

GATSBY Benchmark 1: A Stable Careers Programme

“Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, teachers, governors and employers.”

At Balshaw’s C.E. High School we understand that the process of developing Careers Education, Information and Guidance should be an ongoing process, and whilst support is essential around key Transition points such as options and College applications, we work to ensure that Careers is a key feature of the education we provide at every stage in between these points. For this reason we have developed a Whole School 5 Year Careers Plan that encompasses all Years 7-11. A map of this plan can be found on the website.

In addition to this we also plan for links to Careers opportunities and education interwoven throughout the wider curriculum, so that Staff across the School are able to link the learning happening in the Classroom to possible future Careers opportunities.

In order to meet this benchmark Balshaw’s C.E. High School ensures that:

- The School’s Whole School Careers Plan is supported by the Senior Leadership Team and Governors at the School. Strategic responsibility for Careers is designated to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- That the Whole School Careers Plan works towards clear Aims which enrich our students’ experiences and opportunities.
- The Whole School Careers Plan is informed through expert guidance provided by the Lancashire Careers Hub and Enterprise Advisors in addition to the expertise available in house.
- The annual Careers Fayre provides students and their parents/carers with the opportunity to meet with representatives from various industries and fields.
- The Mock interview programme in Year 10 provides students with an opportunity to develop skills that will improve their employability prospects and experience of employers.
- Information on careers is available through the Careers Room and designated section in the School Library.
- Parents/carers are informed of opportunities and relevant information through the School’s established communication methods including School Synergy and Twitter.
- The Careers Website is regularly reviewed and updated.
- The School uses destination data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Careers programme.
- Opportunities for Careers Information is interwoven into the Curriculum in different subject areas.

At Balshaw’s this results in:

- A CEIAG programme linked to the School Development Plan
- A 5 Year Plan driven by the Gatsby Benchmarks
- A Careers programme which supports the School’s values and ethos, a programme that “Lights the Path to Excellence”, and enables students to make a positive contribution to society “not for oneself, but for others”.
- A diverse range of pupil destinations reflecting the range of opportunities highlighted to them during their CEIAG.
- A Careers programme that reflects the local context, in terms of local labour market information and economic needs.

- Encourages students to develop an interest in and value the opportunities available to them.