



What's on in the College? Events, speakers and Looking ahead

Welcome to this year's first edition of the Aquinas Careers newsletter for parents and carers. We'd love to hear what you think of it and if you have any questions about helping your son/daughter make informed career choices!

Please email careers@aquinas.ac.uk

Timetable for the year - dates for your diary!

Autumn term - Employability booklet and access to the Service

Students have been given a green employability booklet which supports their research in gaining an understanding of how to make good career choices. All students have been introduced to their Career Plan on their MyAquinas account and the importance of keeping it up to date.

Students have also been introduced to the service and throughout the year students will be able to access the Careers Service during College time. There will be a range of career sessions regarding choices and opportunities through the tutorial pastoral programme. If students miss any of the sessions, they will need to come to Careers to seek further guidance! There is a comprehensive programme which will help all students demystify career decisions.

Careers event 23rd March 2017 - 'After Aquinas' is our popular and well attended annual event where we invite the most popular Universities, Apprenticeship providers, employers and volunteer organisations into College to promote their career opportunities for students, Parents and carers are also invited giving you an idea of the range of choices out there!

Thursday 30th June 2017 - 'Aquinas Careers Day'

is a series of Career talks to inspire students! Students can attend a variety of talks to hear guest speakers from competitive and popular career professions provide an insight into what it's like to really do the job. In previous years we have had a diverse range of speakers which have been vital for students to assess and judge opportunities.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for students to be involved in understanding career options. Notices in the daily bulletin are read during registration, and it is through this we promote opportunities that are available inside and outside of the College.

Work Experience

Students are encouraged to find relevant, career related work experience to support their university and or apprenticeship applications.



CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES! — UNIVERSITY OR APPRENTICESHIP ...OR BOTH?!

It may seem odd to start thinking about career choices after Aquinas, but there's no harm with starting to research potential opportunities! The more research completed, the more likely an informed choice can be made. Inspirational career talks from the world of work and Universities can be insightful and very rewarding as options change every year.

Careers guidance can help better understand choices and can equip young people in making the best decision for them. There are a rich assortment of options which ex-students of Aquinas have progressed onto, these include; University, Apprenticeship/Degree Apprenticeships, full time employment or a gap year (working/travelling) gaining world experience before the next step in their career stage. The Aquinas alumni is constantly growing year on year as students successfully choose the best option for them! We have already seen a number of enthusiastic students who are taking ownership of their career journeys and will be making informed decisions.

Government policy has emphasised the benefits of an apprenticeship and is committed to increasing the amount of opportunities available for all. There have been an increased number of higher apprenticeships aimed at students over the last few years. Degree Apprenticeships are starting to emerge, meaning students don't have to pay to get a degree and more companies are investing in Sponsored Degrees. Universities have been improving their support services, increasing the number of lecture hours and attempting to improve student satisfaction and graduate destinations. You could have questions which need answering before helping your son or daughter make a well informed decision after Aquinas, please get in contact!

Questions students should consider - Should I go to University to gain a degree or would the apprenticeship route be a viable alternative? How best do I learn? Are Higher Apprenticeships just as valuable as a Degree from a 'Russell Group' University? Should I pick a Russell group University over another type of University? (e.g. the old Polytechnic) Would taking a gap year have an impact on a potential future opportunity? And what do employers think about the different opportunities for students?

The best thing to do is to for students to research their opportunities and contact Careers if they need further help or guidance! Email: Careers@aquinas.ac.uk



“RESEARCH IS CREATING NEW KNOWLEDGE” @AQUINASCAREERS

The Aquinas Careers Service provision extends further through the Careers section of the College Moodle system and through our social media twitter page, regularly posting key dates to beware of and career opportunities for all students. Our fully stocked Careers area in college helps all of our students broaden their horizons by being able to gain access to resources - all careers related. We have resources available with a focus on admission tests for Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge) Medics, Law and anyone thinking of going into teaching .

WELCOME TO UNIFROG! HELP YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER EXPLORE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AND THE BEST UNIVERSITY OR APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Unifrog is a paid website which is accessible for all of our students. It helps research University and apprenticeship/school leaver opportunities. Every student has been given log in details during their induction week. Employability has been a major buzzword in recent years to describe the desirable soft skills employers are demanding. To stand out from the crowd, especially in a competitive career we have invested in Unifrog to help students realise the importance of employability skills involving: independence, leadership, team working, resilience and analysis. We encourage all students to complete their employability and give good examples from either in or outside of College time. – The more the better! Doing this is on an ongoing basis will help prepare them to write a personal statement.

The Careers Service is for everyone – all of our students, parents and carers. We encourage all to gain from our highly qualified, personal guidance as much as possible.

Careers at Aquinas
Making a difference...

Individual Support

- 1:1 Meetings
- Career Planning
- Application Forms
- Mock Interviews

Events

- Careers Day
- After Aquinas
- University Talks & Visits
- Sector Conferences
- Employer Talks

Employability Skills

- Work Experience
- Employer Mentoring
- Volunteering
- Access Programme
- The VISION Programme
- Tomorrow's Teachers
- Come and talk to us!

@Aquinascareers Careers@aquinas.ac.uk

Please email careers@aquinas.ac.uk or ring the College number if you have any thoughts and ideas to help us develop your newsletter.

CAREERS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

LOWER SIXTH	
AUTUMN TERM	<p>Introduction to the Careers Service.</p> <p>Introduction and registration onto Unifrog</p> <p>Introduction to importance of Employability Skills and initial recording on Unifrog.</p> <p>Presentations on the Manchester Access Programme and Leeds Access programme.</p> <p>'Feed our Nation' Workshop. Understanding the Grocery Industry and a CV and Interview Skills workshop.</p>
SPRING TERM	<p>Introduction to Careers Library Completion of U-Explore –Start. Understanding career ideas and employability.</p> <p>The Tutorial programme covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make decisions for after Aquinas, • What is an apprenticeship? • Choosing a University and Course • UCAS Tariff – understanding University entry requirements • Student Finance <p>After Aquinas Evening – 23rd March 2017 Benefits of Work Experience.</p>
SUMMER TERM	<p>Careers Day – Thursday 29th June 2017</p> <p>Register on UCAS Apply. (applying to University)</p> <p>Register on the National Apprenticeship website.</p> <p>Introduction to writing personal statements.</p> <p>Students to attend University Open Days.</p> <p>Optional trip to Sheffield to attend an open day</p> <p>Work Experience Week.</p> <p>University Entrance Tests.</p>

There are many other career related activities taking place in college which are advertised via the daily bulletin. These include Tomorrow's Teachers programme, Employer Mentoring programme, visits and guest speakers.