



Enhancing careers education through extra curricula activities and work experience opportunities has been shown to improve employment prospects for pupils and successfully bridge the gap between learning and employment. A BBC article produced in May 2019, reported:

*Teenagers who are taught about the world of work are more motivated to get higher GCSE results. A careers charity study found pupils who heard directly from employers about the realities of getting a job went on to get better grades. It also seemed to provide the incentive for increased revision. Low achievers were particularly likely to be motivated, with a 9% increase in their revision hours. This report underlines the value of good careers education which builds confidence, broadens horizons and fuels ambition.*

I'm sure our students have benefited from the school's work experience programme and will continue to do so - thereby proving the researchers correct. All of this interesting article can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-48268267>

New for 2019 were the lunchtime **Careers Workshops** for Years 9-13. We've hosted a number of guests this term; Simon Howard-Dobson, Managing Director of PHD Architects in Stansted, economist and broadcaster Stuart Trow, Software Developer Joe Clarke of Cambridge Intelligence, Nick Jacques, Business Manager at Audi Harold Wood plus the local fire service. All spoke enthusiastically and eloquently on their professions including training and pathways, and were enormously encouraging as well as inspiring. The efforts our guests have gone to is very touching; preparing Powerpoints etc and of course, the students particularly liked their Audi goodie bags! I already have several sessions lined up for the new academic term so do keep an eye on the weekly Parent Bulletin.



The younger students have also received their first introduction to careers education as Year 7 have been invited in small groups to the newly-enhanced **Careers Zone in the Library**. The sessions are an opportunity to demystify some of the careers 'jargon' attached to future pathways such as apprenticeships, gap years, university – as well as explore the careers books and literature. When asked if they had an idea of future careers, the responses were impressive; rocket scientist, F1 driver, fighter pilot etc - it's wonderful to see such ambition and dreams.



We celebrated **National Careers Week** and **National Apprenticeship Week** with a super programme of assembly guests (see later) and whilst tutors of Year 7 students completed a careers quiz *What's My Personality*, other year



groups took part in a quiz which involved guessing the previous jobs of TBSHS staff. Without giving anything away, which staff members worked as a pedaloe attendant, a postman, a gravedigger and a croupier? It was very generous-spirited of colleagues to get involved but also proves that you don't have to remain in one career or profession for all of your working life.

### Assembly Guest Programme



In October, students were fully briefed by **Education and Employers** on apprenticeships following Lisa Sunmonu's excellent presentation.

Although the number of available apprenticeships is increasing, they are still as over-subscribed as top university and medical places. However, a number of TBSHS students have proved that success can be achieved with several gaining places on prestigious Higher and Degree Apprenticeship programmes.

Victoria Clayden-Smith from **Stansted Airport College** kindly paid us a visit in November and briefed us on this amazing facility which is located just a short distance away from TBSHS. Stansted Airport is the largest employer in the East of England and to have access to the College as well as the airport is a fantastic bonus.



**Harlow College** visited in November and gave us a terrific overview of all the courses and apprenticeships available. For students looking to move on, we have one of the best college's in the country just a few miles down the road.

Following the launch of **Operation Sceptre**, Hertfordshire Police visited Years 9-11 in November and briefed the students on this initiative; a week-long targeted approach across all 44 forces in England and Wales aimed at tackling knife crime and raising awareness of its impact.



Also in November, the union **Unite** delivered an informative assembly on how they are dedicated to serving the best interests of its members, protecting workers rights and equality and diversity in the workplace.

**Carmel Crest Construction** presented a motivational assembly in February. With the demand for new homes set to massively increase in the future, it was interesting to hear from a representative in this booming industry.



**National Careers Week** saw a number of high-profile and prestigious guests visit the different year groups and highlight opportunities within their professions.



As in previous years, **The National Citizenship Service** delivered an assembly on the fantastic programme it offers 15-17 year olds. The four week programme helps build confidence and self-belief through activities and a residential week and at £50 p/head – it represents exceptional value.

We had a very special guest to speak about their own apprenticeship

experience, our own **in-house apprentice, Mr Pike** who is a member of the TBSHS Sport Department. Mr Pike gave a super account of his job and training and outlined why the apprenticeship scheme has worked for him.



From **Parliament Outreach**, we welcomed Sky Yarlett who visited school and spoke with several year groups on the work carried out in the Houses of Commons and the House of Lords. It was a fascinating insight into the work of MPs and Peers as well as seeing how these famous and historic institutions are set up and run.



Earlier this year, it was great to see a less traditional but on-trend approach to a presentation in that both **Cambridge Regional College** and **Hertford Regional College** set up a pop-up shop in the Reading Garden enabling students to make an approach in a less formal manner. I hope they made good use of these access visits and found valuable and worthwhile information.



As we headed towards the end of the academic year, there was just time to host another visit from the **Royal Marines**. Always a hit with students, they certainly gave a flavour of life in the Marines - but it's not just about physical exercises and drilling - the Marines do a vast and significant amount of humanitarian work all over the world.

Following the Year 10 work experience, **Martin Cooke, Herts County Council's School Age Employment Officer**, visited TBSHS and outlined all the rules and regulations regarding part-time employment for school age children. For a child's safety, the laws are incredibly strict – it's worth taking a note of the guidelines which can all be found here: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/childrens-services/factsheets/employing-school-aged-children.pdf>



Which brings me to the end of this year's round-up. Of course, if you are able to help TBSHS Careers in any way; work experience placements, careers workshops etc, I would love to hear from you so do get in touch [claire.jonas@tbshs.org](mailto:claire.jonas@tbshs.org) , in the meantime, have a wonderful summer.

**Claire Jonas**  
**Careers**  
**Years 7-11**