



Astley Community High School

ACHS Summary of Careers Programme 2024-25



Careers Curriculum Overview (CIEAG)

At Astley Community High School our careers curriculum provides our students with comprehensive, high quality careers guidance and advice to ensure that they are fully equipped to meet the demanding requirements of the 21st century employment sector

We seek to ensure that our students possess the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to make well-informed choices about their future careers. We recognise that employability or work-readiness is becoming more and more important when potential employers look for people to fill vacancies and our rigorous programme at all Key Stages ensures that our students fulfil those requirements.

Our careers policy aligns with the Gatsby Benchmarks, a framework for effective careers provision, and is designed to support and inspire our students in their career exploration and development.

At the heart of all of our careers provision is a desire for students to look to develop their knowledge and skills in areas that they enjoy and thrive in, to enable them to begin further education, careers and employment which spark their curiosity and develop their attributes to their full potential.

A Dedicated Careers Team

We have a dedicated Careers Team responsible for the planning, coordination, and delivery of our Careers Program. The team consists of qualified Careers Advisors and experienced staff members who work collaboratively to ensure the provision of consistent and effective careers guidance across all year groups.

Evaluation and Review

We continuously evaluate and review our careers provision to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. We collect feedback from students, parents, and staff, and use this information to make improvements and enhancements to our careers program, ensuring it remains aligned with the evolving needs of our students.

Our Careers Policy, guided by the Gatsby Benchmarks, is designed to provide our students with comprehensive and effective careers guidance. By focusing on encounters with employers, workplace experiences, curriculum integration, and personalised support, we aim to empower our students to make informed decisions, develop their skills, and pursue successful and fulfilling careers.

This programme will be reviewed by 30th September 2025.



The Gatsby Benchmarks

The Gatsby Benchmarks were developed on behalf of the Gatsby Foundation by Sir John Holman. They define what world class careers provision in education looks like and provide a clear framework for organising the careers provision.

Gatsby Benchmark	Provision at ACHS
A stable careers programme	We have developed a stable and progressive careers program that caters to the needs of our students from Year 9 to Year 13. This program is designed to provide a comprehensive range of careers activities and experiences, enabling students to develop their understanding of different careers, industries, and pathways.
Learning from careers and labour market information	We regularly update our careers library and online resources to provide accurate and up-to-date career and labour market information. Students have access to information on job trends, educational requirements, and progression routes, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future career choices.
Addressing the needs of each student	Each student has access to the Morrisby platform which provides a student with suggestions on careers, courses and apprenticeships based upon their own personality, aptitudes and likely academic performance. Students are actively encouraged to apply for courses and apprenticeships that are most suitable to their own needs.
Linking curriculum learning to careers	We integrate careers education into our curriculum, ensuring that students can make connections between their academic studies and the world of work. Careers-related activities, projects, and assignments are incorporated into different subjects to develop students' understanding of the skills required for various career paths.
Encounters with employers and employees	Every student in each year group has at least two careers assemblies with two different employers. Students get to visit the national careers fair and the national apprenticeship show in 12 and 13. Students in all year groups get to meet a vast array of employers at our own careers day in February.



Experiences of workplaces	We offer students opportunities to experience workplaces firsthand through work experience placements in year 12. These experiences enable students to gain valuable insights into different career environments, develop employability skills, and make informed decisions about their future career paths.
Encounters with further and higher education	Every student in each year group has at least two careers assemblies with two different universities each. Students get to visit local universities in Year 12 and 13. Students get to meet a large number of universities at the UCAS fair and also at our own careers day in February.
Personal guidance	We provide impartial and professional careers information, advice, and guidance to all students. Our qualified careers advisors offer one-on-one guidance sessions to year 11 and year 13 students and students in all year groups attend careers events to support students in exploring their interests, strengths, and career aspirations.



Visting Speakers and Events at Key Stage 3

There is a programme of external speakers, workshops and specific careers days which run throughout the academic year for Key Stage 3 students in the Seaton Valley Federation. There is a clear and focussed transition programme for Key Stage 3 from Middle to High School.

Year 7	WMS Careers and Higher Education information day Two employer Assemblies Two University Assemblies	SSMS Careers and Higher Education information day Two employer Assemblies Two University Assemblies
Year 8	WMS Careers and Higher Education information day Two employer Assemblies Two University Assemblies	SSMS Careers and Higher Education information day Two employer Assemblies Two University Assemblies
Year 9	ACHS Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Newcastle University assembly Oxford University talk Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Information from providers before the option process begins Careers and Higher Education information day Tyne Coast College Assembly Access to Morrisby Careers and Destination Guidance Platform	

Year : 9

<u>AUTUMN TERM 1</u>	<u>AUTUMN TERM 2</u>
What is work?	Investigate careers
<u>SPRING TERM 1</u>	<u>SPRING TERM 2</u>
Decision making	Self awareness
<u>SUMMER TERM 1</u>	<u>SUMMER TERM 2</u>
Aspirations	Challenging workplace stereotypes



Visiting Speakers and events at Key Stage 4

There is a programme of external speakers, workshops and specific careers days which run throughout the academic year for Key Stage 4 students in the Seaton Valley Federation.

Year 10	ACHS Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Life Skills - work experience preparation sessions Visit to National Apprenticeship Roadshow Newcastle University assembly Oxford University talk Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Life Skills - PSHE sessions University visits Careers and Higher Education information day Tyne Coast College Assembly Access to Morrisby Careers and Destination Guidance Platform Life skills - assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 11	ACHS Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Life Skills - assembly on opportunities at 16 1:1 careers interviews Oxford University talk Post-16 Aspiration Breakfasts Newcastle University visit Access to Morrisby Careers and Destination Guidance Platform Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Post-16 evening Post-16 taster sessions NCS assembly 1:1 careers interviews Careers and Higher Education information day Tyne Coast College Assembly



Year : 10

<u>AUTUMN TERM 1</u>	<u>AUTUMN TERM 2</u>
Employability skills	LMI
<u>SPRING TERM 1</u>	<u>SPRING TERM 2</u>
Careers in the NHS	Careers for the future
<u>SUMMER TERM 1</u>	<u>SUMMER TERM 2</u>
Green Careers	My Priorities

Year : 11

<u>AUTUMN TERM 1</u>	<u>AUTUMN TERM 2</u>
Options at 16	Aptitudes
<u>SPRING TERM 1</u>	<u>SPRING TERM 2</u>
Employability skills	CVs
<u>SUMMER TERM 1</u>	<u>SUMMER TERM 2</u>
Completing apprenticeship and job applications	



Visiting Speakers and events at Key Stage 5

Our Sixth Form programme provides support and guidance on applying for Level 3 apprenticeships, employment opportunities and university courses. In Year 12, students follow a comprehensive careers programme to ensure that they are fully informed and have the knowledge and skills needed to make the decisions for the next stage in their career journey.

During tutorial time and assemblies, they will learn about:

- Employment (including the impact of part-time jobs)
- Understanding National Insurance and Tax
- Investigating Future Career Paths
- Introduction to Next Steps - university terminology workshop and Careers Ideas;
- Transition - Morrisby workshop
- Northumbria University campus trip to learn about the benefits of Higher Education (HE)
- Apprenticeships
- Oxbridge preparation.

The comprehensive careers programme provided in Year 12 continues into Year 13.

Year 12	Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Students' Finance team Year group visit to Northumbria University Talks from local universities regarding widening participation schemes Whole Sixth Form visit to Apprenticeship Fair in Newcastle Social Mobility Foundation scheme for aspiring young professionals Visit to UCAS Fair in Newcastle Visit to Newcastle University Visit to Northumbria University Oxford University talk Newcastle University Medicine talk Durham University talk Access to Morrisby Careers and Destination Guidance Platform Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Oxford and Cambridge University conference for most able Careers and Higher Education information day Tyne Coast College Assembly South Shields Marine School Assembly
Year 13	Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Workshops - Higher Education and higher level apprenticeship applications UCAS Club - support after school with university applications from Oxford, Newcastle and Northumbria Universities Talks from all local universities regarding widening participation schemes Whole Sixth Form visit to Apprenticeship Fair in Newcastle Visit to UCAS Fair in Newcastle



<p>Visit to Newcastle University Oxbridge and Medicine interview preparation Durham University talk Access to Morrisby Careers and Destination Guidance Platform Careers and apprenticeships assembly programme Careers interviews with an independent careers advisor for all students not applying for university CV Writing workshop with DWP Job interview preparation with Job Centre Plus Careers and Higher Education information day Tyne Coast College Assembly Targeted weekly emails sent to parents with details of all apprenticeships</p>



Impartial Careers Advice and Guidance

The school employs a qualified Careers Advisor from CareerWave who meets with every student in Year 11, as part of a rolling programme. Students are able to gain individualised advice and guidance on their proposed courses and routes post 16. The Careers Advisor can also be seen by any student at any time by simply making an appointment.

Each student is provided with a bespoke action plan, which is routinely updated after each meeting and recorded on Morrisby so that students can view this at any time.

The Careers Advisors can be emailed directly

Northumberland County Council - gill.burridge@northumberland.gov.uk

CareerWave - Richard Allnutt - richard@careerwave.co.uk

Tyne Coast College - Sandie Best Sandie.Best@tynecoast.ac.uk

Enterprise Advisor Network

ACHS is part of the Enterprise Advisor Network. We continue to ensure that we meet all 8 Gatsby benchmarks and use the Compass Tool to map our progress. We work closely with a local Enterprise Advisor from Hays Recruitment to ensure that our students are getting the best possible careers opportunities and are developing the skills that are in demand.

Feedback

If you have any questions or feedback on the careers programme at ACHS, please contact the Careers Leader, Patrick Drought
paddy.drought@svf.org.uk



Careers Programme - for Employers

ACHS ensures that all pupils have encounters with employers and employees each year to enable a better understanding of the workplace and the potential career paths open to them.

We ensure that the overwhelming majority of students have at least one meaningful encounter with an employer every year they are at the school, with most having significantly more than this.

If you would like to arrange an assembly or other careers encounter with our students please contact Mr Drought - Careers Leader - paddy.drought@svf.org.uk

Useful Careers Websites and Resources

'National Careers Service' Job Profiles: Use the following link to access job profiles. Use these profiles to explore your career ideas.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

National Apprenticeship Service - use the following link to search and apply for vacancies [Apprenticeships](#)

Careers Box- National online careers film and video library. You will be able to watch real people doing real jobs to help give you more of an insight [CareersBox](#)

All About Careers - A careers site highlighting job profiles, updates on job sectors, career matching tool and featured employer links [All About Careers](#)

Get My First Job - a website to look at Apprenticeships and Traineeships
[GetMyFirstJob](#)

Careers Springboard - Take a career test, explore your options, plan your future
[AllAboutSchoolLeavers](#)

Success at School- [Success at School](#) Career advice for schools and students aged 13-19. Search jobs, advice & find out about employers, work experience, courses, career choices, apprenticeships



Careers Sector Websites

[CCSkills](#) - creative jobs and careers

[NHS Health Careers](#) - NHS careers

[Careers in Sport](#) careers in sport

[Sport England](#)

[CITB](#) Construction Industry Training Board

[ECITB](#) - Engineering Industry Training Board

[AllAboutLaw](#) careers in law

[Remit Training](#) apprenticeships in the Motor Vehicle Trade

[Future Morph](#) FutureMorph- Science and maths careers

[Where STEM Can Take You](#) - Where STEM can take you

Useful College Websites: check open days and courses

[Newcastle College](#) - Newcastle College

[Gateshead College](#) - Gateshead College

[Northumberland College](#) - Northumberland College

Post 18 Useful Websites

[Not Going to Uni](#) - looks at alternative options to going to University

[UCAS](#) - Key site to support a University application process

[Prospects](#) - Information on graduate employment and demographics

[Push](#) - Ruthlessly independent university guide (student view)

[Apply to Uni](#) - Independent site supporting the university application process

[Complete University Guide](#) - offers independent HE picture, course search and money facts

[Student finance - GOV.UK](#) For information on student finance from 'Student Finance England'

[Opendays.com](#) University open days listed here

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#) Apprenticeships database, this website provides details on applying for a range of apprenticeships at all levels

Labour Market Information

Nomis - North East Profile - [Labour Market Profile - North East](#)

Office for National Statistics

[Regional labour market statistics in the UK: September 2019](#)

North East Local Enterprise partnership - [North East LEP](#)

LMI for all - This website provides high quality, reliable labour market information (LMI) to inform careers decisions. [LMI For All](#)