

# Aquinas College Careers Programme

Aquinas careers team support the overarching strategic aims of the college to:

- 1. To provide an outstanding educational experience, in-line with our mission, which promotes the cardinal virtues and prepares students for their next steps in life.**
- 2. To deliver a broad and rich curriculum that develops the personal, spiritual and academic growth of all students “so that they may have life and have it to the full’ John 10:10**
- 3. To ensure students and staff thrive at every stage of their journey, enabling them to ‘Be More’**

We encourage students to develop key universal skills, knowledge and attitudes that employers, universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers value and support our students to have a positive career. We are committed to provide a tailored and impartial approach for all students.

According to the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), the Gatsby Benchmarks “define what world class careers provision” looks like. By utilising the Gatsby Benchmarks to organise our careers provision around, the content and delivery of our career development programme can be designed around an evidence-based approach.

Gatsby Benchmark 1 asks that the careers programme is evaluated. We will do this by utilising the learning aims from Career Development Framework (Produced by the CDI) and the Essential skills as defined by the Skills Builder Framework. This will allow Aquinas to clarify what pupils should know and understand by the end of year 13.

**All students** will have access to the following careers-related activities, events and resources:

- Offer of 1-1 tailored Careers support/appointment with a Careers Adviser.
- Career Plan on MyAquinas which should be termly reviewed and updated by every student.
- Subscription to the Careers themed google classrooms.
- Access to weekly careers newsletters, produced by the Aquinas Careers Team.
- Access to careers library and online resources, including Unifrog.
- Access to the Careers section of the Aquinas Student Hub and careers resources for each subject area.
- Careers-related activities, guest speakers, experiences of workplaces, trips and events throughout the curriculum.

## Autumn Term (September-December)

L6/Year 12 Students	U6/ Year 13 Students
New student Induction Careers Employability session	Current student Induction Careers Employability session
Tomorrow's Engineers enrichment programme	Subscription to the Apprenticeship Club Google Classroom
Widening Access to Higher Education programmes support (Manchester Access Programme, LUDUS at Loughborough, Discover Sheffield, Edge Hill Diversity Access Programme).	UCAS application advice and support
Tutorial 1: Grow Throughout Life introduction to career planning, career plan on MyAquinas and Unifrog	All students with an EHCP provided with a 1-1 careers appointment with an Aquinas Careers Adviser
	Careers Tutorial: Explore Possibilities - Degree Apprenticeships and Career Planning

## Spring Term (January - March)

L6 / Year 12 Students	U6 / Year 13 Students
Major Event: After Aquinas - post-18 options event available for all students and their families to attend, after the college day	Major Event: After Aquinas - post-18 options event available for U6 students (who have not applied to university) and their families to attend, after the college day
Careers Week for all students to be delivered through curriculum and held during same week as After Aquinas event	Careers Week for all students to be delivered through curriculum and held during same week as After Aquinas event
Gap Year talk	Apprenticeship insight talks and apprenticeship fast track sessions
Horizons Employer Mentoring Programme	Gap Year talk
All students with an EHCP provided with a 1-1 careers appointment with an Aquinas Careers Adviser	Apprenticeship Assessment preparation workshop
Tutorial 2: Explore Possibilities part 1 - skill needs of the labour market, local, regional and national	Subscription to the Apprenticeship Club Google Classroom
Tutorial 3: Manage Career - preparation for the After Aquinas careers event	All students who have not applied to university offered careers support
Group workshops available for all students who are unsure about options after Aquinas and exploring possibilities	Careers Tutorial: Balance Life and Work - linking career planning with college studies and personal life
	Careers tutorial: Student Finance and budgeting.
	Group workshops available for all students who are unsure about options after Aquinas and exploring possibilities

## Summer Term (April - August)

L6 / Year 12 Students	U6 / Year 13 Students
Major Event: Careers Day - compulsory attendance for students to attend up to 6 career talks from a range of guest speakers	Subscription to the Apprenticeship Club Google Classroom
Careers Week for L6 students to be delivered through curriculum and held during same week as Careers Day	Careers Week for L6 students to be delivered through curriculum and held during same week as Careers Day
Tutorial 4: Explore Possibilities part 2 - career options and checklists for career planning	All students who have not applied to university offered careers support
Tutorial 5: Create Opportunities - introduction to UCAS and writing an effective personal statement for university or apprenticeship programmes	Group workshops available for all students who have not applied to UCAS
Tutorial 6: See the Big Picture - research into post-Aquinas options and preparation for next year	Support available for all students during Results Day

There will also be a range of additional events and opportunities for students to engage with their career development to explore possibilities. They will be communicated through college emails and notes in the student weekly bulletin. We also support with information, advice and guidance (IAG) during college open events and during the enrollment of new Aquinas students.

## Pre-enrolment/applicants

Pre-enrolment students are supported through:

- IAG support during the enrolment period for all students
- IAG support at post-16 career options events
- IAG support during 3 college open events
- IAG offer available on request using the email address, [Careers@Aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:Careers@Aquinas.ac.uk)

## Parents/Carers

Parents / carers can access the careers provision through:

- Contacting the careers team using the email address, [Careers@Aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:Careers@Aquinas.ac.uk)
- Invite to subscribe to the careers newsletter (parents and carers version)
- Invite to remote careers-related events during the Consultation (Parents') Evenings, which will include live and interactive workshops on apprenticeships, the jobs market, insights into university and higher education and student finance.
- Access to Unifrog careers resources as a parent/carers through a virtual careers event or available on request (email [Careers@Aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:Careers@Aquinas.ac.uk) for further information).

## Students on the Aspire Programme

Students on the Aspire Programme will benefit from the career sessions embedded through the programme. The sessions aim to enhance student's awareness of employability skills and how they can evidence their transferable skills. The careers-related sessions are:

- Developing an understanding of employability skills.
- How to use your personal network and the benefits of LinkedIn.
- Using Unifrog to explore career possibilities and labour market information.
- Assessment Centre overview and practice exercise.
- CV's and Job Applications.
- Interview Preparations.
- Developing presentation skills.

## Students on Level 2 Programmes

Students on Level 2 Programmes will also benefit from the following careers-related activities/events:

- Careers related work project with a local employer.
- L6/Year 12 tutorial: Grow throughout life - introduction to careers/career plan.
- Master your Motivation careers session with UA92 for all students on the Maths GCSE course.

Alongside the careers programme, students can also access additional **careers-related enrichment programmes and groups** depending on their preference:

Enrichment Programme/group	Description	Contact email
Triple A	Aspirational programme for students to experience a range of options after Aquinas, including Oxbridge, Russell Group Universities and Degree Level apprenticeships.	<a href="mailto:Angela.Bentley@Aquinas.ac.uk">Angela.Bentley@Aquinas.ac.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:Luke.Watson@Aquinas.ac.uk">Luke.Watson@Aquinas.ac.uk</a>
Extended Project Qualification	Designed to enhance student's university applications and prepare for higher education.	<a href="mailto:Sheena.Bhim@Aquinas.ac.uk">Sheena.Bhim@Aquinas.ac.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:Eddie.Wright@Aquinas.ac.uk">Eddie.Wright@Aquinas.ac.uk</a>
Medics/Vet/Dentist Student Group	Raise awareness and support of the medical career options and courses. Support with arranging relevant work-related experiences.	<a href="mailto:Anna.Knowles@Aquinas.ac.uk">Anna.Knowles@Aquinas.ac.uk</a>
Healthcare Programme	Raise awareness and support of a range healthcare career options and courses. Support with arranging relevant work-related experiences.	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Harris@Aquinas.ac.uk">Sarah.Harris@Aquinas.ac.uk</a>

## **External Providers - Impartial**

We work with a range of external organisations, from university and higher education, further education, employment, apprenticeship providers and gap year organisations. We also collaborate with organisations who are impartial, including the local apprenticeship offer from ASK and Greater Manchester Higher for raising awareness of higher education, including higher and degree level apprenticeships.