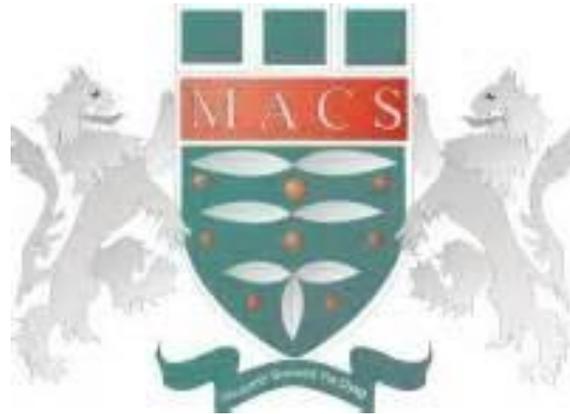


Mountain Ash Comprehensive School



Careers Plan

September 2020

Revised November 2020

Mountain Ash Comprehensive School is committed to providing our pupils with high quality, independent advice and guidance with regards to careers, further and higher education and future life choices.

Careers and the world of work education is important to our school and we aim to help pupils to:

- Explore the attitudes and values required for employability and lifelong learning.
- Plan and manage their pathway through the range of opportunities in learning and work.
- Make effective career choices through independent and impartial careers guidance.
- Become entrepreneurial.
- See the relevance of their studies to their life and work.
- Develop skills required by employers.
- Prepare for the challenge, choices and responsibilities of work and adult life.

Mountain Ash Comprehensive School is a participating in a Welsh Government pilot scheme called 'The Gatsby Project'. The aim of this project is to improve careers provision throughout the key stages. The eight Gatsby Benchmarks are used as a framework for best practice around which we can build our own high-quality and independent careers provision. The eight benchmarks are outlined below:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from Career and Labour Market Information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of work places
7. Encounters with Further and Higher Education
8. Personal Guidance

Year Group	Activity	Purpose & Impact	When and who?	Gatsby Benchmarks
KS3 & KS4	Parent and Carer Information Talk	<p>Online information session delivered by RCT Education, Employment and Training team to give up to date information on the labour market in South Wales, as well as highlight different career pathways.</p> <p>Impact: Parents and carers are more informed about career pathways and local labour market information.</p>	<p>RCT Education and training team.</p> <p>Provisional date March 2021</p>	2, 3, 5, 8
Whole School	Independent careers interviews	<p>Our Careers Wales Adviser (Mr Sam Richards) is available online or by telephone for parents and guardians.</p> <p>The careers adviser holds one to one sessions (by telephone or in school) for pupils who are seeking personalised support in their careers education.</p> <p>All pupils are able to be referred to the careers adviser through their Head of School.</p> <p>Impact: Pupils have access to impartial and independent careers advice to make more informed decisions.</p>	<p>Careers Wales Adviser</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	2, 3, 8
Whole School	External Speakers (online)	<p>All faculties to use the Education Business Exchange tool from Careers Wales to book at least one external employer (online) to support lessons in their subject throughout the year.</p>	<p>Careers Wales</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	5

		Impact: Pupils have contact with employers, allowing them to see the relevance of the skills they refine in school in the working world.		
Whole School	MACS website and Google Classrooms	Resources from the RCT Education, Employment and Training team for parents and pupils. Links to live Industry Talks that take place every Friday at 2pm and the recordings of any previous talks. Information on further and higher education and STEM posted on the relevant Google Classrooms. Impact: Parents and pupils are able to access information about career pathways and the local labour market from home.	RCT Education and training team. Careers Wales Further and higher education institutions Ongoing	2, 3, 5, 7
7 & 8	STEM lessons	Pupils in years 7 & 8 have lessons delivered by the RCT STEM team, as part of the Science curriculum (TBC) Impact: Pupils develop their skills set and experience which can be transferred to their future job roles. They understand the range of jobs available under the STEM umbrella.	RCT STEM team Science staff Ongoing	1,4,
8	Careers matching quiz	All year 8 undertake a short quiz to show their understanding of the qualifications required for different future pathways. Impact: Pupils receive guidance on how their options may impact future choices.	Form Tutors Head of School, Senior Leadership team and Careers Wales Adviser Autumn term	2, 3, 4, 8

11	Careers check	Pupils in Year 11 to complete a 'careers check' to inform guidance required (normally online in Summer Term of Year 10) Impact: Pupils complete a questionnaire which will ensure that independent advice is tailored to their individual needs.	Careers Wales September 2020	2, 3, 4, 8
11	Pupil interview	Pupils interviewed by senior staff to discuss future aspirations and post 16 destinations. Pupils are referred to Careers Adviser if needed. Impact: Pupils have support and guidance when making decisions on employment, A levels or training.	Senior Leadership team, Head of School, Careers Wales Adviser. Spring and Summer terms	3,8
8 - 11	Careers Adviser talks	Pupils receive regular careers advice from the Careers Wales Adviser in mentoring lessons and online. Impact: Pupils receive impartial careers advice and guidance	Mentoring lessons, Careers Adviser Ongoing	2, 3, 5, 8
6 th Form	External speaker afternoon sessions (online)	Sixth Form pupils follow a structured course of talks by universities and employers to help them with future choices. Impact: Pupils get advice and information on future career pathways, including higher education.	Head of Upper School and Careers Wales. Ongoing	3, 4, 5

6 th Form	<p>Work Experience</p> <p>(unavailable at the moment, due to COVID-19 restrictions)</p>	<p>Pupils who complete their Welsh Bacc fulfil 30 hours of voluntary work in year 12. During this time pupils identify risks, complete a personal skills log and reflect on strengths.</p> <p>Pupils who do not complete the Welsh Bacc as part of their A level education are encouraged to complete work experience.</p> <p>Impact: Pupils develop their skills set and experience which can be transferred to their future job roles.</p>	<p>Welsh Bacc teachers, employers,</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>	2, 3, 6
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