



CASE STUDY:

Devonport High School For Boys

National Careers Week

NCW

 @CAREERSWEEK

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR ALUMNI!

SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

Devonport High School for Boys

REGION OF THE UK

South West

TYPE OF SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

Secondary and Sixth Form



INTRODUCTION

Choice of speakers for Y10/11/12/13 during NCW in as many different career areas as possible, using alumni wherever feasible, and follow up session for more recent alumni still at Uni to talk about their subject/course/Uni/plans

GATSBY BENCHMARKS



A Stable
Careers
Programme



Learning from
Career &
Labour Market
Information



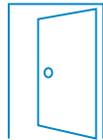
Addressing
The Needs of
Each Pupil



Linking
Curriculum
Learning
to Careers



Encounters
with Employers
& Employees



Experiences
of Workplaces



Encounters
with Further &
Higher
Education



Personal
Guidance



i OVERVIEW

Students in Y10 upwards were to choose an area of interest and attend a one-hour session delivered by a relevant professional. Areas were chosen after consultation with students, to cover a broad spectrum of careers and use alumni where possible.

This approach aimed to address individual needs, encompass local LMI, and provide meaningful encounters with employers and apprentices (it was also NAW.) It also relies upon having a good local network, flexibility and the use of alumni.

The second event, with alumni still at university or in employment helps current students to see how recent students have progressed.

CONTEXT

The two events were both for Y10, 11, 12 and 13. Y10 and 11 boys, 6th form mixed. Aim is for everyone to have at least one area of interest to select.

Generally, speakers are for an entire year group which means that not all will be interested so this system, although more labour intensive (allocating students to groups they have chosen) makes a more enthusiastic audience who will interact positively with speakers – knock on effect speakers are likely to return!

Second event with younger alumni allows for 1:1 discussion for 6th form as well as general advice for Y10 and 11.

RESOURCES

Speakers gave their time freely and many brought in resources, so just money for refreshments.

However, planning started 6 months in advance and the last couple of weeks were labour intensive; allocating choices from students, and finding a replacement or re-allocating if a speaker cancelled.

Some help came from our careers adviser, she is only in once a week with a full schedule of interviews, so limited joint planning could take place, and one person needs to maintain an overview. Boys and staff very enthusiastic, as were the speakers, so a positive experience if exhausting for the organiser!

BENEFITS

The main strength is the potential for individualisation, and the use of alumni means that it remains obviously accessible to current students, “ I did this – so can you”.

⚠ ISSUES

Late cancellations always a potential issue. Advice would be start early, have back-ups where possible in case of cancellations, time within your role and support from senior team important too.

💡 EVALUATION

Verbal (and some written) feedback from students, staff and speakers all overwhelmingly positive. Several encounters lead to work experience placements, professional mentoring or other support for the students. Ticks lots of Gatsby boxes, including for at least one speaker who stayed for the whole day and actually led curriculum lessons a chance to involve curriculum areas with careers which is in my experience one of the most difficult things to do.

🔄 UPDATES

STAFF QUOTES:

“The Legal Careers talk was really informative. It covered different aspects of law, routes into law and some interesting personal anecdotes. It is such a lot of hard work to organise these events; I am not sure that the boys realise what effective preparation they are getting for working life.”
HoD

STUDENT QUOTES (Y12 and 13):

“Our textbook wouldn't cover half of what Iain was able to get across on Friday.”
“His job and role is really exciting and important....he started from here!!!”
“I actually find this topic (The role of the central bank) interesting now.”



RELEVANT ARTICLES

Twitter account: @suemoreton1

LINK TO WEEKLY BLOG:

<https://sites.google.com/a/dhsb.org/iag/home/blog/whatawonderfulweek>



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

- Alumni Advice

