



CASE STUDY:

Oaks Park High School

National Careers Week

NCW

 @CAREERSWEEK

INSPIRING STUDENTS

Inspiring students and ensuring they are well informed about their future careers, so that they are fully equipped to achieve their future aspirations.



SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

Oaks Park High School



REGION OF THE UK

London



TYPE OF SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

Secondary and Sixth Form



INTRODUCTION

Over the fortnight beginning from Monday 5th March, Oaks Park put together a series of activities based around form time but also during lessons for students from years 7 to 13 to inspire, inform and equip them to achieve their future aspirations. Every student in the school was involved and a buzz on enterprise and aspiration permeated around the school.

GATSBY BENCHMARKS



A Stable
Careers
Programme



Learning from
Career &
Labour Market
Information



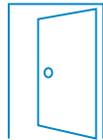
Addressing
The Needs of
Each Pupil



Linking
Curriculum
Learning
to Careers



Encounters
with Employers
& Employees



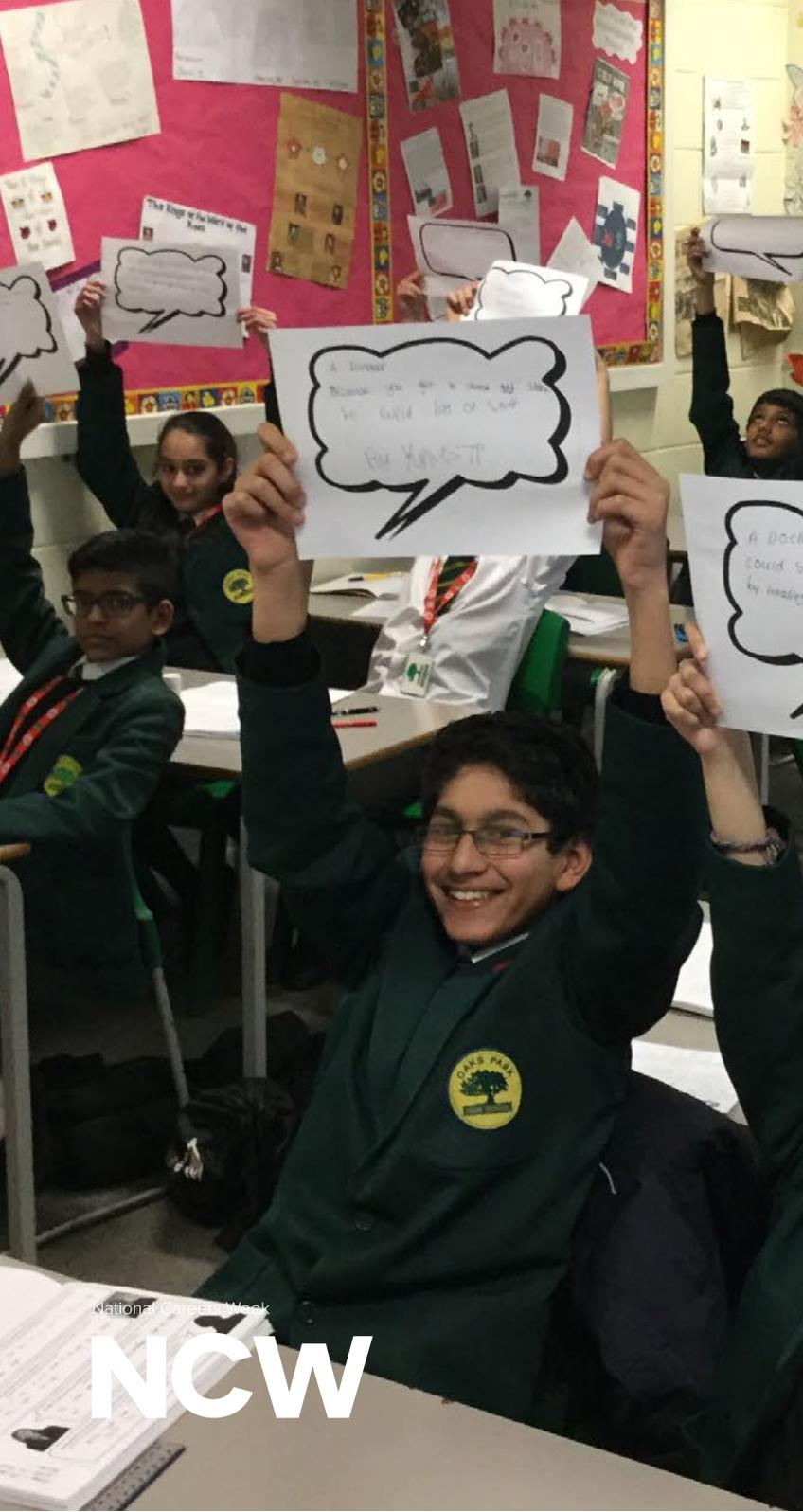
Experiences
of Workplaces



Encounters
with Further &
Higher
Education



Personal
Guidance



i OVERVIEW

At Oaks Park we had two aims during national careers week. Firstly, we wanted to broaden students horizons, generate whole school discussion on carers and get them discussing, thinking and working on their future careers. Secondly, we wanted to ensure that all had a good grasp of different apprenticeships and post-16 and post-18 options. We created a tutorial scheme of work for the entire school (Year 7-13) to work on during national careers week. This focused on the difference between universities and apprenticeships and the different levels and career apprenticeships now available. We asked form tutors to create a display that outlined any previous employment that they had undertaken and the skills that were developed through these in their classrooms. Further to this, forms also decorated their form room doors to demonstrate the career aspirations of the students in the form. We also invited in parents and outside speakers to talk to students about careers that are undertaken by people within the community and how they got to where they were going through increased student interactions with employers and employees. Evan Davis, BBC presenter and Journalist, delivered a careers focused lecture as part of our lecture series during this week in which he outlined how changes in the economy have led to new career paths being open.

National Careers Week

NCW

CONTEXT

Oaks Park is a non-selective, comprehensive state secondary school on the margins of East London and Essex. We are a mixed ability school and a diverse learning community. We took a whole school approach to careers week and our activities targeted all students from Years 7 to 13, incorporating in ethnicities, genders, and groups of students (such as pupil premium).

RESOURCES

Planning started in January. It took a lot of work to put together material that could be developed and embedded into the scheme of work but it was worthwhile. Feedback from everyone has been positive and the students are more informed about their future plans.

We have developed a lecture series that launched in September using high-profile speakers. This followed on from having Evan Davis as NCW keynote speaker. Lectures are open to all to enable both an early intervention approach towards careers (outlined in the June 2017 Sutton Trust Report and the new DfE National Strategy) and older students.

BENEFITS

We ensured that every student was exposed to careers in a variety of ways; during form time, lessons or attending talks. We held our school's careers fair the week before NCW so there was already a buzz around careers and students were ready to engage with NCW activities. Parents were invited in to deliver talks to their children's form which doesn't happen very often in secondary schools.

Although we invite high-profile speakers throughout the year, having Evan Davis to speak was a clear culmination of the week. PSHE lessons kept the careers buzz going in the weeks after following NCW.

⚠ ISSUES

A potential problem was getting staff buy in to ensure that they are all delivering the careers activities that you have planned and are promoting it in line with the rest of the school. We overcame through a whole-staff training session on the importance of careers and the impact it can have on creating motivated students. Staff were told about the current labour market and the economy's needs, and how to incorporate careers into their subjects. This was supported in weekly staff briefings looking at resources and ideas to engage students in career discussions were given to support teachers.

💡 EVALUATION

One part of the evaluation was judging the form decorated doors. This demonstrated to the careers team that careers had been discussed in class and they had followed our tutor time careers scheme of work. Each year group had a winning form and there was a whole school winner.

The careers team walked around school during form times to ensure tutor groups were completing the specified careers activities. Secondly, we followed up the activities conducted in form time during PSHE. The PSHE department created displays in school supporting NCW and career lessons will ensure that the benefits of NCW continue.

🔄 UPDATES

PSHE lessons

“Hearing what the teachers have done and how they have changed careers has shown me that you can develop different skills from jobs and it is fine to change your mind”

City Hall visit:

“This has shown me that there is so much more out than just going to university. It has opened my eyes to the benefits of apprenticeships”.

Evan Davis Lecture:

“His insights into careers were so inspiring. He really made it clear that we need to follow what we are passionate about and not allow barriers to be put in our way”

National Careers Week

NCW



RELEVANT ARTICLES

<https://successatschool.org/>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

<http://oakspark.co.uk/parents/ceiag-careers-support/>

