



Careers Review



September - December 2024

September 2024





Just into our new academic year, a small group of Year 9 learners were part of the National Manufacturing Day at WYMS. Learners were able to meet with a broad selection of employers and take part in activities throughout the visit. In the VR/Ar zone learners learnt about virtual & augmented reality and how this is applied in a manufacturing context, learnt about the opportunities that are being created by additive manufacturing (3D printing), and explored how robotics are being applied to tackle some of the more dangerous and/or repetitive aspects of work freeing up people to undertake the more complex and/or creative elements. Learners also saw how VR/AR is used in medicine to when they were able to explore all parts of the human body and its inner workings.

In the manufacturing zone, they were able to meet and talk to employers and their apprentices, who shared their first-hand experiences and spoke about the many opportunities that exist. They also had the opportunity to race on the F1 in Schools track and talk about the different areas of engineering involved in creating it and they played around with manipulating sound with Calrec Audio, looking at how TV and radio production use this equipment in the day-to-day production of shows.

In the workshop area, learners were able to speak to current apprentices who demonstrated machine operation on the workshop lathes and routers. Learners were able to use a laser printer with Colchesters and made their own keyrings and learn about the different applications in which they are used. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)



Year 13 learners revisited their UCAS applications that they had started to look at, at the end of Year 12. Learners used UNIFROG to research different courses and universities and check that their predicted grades matched the entry requirements. Learners interested in pursuing an apprenticeship began their research into what was on offer and made a plan to ensure they would be successful at interviews and secure themselves the apprenticeship they are interested in. Learners who were still struggling to decide what they wanted to do were offered 1-1 interviews with the careers advisor to discuss their options (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4 & 8)

Year 11 learners all took part in some group careers guidance, ahead of them making their Post 16 choices. Learners undertook activities on UNIFROG to help them understand what courses/careers they would like to pursue, but more importantly, what they would need to do to achieve these goals. Learners explored when the open days for the local colleges/sixth forms were taking place, what courses they may want to apply for and the grades they would need to achieve. Other began to look into apprenticeships available to them, and again, what grades they would need to secure to give them the best possible chances of being successful. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 8)

UNIFROG



October 2024



The start of the month saw our Year 9 Scholars take part in the Net Zero Island Project. The challenge was set by the region's gas distributor, Northern Gas Networks, in partnership with various organisations, including the University of Bradford and Bradford Council. Year 9 learners had to develop ideas for sustainable living on a fictional net-zero island. Learners explored energy production, waste management, and transportation, all without carbon emissions, for a population of 30,000. After a seven-week development period, the participating schools presented their ideas to a panel of judges. Sadly we did not win but learners gained a lot from the event, particularly information around “Green” careers and many life skills which will help them in the future.

(Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)



Mid-October we took part in the AMEY Challenge Cup, a competition for female students in Years 8 and 9 in partnership with Bradford Manufacturing Weeks. Timed around Women in Engineering Day, the Challenge Cup encourages participants to consider career opportunities they might not have previously thought about by looking at all aspects of an engineering project. Over the years, the challenge has also grown to explore sustainable construction practices, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and the importance of creating environmentally- friendly learning environments. By incorporating these concepts, the event also looks to inspire the next generation to prioritise sustainability in their careers. The event is designed to show just how many roles are available within the technology and engineering sectors, and learners were tasked with planning, budgeting, managing risk, and presenting their ideas to a judging panel. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3 4 & 5)

Just before half term we hosted our annual Careers Fair. Bigger and better than ever before, we were able to welcome over 20 different local employers, universities, colleges and training providers from ASDA to the Police, right through to Huddersfield University & Network Rail – there was something for everyone! Learners at key points in their careers education attended – Year 9 – to look at how choosing their upcoming GCSE options can impact on their futures, Year 11 to look at Post 16 destinations and finally Year 12 & 13 to explore the options available to them at the end of their courses with us. Each year group had a quiz to complete specific to them to ensure they were fully exploring all stallholders and opportunities. Learners then dropped these into a prize box, and a winner from every year was chosen based on their engagement. Feedback from learners was incredibly positive with the overwhelming majority saying they rated their experience of the careers fair as either excellent or good, and that they had improved the knowledge needed for them to make their next steps with confidence. Feedback from the stallholders was equally good, with them commenting that it was a “Really well-run event” and that learners were focused and engaged, and keen to gain information. We will continue to run this event each year, to support learners with their choices. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7)



November 2024





Year 9 learners had the KS4 options launched to them in their assembly. Learners were given a brief overview of the subjects available to them in Years 10 & 11 and the careers that these subjects may lead on to. Learners were asked to choose five “Taster sessions” that they will undertake in February before being asked to make their actual choices on Pathways Day. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4)

Learners in Year 8 & 9 were able to participate in a follow up workshop with Channel 4. Learners completed the first workshop at the end of last academic year, where they learnt all about careers within the creative industry and what skills and qualifications would help them be successful in this area. The workshop this time followed on from this and learners undertook a quiz to identify their strengths and weaknesses and what roles within the creative industry would best suit them. Learner feedback was very positive with learners saying “It taught us that you can use your skills in a variety of ways and if you are good at something you don’t need to stick to just one thing” and “It was very interesting and something new to learn. It taught us some life skills and it was fun. It highlighted our characteristics and showed us careers options from this” (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3 & 4)



Later in the month we held our annual Mock interview event. Volunteers from local businesses such as Bradford Council, Police, recruitment , and education, kindly offered their time and gave our learners a “mock” interviews where they interviewed them like they would in a real life situation. All learners in Year 11, Year 12 Lvl 2 and Year 13 took part. Learners in Year 13 were particularly fortunate in that they had the chance to have a university interview before the real thing – In the case of one learner, this was just one day before their real interview and they were able to pick up lots of hints and tips. The feedback from each side was amazing with the volunteers saying, “...had some great conversations with the students, they were all really positive about what they will be going on to do, and how they can get there” and “Students gave some really good answers and many had a plan for their future, which was great to hear”. Learners said “When I first was waiting outside in the forum for my mock interview, I was very nervous. But as soon as I got in and sat down with my interviewer, I felt comfortable straight away. They asked me some very good questions which will help with any interview I have in the future. It was such a valuable experience.” (Benchmarks 1, 3, 5 & 7,).





Learners interested in a career in Midwifery and associated careers were able to take part in the first event of its kind in Bradford “All about midwifery” within a real hospital setting. The workshop, delivered by a representative from the Best 1001 Days Midwifery Team hosted a two hour-long interactive workshop and presentation to learners in Year 9, 10 and 11. Learners were able to gain a valuable insight into the life of midwife, by hearing the journey of two different midwives, how to start their journey into midwifery and where a career in the NHS can take you. The workshops also brought some of the taught content from BTEC and Cambridge National Health & Social Care to life so learners were able to put their learning to the test in a real life setting. Learner feedback was really positive with learner saying “I really enjoyed learning about the different aspects of care. There are some great healthcare opportunities” and “It was amazing. We learnt about all the different opportunities. It was very educational - we got to deliver a “baby”! I would love to go again” Benchmarks (1, 2, 3, 4 5 & 6)



At the end of the month some Year 11 learners had a visit to Bradford Courts to undertake a mock trial. The mock trial took place in a real court room, and before it began learners heard from a Judge who told them all about his pathway into law, and other alternative pathways. He spoke to them about the different careers in law, and roles within a court room. Learners then took on the various roles and acted out a real-life past case. Feedback from learners was that they had learnt many things about working in a court, and that not all the roles required you to have a law degree. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)



December 2024

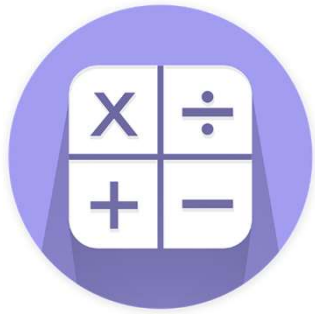


Some of our Year 10 learners took part in the Words for Work programme. The National Literacy Trust arranged for the learners involved to visit the PWC offices in Bradford to experience a local workplace and develop career skills. The learners also had the opportunity to ask people who worked there about their role i.e. how they were employed there, their career routes etc. The learners focused on developing their speaking and listening skills, meaningfully applying activities to the world of work. Workshops included interview practice and elevator pitches. Learners then presented these to business volunteers within a mentoring workshop. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6)



A group of year 13 learners visited Huddersfield University for the graduation ceremony for the Progression Module. Whilst their learners had a tour of the university from a student ambassador, so they were able to see the facilities on offer and ask any questions they had. Some of the learners are planning to go to Huddersfield next year, so this was very beneficial for them. (Benchmarks 1, 3, 4, & 7)





Another group of our Year 10 learners visited Bletchley Park, the home of code breaking. They undertook a workshop focused on codebreaking activities and the codebreaking history of Bletchley Park and were able to see a demonstration of an original WW2 working Enigma machine. The visit also aimed to inspire the learners to study maths further and provided them with an idea of some of the careers in which maths can be beneficial. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

A small group of Year 9 learners visited St Georges Hall in Bradford for a tour and talk about careers in theatre and performing arts. Learners heard about the variety of roles both on and off stage and learnt what courses and qualifications would be beneficial to them if they wanted to pursue a career in this sector. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)



Some of our Year 7 & 8 learners were invited to “apply” for a place on a trip to the BRI for a Healthcare Masterclass. Learners had to express why they thought they should go, what they would get from the experience and how they thought it might benefit them in the future. Learners applications were then reviewed by their HOY and a final 15 were chosen to attend. Learners then attended Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust’s (BTHFT) Simulation centre, which is a unique facility delivering expert multi professional healthcare training. The simulation centre is an award-winning recognised centre of excellence, providing simulation and technical skills training for health professionals both regionally and nationally. On the day learners met with expert clinical hospital staff who brought the world of Health Care to light through a series of interactive and engaging masterclasses that included: Blood pressure & vital stats taking , CPR , listening for different chest sounds, surgical skills and hygiene in a hospital setting. Learners feedback was great with them commenting they had learned a lot about what jobs are on offer in the hospital and what they involve on a day to day basis. Many of the learners said they would like to pursue a career in the NHS one day. (Benchmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

