



# Whytrig Middle School

## Careers Programme Summary

### Careers Programme Overview

Careers education is a crucial part of a learner's journey. At Whytrig Middle School, we are dedicated to helping pupils explore the exciting world of work and prepare them for their future. Our program is designed to inspire students in Year 5-8 to think about their future careers, develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed and to ensure they can make informed decisions about their futures.

Careers education is delivered through a range of activities, including curriculum lessons and bespoke events and activities, providing students with a broad understanding of different career paths, educational routes and workplace skills.

In line with the [Gatsby Benchmarks](#) of good practice in careers education, we have designed a careers programme which aims to encourage high aspirations, to challenge stereotypes and to give pupils the information and guidance they need to make informed decisions about their futures.

By the end of Year 8 at Whytrig Middle School, pupils will have had the opportunity to:

- Learn about various careers and educational routes through our personal, social, health and economic education curriculum.
- Evaluate their own skills and attributes in relation to the skills required for a range of jobs.
- Address stereotypical career choices.
- Listen to external speakers from a range of employers and educational establishments.
- Access information about jobs and educational routes via Google Classroom and in form time.
- Develop core skills such as team working, co-operation, resilience and responsibility across the curriculum and wider school life.
- Have at least two meaningful interactions with employers.
- Have at least two meaningful interactions with further and higher educational providers.
- Visited a place of work.
- Participated in a careers fair, interacting with a range of organisations and raising awareness of potential career paths and qualifications required.
- Experienced subject lessons where teachers highlight the relevance of their subjects for a wide range of future careers.
- Had multiple opportunities to learn from employers.

### Careers Lead

Mrs H Campbell (Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum)

[wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)

0191 2371402

### Measuring the Impact of our Careers Programme

A wide range of evaluation activities are used to assess the impact of our careers programme. Coverage of the Gatsby Benchmarks is monitored through the Careers and Enterprise Company's Compass+ platform, which enables the school to track and review how effectively the programme meets each benchmark. Additional insights into the programme's effectiveness are gathered through pupil voice activities, and wider Quality of Education monitoring carried out by curriculum leaders and members of the senior leadership team.

The programme will be reviewed by 31st December 2026



## Whytrig Middle School

### Careers Programme Summary

#### The Gatsby Benchmarks

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a set of eight guidelines that define what high-quality careers education should look like in schools. They provide a framework to help schools offer meaningful employer encounters, up-to-date careers information, personal guidance, and strong links between curriculum learning and the world of work. Their purpose is to ensure all students are well-prepared for future education, training, and employment.

Gatsby Benchmark	Provision at WMS
1. A stable careers programme	We are developing a comprehensive careers programme for pupils in Years 5 to 8. The programme is designed to provide a wide range of career-related experiences and activities, supporting pupils to develop their understanding of different jobs, career pathways, industries, and educational opportunities. Through this programme, we aim to ensure that every pupil is well-prepared to make informed decisions about their future.
2. Learning from career and labour market information	All pupils at WMS from Years 5 to 8 benefit from a careers programme that helps them explore the world of work. Students engage with a <i>Job of the Week</i> , learning about salaries, skills, and pathways into different roles. Pupils have access to career and labour market information and pupils are supported to make informed decisions about their future goals and next steps.
3. Addressing the needs of each student	At Whytrig Middle School, we challenge misconceptions and workplace stereotypes while showcasing a diverse range of role models to inspire and raise pupil aspirations. We are beginning to use Compass+ to record and track all pupils' experiences within the careers programme. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on and apply what they learn through these activities to support their future goals and decision-making.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers	Opportunities are actively sought across the curriculum to connect classroom learning with future jobs, careers, and next steps in education. Pupils are encouraged to make links between their schoolwork and the world of work, helping them understand how their learning applies beyond school. Staff have received training to support the integration of careers education into the curriculum, ensuring meaningful and relevant connections for all pupils.
5. Encounters with employers and employees	In KS3, pupils have the opportunity to engage directly with employers in a variety of settings. They attend careers fairs, speak face-to-face with a range of employers, and take part in employer-led assemblies, workshops, and visits. These experiences allow pupils to learn about what different jobs involve, the skills and qualities needed to succeed, and the latest developments in various industries.



6. Experiences of workplaces	In KS3, pupils have the opportunity to visit a workplace and experience the working environment firsthand. They learn about the skills required for a range of jobs and gain insights that help them make informed decisions about their own future career pathways.
7. Encounters with further and higher education	In KS3, pupils experience two assemblies led by universities, which outline pathways to higher education, university life, and the opportunities a university education can offer. Pupils also have the chance to speak with higher and further education providers at the annual careers fair and learn about a variety of apprenticeships, helping them explore a wide range of future education and career options.
8. Personal Guidance	In KS3, pupils have access to an impartial careers advisor. While the advisor is primarily based at Seaton Valley High School, Year 8 pupils can request a meeting to receive personalised guidance and support for their future career and education choices.