this term, with sessions on making an informed choice watching videos of business people talking about how they made their choices and using the START software to understand more about how to make choices. In addition, they had an assembly with the University of Surrey about what it is like to study at university and university life.



**Year 10** have had a busy few weeks with a number of assemblies. The first looked at apprenticeships and recapped what they are and how they work. They also learned about how to rent a property with a local estate agent, so that they know what to expect when the time comes. Finally, they had an assembly with an HR Consultant all about the recruitment process, interviews and assessment centres. Added to this was a session on how to find a Saturday job, so all in all a busy term!



**Year 11** spent their tutor time sessions looking at interview techniques and how to impress an interviewer in readiness for their practice interviews. They also worked on their CVs which they will be able to use when applying for part time jobs.



## SIXTH FORM CAREERS AND SKILLS ACTIVITIES

Both Year 12 and Year 13 have had a busy term developing their careers and skills during dedicated sessions.

Year 12 started the term by completing a skills assessment and identifying their own strengths and areas which could be developed. Following on from this they learned about the importance of self-reflection and how this can be used to improve personal performance. In addition they updated their CVs and started researching companies for potential work experience placements that they will undertake in July 2024.

In November, Year 12 students then took a psychometric test to help them consider career ideas based on their personalities and strengths. Finally, they looked at building teamwork skills and how to manage conflict, both of which are highly valued in the workplace.

Meanwhile, Year 13 spent time in September reflecting on their work experience which they did at the end of the summer term and sent letters of thanks to the employers. They also updated their CVs in readiness for practice interviews in January with their peers and looked at how to write a cover letter.

All students spent time learning about the importance of networking for career success, both face to face and online, creating a profile on LinkedIn and preparing for the face to face networking event held in November.

All these activities contribute towards the Student Employability Award which students work towards over their two years in the sixth form and which acknowledges the skills development they have achieved.

### APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**BAE Systems are offering three Legal Apprenticeships each with a closing date of 28th February 2024.**

The BAE SYSTEMS logo, featuring the company name in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a red rectangular background.

The vacancies are for an initial two year Paralegal Apprenticeship with progression, upon successful completion, to the four year Solicitor Apprenticeship working towards qualification as a solicitor in England and Wales.

Here are links to the vacancies:

1. Advanced Apprentice Head Office Legal [Portsmouth](#)
2. Advanced Apprentice Head Office Legal [Warton](#)
3. Advanced Apprentice Head Office Legal [Frimley](#)

**Proctor & Gamble are currently advertising a Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship, with a closing date of 15th January 2024.**



For full details, please click [here](#).

### SURREY PHYSICS ACADEMY

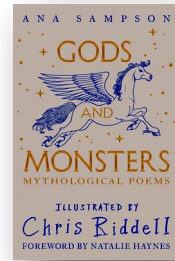
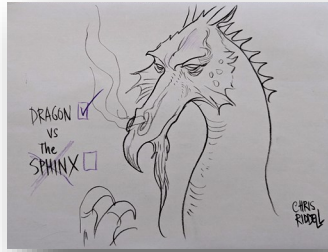
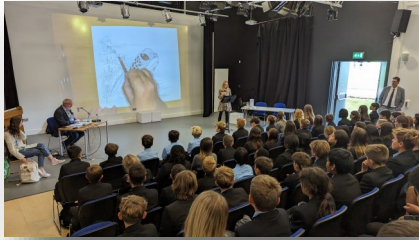
For the latest newsletter from the Surrey Physics Academy, please [click here](#).





## YEAR 8 - MEET AN AUTHOR

In conjunction with the Guildford Book Festival, and to continue our quest to promote a love of reading, we were delighted to welcome Ana Sampson and Chris Riddell to school to talk to Year 8 students about their new poetry anthology 'Gods and Monsters'. The anthology of mythological poems has been compiled by Ana and illustrated by former children's laureate Chris. While Ana talked about her career and read some of the poems, Chris drew dragons and monsters which was thrilling to watch. The talk concluded with a competition between all the monsters to see which was the most powerful. After a tense vote, students crowned the Dragon as the winner, beating the Sphinx by a small margin!



## YEARS 8 - THINK CARERS—NHS PERFORMANCE

Year 8 also had the opportunity to enjoy a drama performance specially-commissioned by the Surrey Heartlands NHS Trust to showcase the diversity of opportunities available to them in the NHS and explore the fascinating world of healthcare. It was a fun and interactive session looking at roles including midwifery, Physiotherapy, Radiology, Site Management and IT, together with the different training options and progression routes. Importantly, the show dispelled many stereotypical myths, emphasising that all roles were available to everyone. An NHS careers ambassador was also present and students had a lot of questions to ask.



## YEAR 9 - SPEED NETWORKING

Year 9 students spent a November morning meeting around 25 employers during their speed networking event. Groups of students spent a short time with guests who talked to them about their jobs, using props they had brought in to help bring their careers to life. Students had the opportunity ask lots of questions and find out about a wide range of careers, including engineering, being a classical musician, video game design, police dog training, translating and investment banking.



## YEAR 11 - PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

Another highlight of our Careers Calendar is our Year 11 Practice Interviews. With the fantastic support of parents and local business people, our students are given the opportunity to practice their interview skills in a relatively formal interview setting, with someone they haven't met before.

Much preparation goes into the interviews with time spent learning and practicing the STAR interview technique, understanding the importance of body language and eye contact and of course preparing a CV.

Each student had a 15 minute interview followed by 5 minutes of verbal feedback. Our interviewers were extremely impressed with everyone's performance and students reported that they had had a very positive experience. By reflecting on the feedback they received and using the skills they have learned, they will be able to prepare confidently for future interviews.



## YEAR 13 - NETWORKING EVENT

Year 13 students took their first steps into the world of face to face networking in November with an afternoon spent meeting local business people and past students and chatting about their next steps, career plans and finding out more about our guests. Guests supported the students by providing some verbal feedback which they were then able to use in their next interaction.

Feedback from our visitors was fantastic—here are just some of the comments:

*"Delighted to meet such motivated, determined students, very impressive."*

*"I was most inspired by the students. I loved hearing their stories and I was impressed by their skills and enthusiasm—they did brilliantly."*

*"We were very impressed with the maturity shown by the students, and excellent networking skills."*



## QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD

We are thrilled to announce that in September we were again awarded the Quality in Careers Standard, the highest award achievable in Careers Education and Guidance in schools. Two comments from our inspector really stood out for reflecting the importance St Peter's places on giving students the best careers education and skills possible to help them reach their full potential in their career journey:

*"This was an excellent submission for the Quality in Careers Standard and all criteria have been fully met with many examples of exemplary practice. As I described on the day each of the criteria has been "hit out the ground for 6" from the evidence presented."*

*"The "whole school" approach to CEAIG being integral to everything else the school delivers is fantastic and the commitment of the Governor, Head Teacher, Deputy Head and all staff ensures that the careers team have the support, budget and time to run an exemplary careers programme."*

Whilst this is a fantastic achievement, we will continue to regularly review our careers programme to ensure we are always providing the best possible experience for our students.



### COMING UP NEXT TERM

Please see below some of the events planned for the spring term.

#### January

Year 10 students will have one to one guidance interviews to talk about their career ideas.

We will be holding our first Whole School Careers Day on 29th with a focus on some of the essential transferrable skills gained from the curriculum:

**Listening, Speaking, Writing, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership and Teamwork**

Future Careers Days will look at some of the other transferrable skills needed in the workplace.

#### February

Year 12 will have one to one guidance to discuss next steps,

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR CAREER ACTIVITIES?

This term's newsletter has show-cased our biggest careers events that take place in school and we are extremely grateful to parents for supporting these. Our parents encompass a huge range of interesting and exciting careers that our students are constantly inspired by and we would love to have more of you involved. Feedback from parents who have taken part in previous events always highlights their positive feeling of 'giving back' when they see how their interactions with students can often make a marked difference to their motivation and self-belief with regards to their futures.

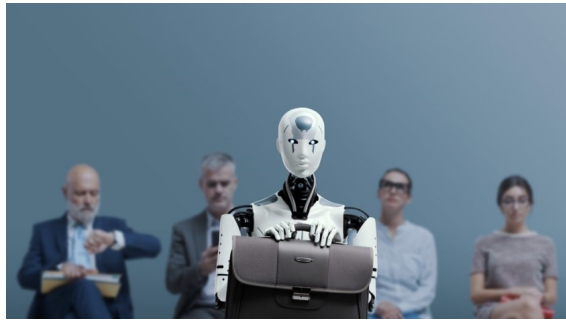
We are also always keen to hear from parents who would be interested in giving ad-hoc talks to students about their careers and to those whose companies can provide work experience opportunities to our Year 12 students.

Please [click this link](#) to a short survey which I would be grateful if you would complete if you would like to be involved in our careers activities or can support in any of the ways mentioned above. Thank you!

*"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice—and most of all love of what you are doing" Pele*



*During our Careers Day on 29th January, we will be focusing on the essential skills mentioned on page 5, which include some of the skills mentioned in the following article. Future Careers Days will look at more of these skills.*



The advancement of AI is transforming the workplace at a rapid pace, as well as the way we work. As AI-powered tools and technologies become more sophisticated, they are automating many tasks that were once carried out by humans. This is causing a shift in the skills that are in demand, with a greater focus on transferable skills that can be applied across different roles and industries. Those that require **a human touch and can't be delivered by AI**, are especially in demand.

### The Human Touch

So, what are the transferable skills that you should be focusing on to future-proof your career?

**Problem-solving:** The ability to identify and solve problems is essential in any job. AI can help with some of the more routine problem-solving tasks, but it will still require human input to tackle the more complex problems.

**Critical thinking:** AI can help us to gather and analyse data, but it is still up to humans to interpret the results and make informed decisions. Critical thinking skills are essential for making sound decisions in the workplace.

**Communication:** AI can help us to communicate with each other more efficiently, but it cannot replace the human touch. Strong communication skills are essential for building relationships, collaborating with others, building trust and rapport with teams, peers, clients and stakeholders as well as delivering presentations, to name just a few.

**Creativity:** AI can help us to generate new ideas, but it cannot replace the **human spark of creativity**. Creativity is essential to coming up with new solutions to problems and for developing innovative products and services.

**Adaptability:** The pace of change in the workplace is only going to accelerate, so it is important to be adaptable and willing to learn new things. AI can help us to stay up to date on the latest trends and technologies, but it is still up to humans to adapt to change and embrace new ways of working.

**Leadership.** Even as AI automates many tasks in the workplace, it will never be able to replace the human touch when it comes to leadership. Great leadership is essential for building trust, engagement and positive and inclusive cultures, motivating teams, resolving conflicts and building teamwork.

These are just a few of the transferable skills that you should be focusing on to future-proof your career. By developing these skills, you will be able to add value wherever you work, regardless of the technological advances that are taking place.

*This article was written by Frances Bearne and can be found at: [The future of work: Building transferrable skills in the age of AI - Idealog](#).*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## CONNOR HALL



### 1. When did you leave St Peter's?

*I was at St Peter's from 2009 to 2014.*

### 2. What are your favourite memories of school?

*My favourite memories of school were hanging out with my mates and always having a laugh.*

### 3. What do you do now?

*I work in the film industry as an assistant director. I began working in the movies in 2016 and from then I have worked on some amazing films such as Disney's Aladdin, A Quiet Place, Lord of the Rings: Rings of Power, Ghost Busters and even getting the opportunity to be in Mission Impossible Death Reckoning Part 1. It's a tough line of work but I love every single minute of it.*

### 4. What made you decide to do the degree you chose?

*Ever since I was very young I loved watching movies and making my own short films. I used to get my school friends round my house and we would make a horror film or an action film. Once I left school I went to college to study media and after I completed the course I knew I wanted to work in films.*

### 5. How relevant was your degree to what you are doing now?

*My degree in college was more focused on the business and paperwork side of the film industry with a small amount of the degree based on producing and directing your own films. But using the knowledge from this degree it's got me to where I am today.*

### 6. How did you get to where you are today?

*I got to where I am today by persistence, determination, and A LOT of hard work. Working 14 hour days, 6 days a week was how I got my name out there in the industry. It's a fast paced industry that requires a lot of networking, so making friends on set and talking to people you wouldn't normally talk to helps.*

### 7. What are your plans for the future?

*My plans for the future is to become a film director. I have produced and directed my first short film which has been accepted to multiple film festivals and will be released very soon. So the end goal for me is to get my name known as a director and entertain!*

### 8. Finally, what would be your advice to students?

*My advice to students would be, do whatever makes you happy but you will have to put the work in to get the results you want. It's just about persistence and working hard. But don't be afraid to fail and make mistakes, nobody is perfect.*