

2017



Autumn  
term  
edition

**For parents and carers of first year Aquinas students**

**Careers newsletter for parents and carers L6**

**Autumn**

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](mailto:Careers@aquinas.ac.uk) or tweet to: [@AquinasCareers](https://twitter.com/AquinasCareers)

**Aquinas College Careers team**

We are a dedicated service with an aim to help students make good career decisions through offering timely advice and guidance. We help students through their potential options which include applying to university, taking an apprenticeship opportunity or possibly the most recent degree apprenticeships. Our impartial guidance works towards supporting students towards positive destinations.

We have a special careers section available for all students to use through the college moodle system. From writing CV's to finding out more about going to university or gaining an apprenticeship, there is something for everyone! Students can access this through the main Aquinas college website and look for the logo!



## **Special careers talk from Angela Rayner MP Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

On Friday 17th November, Aquinas College was treated to a special



guest Member of Parliament! Angela Rayner, current MP for Ashton-under-Lyne was invited to speak to a packed lecture theatre of students. She

provided an insight into her own career journey and how she managed to become one of the most successful women in the history of Parliament. Mrs Rayner was very inspirational, insightful as she talked about her experiences as an MP and how she helps and supports her constituency, both locally and nationally. Students were keen to find out more about her as a person and her opinions on current affairs, and she allowed time to answer all questions!

Current student Shaun Vickers said; “Mrs Rayner was very inspirational, but very down-to-earth, and it was a rare opportunity to be able to ask a frontbencher both about their story and their more current political views.” Oliver Grainger who also attended, commented; “It’s inspirational how she (Angela) could build such a career with so few materials.”

### **Timetable of the year – dates for your diary!**

#### **Careers event: ‘After Aquinas 2018’ – March/April 2018**

After Aquinas is our popular and well attended annual event where we invite the most popular universities, apprenticeship providers, degree apprenticeship providers, employers and volunteer organisations into Aquinas. They will promote a range of career opportunities for students. Parents and carers are also invited, giving you an idea of the range of choices out there!

## **Careers event: 'Aquinas Careers Day' - June**

Is a series of career talks to inspire students! Students can attend a variety of talks to hear guest speakers from competitive and popular professions providing an insight into what it's like to really do the job. In previous years we have had a diverse range of speakers which has been vital for students to properly 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 both inside and outside of Aquinas College.

## **Work Experience**

Students are encouraged to find relevant career-related work experience to support making good informed choices. This can also help with their university and/or apprenticeship application.

## **Choices, choices, choices!**

### **- University or apprenticeship...or both?!**

It may seem premature to start thinking about career choices after completing courses at 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 students better understand choices and can equip young people to make the best decision for them. There are a rich assortment of options which ex-students of Aquinas College 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.

## **Apprenticeships**

Government policy has emphasised the benefits of an apprenticeship and is committed to increasing the amount of opportunities available for all. There

has been an increased number of higher apprenticeships aimed at students over the last few years. Degree apprenticeships are starting to emerge meaning students do not have to pay to get a degree and more universities have been improving their support services, increasing the number of lecture hours and attempting to improve students satisfaction and graduate destinations. You may 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 polytechnics)? Would taking a gap year have an impact on a potential future opportunity? What do employers think about the different opportunities for students?

The best thing to do is for students to research their opportunities and contact careers if they need further help of guidance! Email: [Careers@aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:Careers@aquinas.ac.uk)

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

**Why use Aquinas Careers Service?**

Where will your career take you ....?

**Careers at Aquinas**

What is the Labour Market?

Which University?

Where are the jobs?

Should I consider an Apprenticeship?

What apprenticeships are out there?

How can I gain work experience?

Study/work abroad?

What can a Degree lead to?

Should I go to University?

Should I take a gap year?