

Year 9 CEIAG Conference: On the Right Track

On Tuesday 11th December 2018 we were extremely fortunate to welcome a number of representatives from industry, further education, higher education as well as apprenticeship providers, into school to work with Year 9 students as part of their CEIAG conference.

During the day student took part in activities to help prepare them for progression and support them with making future option choices. As students begin to make option choices in year 9, it was an opportunity to ensure they have identified aspirations, understand expectations of them and have check they are on the right track to succeed.

Students started the day looking at U-Explore Start, an online resources that permits students to look at career areas and explore in more detail employment opportunities. Students were asked to access labour market information to see the availability of jobs in different regions and expected salaries. They were then exploring their own skills, qualities and interests to see if they were potentially suited to particular jobs.

In session 2 students either worked with employers or representatives from further education or higher education to look at subject links to careers including subjects such as engineering, health & social care and psychology. Employers working with our students included MBDA; Mr Upton an independent engineer; and Ian Chapman from the NHS trust.

We also welcomed; PGCE students from the University of Bolton; Andrea Bennett from Bolton College; and Michelle Pennington from Bolton Sixth Form, who ran a photographic workshop with the students. One of our own ex-students Sarah Makki, worked with current students and spoke about Multi- Media Sports Journalism. Each workshop enabled students to hear about progression routes in their particular subject areas and ask questions.

During session 3 students took time to look at Year 9 option choices and consider plans for progression with their own career mapping.

Session 4 provided an opportunity for students to learn about apprenticeship routes and gather information from the experts themselves. Students worked with; James Davies from Alliance Learning; Tim Rowbottom from the DWP; Tracey Jones from the NHS; Chris Mack from the Growth Company; Andrew Hughes from Bolton College; Sean Cornforth and James Fleming from MBDA, Chris Gibirdi from Wigan and Leigh College and Geraldine from Bury College.

LAW was the theme for session 5. Students started by looking at ‘strange laws’ that still exist today. Using U-Explore Start again as a resources for research, they were able to explore employment opportunities in this field, look at subjects that might support this career area, situations where each job would be required, and compare salaries. By also looking at prospectuses for post 16 education students were able to see progression routes for courses available post 16, apprenticeships and other related employment opportunities.

Thanks to all those who supported the day at Smithills School. It really makes a difference to receive information, advice and guidance that will help students with future planning, career mapping, and help to raise their aspirations.