**CEIAG Report to Governors  
February 2019**

There has been a huge amount of activities and events with regards to CEIAG at Parklands. Following on from last year’s report, Year 10 undertook a very successful week of Work Experience in July, along with sampling days at Runshaw, Newman and Wigan & Leigh Colleges. A number of Year 10s also took part in voluntary work with Leyland Playscheme, following an assembly.

Since returning to school in September, there have been various assemblies for Year 10 and 11. Work Experience was launched in November by Roman from Changing Education – two further assemblies by JG and PB have taken place to encourage early sign up to the programme and to explain the app that has been developed.

Runshaw and Wigan & Leigh have presented assemblies to Y11, talking about the courses, programme, enrichment activities and apprenticeship opportunities available. Both colleges are offering sampling days for Year 10 in the summer term, and there will be pre-sampling assemblies for these, in order for students to choose their timetables.

National Citizen Service presented an assembly to Y11, followed by a number of drop-ins at lunchtime over the next few weeks. They are due in again in the summer term so that nobody misses out. Last year, 28 students took part in the scheme and we were awarded a Bronze plaque to recognise our involvement.

Jess Richmond from Future-U along with a current UCLan student from Romania presented an assembly to Year 11, talking about university life – the pros and cons, finance, jobs, career options, UCAS forms, etc.

Year 10 and 11 were present for Terance Li’s assembly in January. Terance is an ex-student who is currently working for HSBC in New York and came back to talk about his particular journey since leaving school.

Year 11 met Julia Monks from Handelsbanken, who talked about her route into banking and finance and gave helpful tips on everything from credit cards to payday loans.

Year 11 also had a brilliant talk from a local YouTuber and social media star: Luke Askew, who told them about his life. He dealt with dyslexia and later depression, but overcame his difficulties and now inspires young people all over the country.

Year 10 recently enjoyed a stirring assembly from Chorley’s MP, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, who told them about his successes and how to make a difference. He followed this up with a Q&A session for an hour, with students grilling him on everything from Chorley A&E to North Korea!

Prior to the Mock Interview Day for Year 11, Jonny Daniels from Blackburn College presented a session on interview techniques and what to do or not to do in an interview. There had already been a session on CV writing, undertaken during Elevate time, with a differentiated version for the Connect group. The Mock Interview Day was very successful with lots of employers taking part, as well as staff from local colleges. It would be great to staff the entire event with employers, but this is not always possible – five didn’t turn up (three had already apologised the day before, but two just didn’t show). Therefore, we usually need to have back up from colleges as we have so many interviews to get through. The rest of the day (it was part of a Respect Day for Y11) had sessions from UCLan students, talking about university life and finances, Future-U talking about pathways and choices, the Apprenticeship service registering students on Gov.UK and talking about apprenticeships and David Taaffe from the DWP talking about digital footprints and branding on social media.

On the subject of interviews, a number of Year 11s have already been interviewed in school by Wigan & Leigh College, with a follow up day before half term. Preston’s College are interviewing in school at the end of February and Runshaw are interviewing on 7th and 8th March. We have had application sessions with Runshaw College, going over the online application process in great detail. Other college interviews have already taken place – students have applied to Blackburn, Myerscough, Winstanley, Cardinal Newman and St John Rigby as well as the colleges already referred to.

A number of Year 11s have had 1-1 interviews with myself, as well as with Sandra Mulligan (PP support worker) and their HALs. These are ongoing, with PP and SEN as priority, followed by the ones who have yet to submit an application to college or for apprenticeship. Each of my interviews is recorded on Connect (which is part of the package supplied by Changing Education for WEX). I can add links to documents such as CVs or feedback questionnaires and it is ongoing, showing all the careers activities undertaken.

There have been a number of events for smaller groups of students in various areas. A STEM Day for Year 8 took place at Runshaw’s new STEM centre and the students learned about renewable energy, making and racing tiny solar powered cars, as well as discovering how to create pocket torches and engrave keyrings!

A group of Year 9 and 10s attended a Medical Careers Day at Runshaw in conjunction with Future-U, UCLan, Lancaster University and the NHS. They attended lectures from medical and university staff, before taking part in practical activities, from assessing a casualty to taking blood. They even learned sign language and ‘sang’ Silent Night.

The whole of Year 9 and 10 attended a STEM careers day delivered in school in conjunction with Future-U. This was organised by Rachel Ferguson.

There are further sessions booked for more able students in the next few weeks: a Mock Trial has just taken place at Runshaw, with science, media and graphics, robotics and geography days to follow. These are aimed primarily at Year 9 and 10 and take place at Runshaw and Wigan & Leigh.

Just before Christmas, Dr Iain Kennedy from Medic Mentors came into school to talk about the programme which aims to help students who want to get into medical, dental or veterinary careers. He spoke about his career path: lots of volunteering and shadowing and encouraged the students to start early, look for any voluntary WEX opportunities and form a medical society. This has been passed to Dan Brown to oversee. Almost 40 students from Year 9, 10 and 11 attended the session.

The annual Careers Fair took place on Friday 1st February and was very successful, with around 70 exhibitors. There were a number of new additions: MBDA Missile Systems, Ameon, Chorley Group (Nissan), BSRIA Construction, DXC Technology, Stateside Foods, Redrow Homes, LLS, Lyndhurst Precision Engineering, John Turner Construction and Age Concern alongside the ones who support us time and time again: Eric Wright, NIS Ltd., the Armed Forces and so on. All of Year 9, 10 and 11 visited the fair and the feedback from exhibitors has been overwhelmingly positive so far. The Mayor and Sir Lindsay Hoyle visited and met our new Enterprise Advisor, Laura Leyland.

Our new Enterprise Advisor has come about due to a lack of support from our current one from the NHS. They were recruited by our previous Enterprise Co-ordinator, Paul Symes from Inspira, who has been on long-term sick leave for the past year. Following a complaint by myself, we were paired up with Shaheen Gul from Inspira, who covers the Preston area, but has taken on some of Paul’s schools. We have worked together through Compass and Tracker to identify any issues in gaining the Gatsby Benchmarks and felt that we needed a more dynamic EA. I had met Laura the year before during work experience week and suggested she may be a good fit. Luckily she agreed and has just taken up her post supporting our school. She has offered to run CV and interview sessions and workshops and has many contacts for WEX, work shadowing and so on that we can tap into. This should mean a more realistic experience during mock interviews for example, if we can staff it entirely with employers. We are doing really well on the Gatsby benchmarks, far ahead of many schools, but with lots more still to do, but hopefully with a completion date by the end of the summer term.

Our other external contact is Fiona from the Young Chamber, who has not brought a great deal to the school throughout the year, although she helps out herself on many occasions. Our school sponsor is Lisa Brady from Perfect Recruitment, who has offered contacts for WEX but not been as involved with the school as I would have liked, despite contacting and chasing them!

We were recently assessed for Stage One of the Inspiring IAG Quality in Careers Standard Mark, following the completion of a very detailed workbook. With one or two minor additions, we were judged to be competent at Stage One and able to apply for Stage Two, once the report comes back from the official assessors. This was a lengthy assessment which yielded some helpful advice and signposting. One of the points highlighted was that ideally, we should have a clear and progressive scheme of work for careers, in the same way that we do for each academic subject, based on the CDI (Career Development Institute) framework. This is something that I would appreciate help with from the Governing body, in order to reinstate careers learning as an ongoing journey, rather than a bolt-on option.

On review days, the House Achievement Leaders record the career ambitions of pupils. I often refer to these as a starting point in a careers interview and explore further what they think the career might entail, what qualifications or courses they may need to achieve success and so on.

On a personal note, I have attended various CEIAG events: a partner high school day at Runshaw and a similar event at Wigan & Leigh, discussing the changes to apprenticeships and the launch of T Levels in 2020 (to be directly equivalent to A Levels). I attended an after school event at DXC Technology, discussing STEM and Cyber careers and opportunities and am on the EWF steering committee, trying to integrate schools and the world of work in a more useful and meaningful way.   
I signed up to attend a CPD session at Bishop Rawstorne covering Careers and Ofsted, but this was subsequently cancelled. I requested the presentation following the cancellation, and reassuringly, there is nothing in there that we are not doing currently. I am part of a networking group of Careers Leaders, and met recently at Christ the King High School in Preston, to share best practice. Also present was a representative of the Careers and Enterprise Company, who promised to feed back some of the comments regarding tracking of student data, duplication of data for Gatsby and so on. There are already changes being proposed to the Gatsby framework, with details to follow. It was reassuring to note that we are doing so many things well – our website was even highlighted as a model to follow!

I meet with Jonny Galbraith every fortnight to discuss CEIAG – all the meetings are minuted and shared immediately. This allows us to make any necessary changes to programmes and react to offers from external providers to provide the best possible careers education to pupils. He in turn can feed back immediately to SLT. As Careers Leader, it is essential to have a supportive link to SLT.

Career of the Week is updated on the website every Friday and parents are informed via the parent bulletin, along with other important careers news. Sometimes it will reflect current local Labour Market Information (LMI) news or sometimes, it is inspired by a visitor or event, so that it is always topical and relevant. I often get emails regarding the CotW feature, both from parents and from staff at other schools!

I send out emails and share items regularly: apprenticeship opportunities or open events at colleges or workplaces. I also post items on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and via the parent bulletin, to reach as wide an audience as possible.

Finally, I am part way through the Careers Leader training with Nottingham Trent University. This is accredited to Level 7, and includes the option to top up to a full Masters qualification in Careers Education and Guidance. The workload is quite intense, with three face to face training days within the 16 week course, covering the Gatsby benchmarks in great detail. Sharing good practice with the university and the other course participants is a particularly valuable resource.

Patricia Berry, Careers Leader