

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of our new careers newsletter. This newsletter is aimed at parents and carers, our students and staff. We hope that the content is helpful to you all in understanding why careers education is so important to our student's future plans and provide you with some tips and information to support careers conversations and research both at home and in school. If you have any questions, or there are specific topics that you would like us to feature, please email us and we will do our very best to ensure they get covered in the next edition. We aim to release one newsletter per school term. You can send any ideas you have to:

[alisongoode@exceptional-ideas.co.uk](mailto:alisongoode@exceptional-ideas.co.uk)

## The Gatsby Benchmarks: Good Career Guidance

So called as they were created by The Gatsby Charitable Foundation, the benchmarks (shown below) are the framework that schools and colleges use for careers guidance and education. They were designed to improve social mobility and increase the career aspirations of **all** students regardless of academic ability, economic background or a student's individual challenges. It's the responsibility of the transition team at Exceptional Ideas Ltd. to create an engaging careers programme and to identify the best way for each individual student to access the programme so that they receive a rounded careers education and are fully prepared for a successful transition into Post-16 education. Careers education in schools is monitored nationally through Ofsted inspection and compliance to the following benchmarks:

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

Improving social mobility and preparing our students for education and work in the future isn't a new concept to us, it has always been a priority for us at Exceptional Ideas. However, the introduction of the benchmarks has introduced lots of new resources to help us improve our careers programme and has enabled us to make it more accessible to our students.

*"The dreaming has to be backed up by the doing"*

*- Carrie Wilkerson, best selling author and international speaker*

## Tips for discussing careers at home

**It can be difficult to start conversations about careers at home, here are some ideas to encourage discussion:**

- Talk to your young person about your own and other family members careers journeys
- Encourage them to imagine their life in 10 years time, what does it look like?
- Discuss their interests, likes and dislikes as well as their talents
- Ask them to consider the type of environment they would prefer to work in, i.e. inside or outside, large or small, in one fixed place like an office or on the move
- Listen to them and try not to make decisions for them

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### T. LEVELS

**You might not know about T levels yet as they are a recent addition to post-16 qualifications. T (Technical) Levels are 2 year courses that are based on 80% classroom time and 20% at work.**

**You can complete a T Level in the following subjects:**

Building Services Engineering for Construction, Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction, Digital Business Services. Digital Production, Design and Development, Digital Support Services, Education and Childcare, Health, Healthcare Science, Onsite Construction, Science.

**For more information click this link: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>**

## LEVELS, LEVELS, LEVELS!

Levels is a word that will arise time and time again during our time at school. Learning levels, GCSE Levels, Qualification Levels. They are all different so to help you we are going to try and explain.

**Learning Levels** are also known as Key Stages. In secondary education we teach at Key stage 3 for Years 7 -9 and Key Stage 4 for Years 10 and 11. College / Sixth Form is Key stage 5.

**GCSE Levels** also know as GCSE grades were recently changed from A\*- G to 1 – 9 (with 9 being the highest grade achievable) It's widely recognised by colleges and employers that a GCSE grade 4 is the equivalent of an old C grade.

**Qualification Levels** are the levels that a college will often list in a course prospectus when advertising their courses . To access a specific level you will usually need to have demonstrated that you have met the level below.

We've included a table for you below to break the qualifications down even further.

Qualifications Levels on UK Qualifications Frameworks			
LEVEL	NQF Examples	QCF EXAMPLES	FHEQ EXAMPLES
Entry	Entry-level certificates	Entry-level awards, certificates, and diplomas	-
1	GCSE graded D-G	BTEC awards, certificates, and diplomas at level 1	
2	GCSEs graded A*-C, Higher Diploma	BTEC awards, certificates, and diplomas at level 2	
3	AS/A Levels, IB, Advanced Diploma, NVQs Level 3	BTEC awards, certificates, and diplomas at level 3; BTEC & OCR Nationals	
4	NVQs level 4, certificates of higher education	BTEC professional diplomas, certificates, and awards	Certificates of higher education
5	Higher national diplomas, NVQs level 4	BTEC professional diplomas, certificates, and awards; HNCs & HNDs	Diplomas of higher education and further education, foundation degrees and HNDs
6	National diploma in professional production skills	BTEC advanced professional diplomas, certificates, and awards	Bachelor's degrees, graduate certificates, and diplomas
7	Postgraduate certificates and diplomas, NVQs level 5	Advanced professional diplomas, certificates, and awards	Master's degrees, postgraduate certificates, and diplomas
8	NVQs level 5	Award, certificate, and diploma in strategic direction	Doctoral degrees
<div> <div>Source: Ofqual</div> <div>           © 2021 World Education Services  <a href="http://went.wes.org">went.wes.org</a>  </div> </div>			

## Key dates:

- Friday 17.12.21:** All college applications should ideally be completed by this date. If you are having any problems with this, don't panic, contact the school Transition Lead to discuss.
- Wednesday 2.2.22:** Careers Event in school - The 4<sup>TH</sup> Industrial revolution. Find out what this is to help you fully prepare for the future.
- Friday 11.2.21:** International day of women and girls in science. This year focusing on Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19
- Thursday 24.3.21:** Careers Event in school - Game of Life. Get a chance to try out making life decisions and see the effects or consequences of the decisions you make. If you've played this before, will you make better choices this year? We'll see!

**Next Issue: April 2022**