



“An Academy to be Proud of”

Parents Update 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a special edition of ‘News You Can Use’ to offer some information, advice and guidance regarding the options process, the journey onto further education and different career pathways. The following information and platforms should be used to spark discussions with your child to form ideas about subject strengths, interests and which subjects would help lead into a career they may be interested in. If your child isn’t sure on where they would like to be in 5 or 10 years there is nothing to worry about, new technologies lead to different jobs all the time. Who would have thought that social networking would be such a big industry a couple of years ago!

It is good practice to look into the world of work and see what is available, most young people know about the jobs they see others do - they actively see people work in education, retail, hospitals, entertainment and construction day to day. Your own network of family and friends may also provide other career ideas however, there are many industries out there that without exposure are simply unknown. Last year I was lucky enough to attend an open day for teachers at Myerscough College, it may be a little further afield but they offer a variety of courses in careers we don’t traditionally think about. The fact that struck me most was that some of their courses resulted in a 100% chance of employment due to demand of these specialist qualifications. An example was their Level 3 Diploma in ‘Horticulture, Landscape and Sportsturf’ who knew there was so much technology behind the top football pitches in the world!

Please use the information provided here to explore what is available, what are the possibilities and most of all to discuss high aspirations and targets. Our Armfield pupils can be anything they want to be with hard work and determination.

There is a letter attached from Mr Hallam outlining the options process with specific dates, please read this carefully and there will be a virtual options assembly on **Friday 5th March at 8:35am** (the link will be emailed to students).



In year 9 all students have completed a careers unit of work in their PSHE lessons. Within this every student started to build their own *start profile* on the [Start in Blackpool](#) platform. This resource is brilliant and holds a wealth of knowledge regarding the industries, careers and courses available in our local area. They also have a dedicated area for [parents and carers](#) to help guide you through how to use the information available, there are tutorial videos and FAQs to get you started. Ask your son/daughter to log in and show you the profile they have started to create in school, the information on [making choices](#) is also a great way to explore how to make the right decisions for their future.

“The best way to **predict** the future is to **create** it” Abraham Lincoln

Careers: Start in Blackpool offers information on industries available [nationally](#) (21) and [locally](#) (10 specific to Blackpool and the Fylde Coast), there is also a [featured industry](#) each month (February is a focus on construction). Within each industry area there are videos to explain the area and who it might appeal to. There are also links to the variety of job roles within that industry, qualifications needed to get there, approximate salary and job availability retention figures.

“Be the Best you can Be”

Further Education: It may seem a lifetime away, but it won't be long until our year 9 pupils will be completing their application forms for further education, apprenticeships or training. To know what is available out there can help to pave the pathway to a certain course or area of study/training. Here are our local further education providers and other useful links for after year 11.

Blackpool & Fylde College: Currently have a number of virtual open events available.



Blackpool Sixth: Virtual tours, video tasters and course information.



Myerscough College: Read through the prospectus and see a wide range of courses not available at every college.



Apprenticeships: A Levels or Level 3 courses might not be for you, take a look at this information available for learning on the job.



Need more help: All of our pupils can ask for help via their form tutor or by contacting Mrs Sherwood who is currently leading on careers information, advice and guidance at Armfield Academy.

Year 9 may feel like an early start to be looking at life after Armfield Academy but year 11 will be here before we know it and the more prepared we are for what is out there the better the outcome will be for the young people we are supporting.

Careers Events Coming Up:

Creative Careers:

Click on this link to find out about different creative careers that are available within this industry



1st – 6th March: There will be a link to many different careers through the lessons delivered through our Remote Learning Platform.

Always make sure the contact information we hold at school is up to date. There will be a number of important updates sent out via email over the next half term that will be crucial to the options process.