

2017



Autumn  
term  
edition

## For parents and carers of final year Aquinas students

Welcome back! 1<sup>st</sup> edition for parents and carers

From the Careers team we hope you've had a great summer and would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students the very best as they head towards the final stages of their time at Aquinas. This is the first edition of the parents and carers newsletter for this academic year! You should expect a newsletter featuring information, news and relevant career opportunities to help you better equip yourself to understand potential career options for your son/daughter.

With increasing pressures from the World today, it seems young people (and yourselves!) are faced with progression options that have become more challenging, so the importance of high quality, impartial careers information, advice and guidance is critical in helping young people make the best career choices. At Aquinas the Careers Service aims to provide students with a professional and impartial advice and guidance service accessible to all.

The Careers Service is made up of experienced members of staff, dedicated to de-mystifying career choices and helping students realise the opportunities open to them after Aquinas. The service is flexible and accessible through one to one booked appointments or drop-in sessions and we are available through social media, telephone and email. All students have been given careers information regarding options after completing their Aquinas studies through the tutorial programme.

The service is available to all students, parents and carers. If you have any questions regarding our service or career decisions for all students please follow our Twitter page @Aquinascareers or email careers @aquinas.ac.uk



## Unifrog

Unifrog has been introduced to students and is an online package to help research potential university or apprenticeship opportunities. Every student has been given log in details during their induction week. Employability has been a major buzzword 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 skills including: Independence, Leadership, Team work, Resilience and Analysis. We encourage all students to complete the employability skills section and give good examples from either in or outside College – the more the better!

## Post Aquinas Options

As we are approaching the Christmas break, students have either applied to university and have started to receive offers or are working towards completing their applications. **The UCAS deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.** Students have been working towards our widely advertised internal college deadlines.

N.B. Some universities may ask students to attend a university interview. All students should speak to a Careers Adviser for additional guidance which could involve practice sessions covering potential questions and tasks.

Apprenticeships – vacancies are ongoing throughout the year however students should be mindful large companies may have recruitment times during the year in order to find the right apprentice for a September 2018 start! We advise all students to attend a session at the Apprenticeship Store at Grand Central in Stockport and have an account on the National Apprenticeship website.



## 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. 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 and 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 allowed enough 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.”

### Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Did you know that you can apply for these alongside your UCAS application?

There are many sectors with amazing opportunities to study for a Level 4 qualification or degree (or equivalent qualification) that pay for your training or university fees and a salary, and often offer employment opportunities on completion of the programme.

Currently the key areas with these opportunities are:-

**Accountancy, Banking, IT/Software Engineering; Construction; Retail; Finance; Project and Business Management; Engineering; Energy Supply; Transport, Car manufacturing and many related roles in the pharmaceutical/manufacturing sectors.** There are also a growing number in Public Services including the Civil Service Fast Track apprenticeship programme, and opportunities within MI5 and MI6! Nursing apprenticeships are also being developed and an increasing number should become available over the next 2 years.

There are also an increasing number of universities in the UK that deliver degree apprenticeships. These are just some in the North West that are involved in delivering degree apprenticeships for employers – Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) Liverpool John Moores University and Sheffield Hallam University. You can register your interest with them in order to be notified of events and vacancies. MMU had a Degree Apprenticeships open evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 5-7.30pm.

Resources and Careers information in College!

The Aquinas Careers Service provision extends further through the careers section of the College Moodle system and our social media Twitter/Facebook pages. 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 available with a focus on admissions tests for Oxford and Cambridge, Medics, Law and anyone thinking of going into teaching.

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

**Why use Aquinas Careers Service?**

Where will you career take you ....?

**Careers at Aquinas**

Should I consider an Apprenticeship?

What apprenticeships are out there?

Should I go to University?

Study/work abroad?

What can a Degree lead to?

What is the Labour Market?

Which University?

Where are the jobs?

How can I gain work experience?

Should I take a gap year?