



APRIL 2025

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

What a busy start to 2025 we have had!

We've had new staff start, people taking on new roles and responsibilities, staff training, parental engagement, senior staff out on the floor more often and a government review of the guidance that underpins all careers education good practice, The Gatsby Benchmarks (shown below). The good news is that current guidance needed only minor tweaks for improvement and the even better news is that Exceptional Ideas Ltd. is achieving 100% in almost all of them.

The Gatsby Benchmarks:

Benchmark 1	A stable careers programme
Benchmark 2	Learning from career and labour market information
Benchmark 3	Addressing the needs of each pupil
Benchmark 4	Linking curriculum learning to careers
Benchmark 5	Encounters with employers and employees
Benchmark 6	Experience of workplaces
Benchmark 7	Encounters with further and higher education
Benchmark 8	Personal Guidance

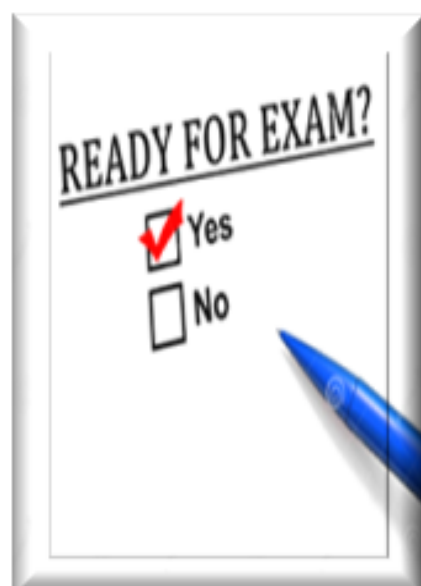
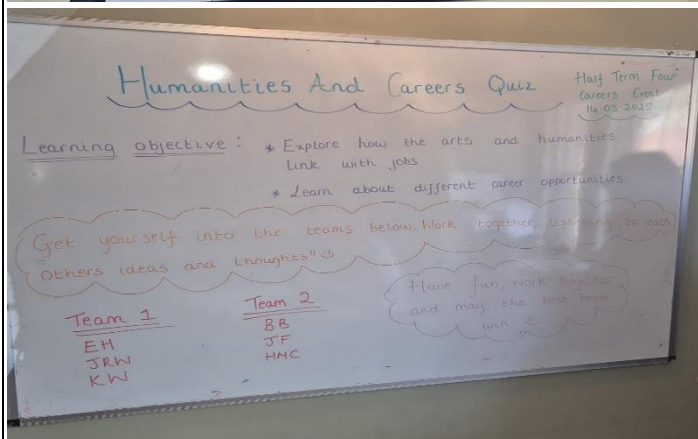
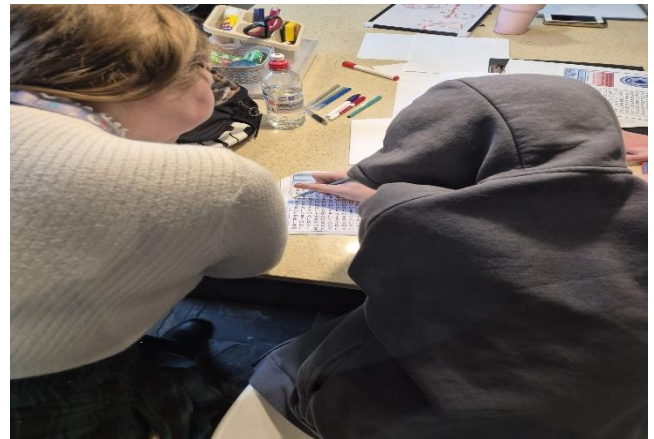
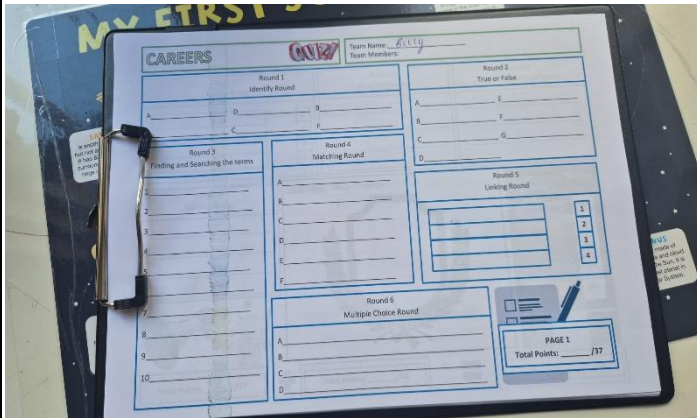
PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and guardians who were able to attend our treasure hunt in Wethersfield. Very well done to our Winners, **The Dixon's**. We hope to invite parents to more events in the future so keep an eye out for our 'save the date' cards coming home with more information.



Careers in Humanities and The Arts Quiz

Students have been able to develop their knowledge of careers in the arts and humanities through participating in a big quiz within their schools. This has helped to develop their knowledge of labour market information around these types of jobs. They also had the opportunity to work in pairs as a team or with their mentors alone. Needless to say, it all got a little competitive but a lot of fun was had by all.



Addressing the exams needs of our students

At Exceptional Ideas we make sure our students have plenty of opportunities to practice answering exam questions, complete papers, learn the rules of exams and how to perform to the best of their ability in what can seem like quite a restrictive environment. Students begin this work in year 9 as part of our Transition lessons and work on it slowly to build the skills required to achieve their full potential. As we are coming up to Year 10 mocks and Year 11 summer exams, staff and students have been making sure they are fully prepared in every way possible to manage the environment and obtain the best grades.

Further & Higher Education Links

Our senior for safeguarding and transition, Ali, has been planning some encounters with further education for herself. Ali will meet with some of the vocational colleges in the local areas to identify how we can best support our students when transitioning into further education to make sure that the students are as fully prepared as they can be during transition and aspiration lessons and most importantly, to provide the students with the greatest opportunity to settle well into a college environment.

Cross curricular learning

Student mentors are taking opportunities wherever they can to open discussion on careers. Cyclical lessons for Years 10 and 11 have been focusing on Geography, Art and Design & Technology this half term. Teaseldown were spotted incorporating Marine Biology as a career option. Brook View have been working on giving back to the community as part of their Ramadan celebrations and Primrose Hill have been using the careers links included in many of our lessons plans across all subjects. Our staff are encouraging students to explore

opportunities, discuss potential careers and become involved in research, whenever, and sometimes wherever, they can. Well done to you all!



Work encounters

Half term 4 is when Year 10s plan their work experience placements. For those who want to participate in an external placement, we encourage them to contact companies and employers that they would like to work with. We truly believe that ANY work experience placement is valuable for our students and is a fantastic opportunity to hone those transferable and employability skills. Students who don't feel able to cope with an external placement will complete an internal experience working with some of the different staff across Exceptional Ideas Ltd.

Personal Guidance

Ian Harden, SEND Careers Adviser from Essex County Council, has seen all of the Year 10 students this academic year either through their annual review meetings or in person at school. If you feel you need more information or advice from Ian, you can contact him on 0333 013 1422 or by email on ian.harden@essex.gov.uk



Pictured above: Ian Harden, SEND Careers Advisor, Essex County Council.

Key dates:

Careers event 5: 14.05.2025 Careers at Colchester Zoo

Year 10 mock exams: 24th March – 1st April 2025

Study leave commences: 28th April 2025

Summer exams from: 13th May 2025

Careers Event 6: 3rd July 2025

Next newsletter: July 2025