

Stantonbury School Families Careers Newsletter

December 2023

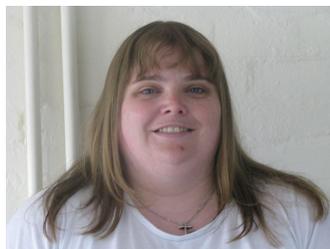
Introduction

We are delighted to welcome and introduce two additional members of staff to the careers team.



Cheryl Hancock

Cheryl is a Careers Development Institute, Registered Careers Professional and is a fully qualified careers advisor. Many of our students have already met and worked with Cheryl through participation in this term's careers events and one to one, personal guidance meetings. Cheryl is in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, term-time. With her out-going personality and passion for all things careers, Cheryl is highly approachable and welcomes contact with students, families, colleges, universities and businesses. Her email is cheryl.hancock@stantonbury-tove.org.uk.



Amy Hewitt

Amy is our Careers Administrator and is leading on our careers platform, Unifrog. Amy is supporting some careers events and is making an invaluable contribution to the organisation and delivery of careers within the team. Amy is based in careers on a Monday and Wednesday, term-time. Students and families wishing to make careers appointments should email Amy at amy.hewitt@stantonbury-tove.org.uk.



Autumn Term 2023

We have already hosted three key careers events this term, covering all year groups:

BBC Bitesize



In October we were privileged to host a large team from BBC Bitesize, six camera crew, one experienced BBC presenter and guest speakers all contributed towards a successful day of careers presentations, to Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. Marc Smiddy, Co-Founder and Creative Director of Stratos, Lily-May Symonds, Journalism Coordinator, BBC and George Brown, Mechanical Design Engineer, Red Bull Powertrains, Red Bull Technology were the main guest speakers; it was great to see speakers from the creative industries and journalism come into school, as these can be difficult to recruit for careers events. It was the largest careers event the school had put on post-pandemic.

The BBC crew literally set-up their stage, providing a bright and colourful backdrop to the event. Students were enthused by the content of the event, as was demonstrated by the number of students who remained behind / returned during break and at the end of the event to speak to our guests and their willingness to ask questions during the event. Students learnt about our guests' study and training pathways into their job roles, such an important experience for our students as they explore their future job preferences.



Trinity College, Oxford University

Rob Harrison, Access Officer, Trinity College, Oxford University was our guest speaker for Year 11 and Sixth Form students in October. Rob is an experienced speaker, who presented

to our lower secondary school students this summer. Rob introduced university life, the benefits of university education (not just at Oxbridge), comparing university courses with higher and degree courses. Mixed in with this Rob shared an insight into his own education and career.



Niftylift Women in Engineering Event

In November, Cheryl took a group of 15, Year 8 and Year 10 female students to Niftylift, who were interested in participating in a Women in Engineering event. Women are hugely underrepresented in engineering and Niftylift and other organisations like the Women's Engineering Society: <https://www.wes.org.uk/> actively promote the benefits of the sector to females. Our students experienced lots of hand-on-activities, including a ride on a 27 foot raising platform, giving them a unique view of the City. A favoured activity amongst the students was a pricing and global supply chain activity, which involved estimating the cost of materials and deciding in which part of the world they were made. We had great feedback from Niftylift staff who reported that our students were enthusiastic and interested, they enjoyed themselves, and were polite and respectful.



Year 11 and Sixth Form Careers Fair

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a careers fair within school hours on Thursday 14th December 2023. Confirmed guest exhibitors are:

We are still looking for guest exhibitors to cover: hair and beauty; creative arts; mechanics and catering. If you have a contact or can assist us by participating

Aiimi	Arts 1	Bedford College
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	Jericho Deguzman Timbol, Polymer Scientist, STEM Ambassador	KRW Accounts
M&J Construction	MK:U	MK Christian Foundation
MK College	Moulton College	Network Rail
NHS Bedfordshire	Niftylift	Northampton College
Parks Trust	Red Bull Technology	Royal Navy
Stantonbury School Sixth Form	Tesla	Unifrog
University of Bedfordshire	University of Buckinghamshire	University of Hertfordshire
University of Northampton	Awaiting confirmation from:	The Police
John Lewis Partnerships	PwC	Mercedes Benz

please email Karen Malone, Head of Careers:

karen.malone@stantonbury-tove.org.uk.

Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance



Cheryl has started to meet with Year 11 and Sixth Form students on both a one-to-one basis and through small group business sector specific meetings. Karen and Cheryl will continue to provide personal guidance to students throughout the academic year. The aim is to offer all Year 11 and sixth form students the opportunity to discuss their study and training aspirations with qualified careers professionals. Personal guidance meetings culminate with students receiving their career plan. Students with Educational Health Care Plans will receive at least one personal guidance meeting annually from Year 9 upwards. The resulting career plans will feed into SEND annual review meetings. In December and January, Year 11 students who do not yet know their ideal job role will have the opportunity to participate in an hour workshop designed to help young people better understand their strengths, interests and how these link into the world of work.

The careers team will organise family meetings where people with parental responsibility wish to participate in their child's careers meeting. Please email Amy Hewitt to organise these meetings.

Post-16 Information, Advice and Guidance

In addition to their personal guidance meetings, students in Year 11 can ask the careers team for support to:

- Make on-line course applications
- Search for apprenticeship opportunities
- Write a CV based on a specific apprenticeship opportunity
- Receive interview coaching
- Use the careers lunchtime drop-in service (Monday to Thursday lunchtimes, Careers Office, in main reception - Student Services provide access to the Careers Office) to get answers to careers, training and education questions, or to complete a course application.



All Stantonbury School students have access to this comprehensive careers platform, which supports students to explore their interests and successfully apply these to their post-16 and post-18 aspirations. The platform provides quizzes, an extensive careers library, Know-How Guides on a wide range of career and education topics (for example, Choosing GCSE options, Post-16 options, Apprenticeships, CV and Interview Skills, and University Guides), a full list of UK and international universities and their course offers, a CV writing tool, a personal statement writing tool and MOOCS (extra-curricular short courses for sixth form students).

During December our IT team will support all secondary school students to register their Unifrog accounts. This is an application (app) friendly website and we would encourage students to explore and utilise the site in their free-time.

There are two key student webinars in December:

Choosing your GCSEs, Monday 11th December 2023, 5pm for 45-minutes. This is a free webinar to support our students to make the right GCSE choices for them.

Choosing your Post-16 Options, Tuesday 12th December 2023, 5pm for 45-minutes. This is a free webinar designed to inform students on which subjects will meet their study and careers aspirations.

Both webinars are interactive and students can ask questions of the experienced Unifrog hosts and their guests.

To access these webinars students open their Unifrog account and go to the Webinar logo on the dashboard of the platform. Other available webinars include:

- Make a difference with a nursing or midwifery degree
- Top tips for writing the perfect CV
- How to perform well in psychometric tests
- Top tips for acing an interview
- Why you need to create a personal brand for your career
- Applying to apprenticeships and university: the do's and don'ts
- The leap from school to an apprenticeship or university: how to cope with change
- Personal Statements masterclass
- Pathways to careers in performing arts
- Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair 2024.



Careers Activities for Next Term

Careers in the Curriculum activities	Year 11 & Sixth Form Personal Guidance
Year 12 Interview Workshop	Year 12 Business Led Mock Interviews
Year 10/11 MK College Trip (voluntary)	Year 10/11 Football Event (voluntary)
Year 11 job role specific group meetings	National Apprenticeship Week Activities
Year 8 The Big Assembly, Apprenticeships	Year 10 An Audience With... guest speaker
Year 9 An Audience With... guest speaker	Year 10, 11 & VI Form MK Dons SET University Programme, guest speaker (voluntary)
Year 11 & VI Form, FCDO Apprenticeship Workshop (voluntary)	Family meetings for Year 11 students at risk of disengaging in education or training post-16.
Secondary School: Unifrog registration within IT lessons	



Your Feedback is Important to Us

We like to receive feedback from our Stantonbury Families, it is an important dialogue that helps the careers team to continually develop the service it provides to our students and their families. Examples of when you might wish to provide us with feedback:

- After your child has participated in a careers guidance meeting
- After your child has participated in a careers event or trip
- If you would like your child to have specific support from the careers team, for example in the run-up to GCSE options events
- If you have participated in a careers meeting, parents' evening where you spoke to one of our careers team, or a careers event
- After or during your child's participation in school organised work experience
- If you or the company you own or work for could support a careers event (for example, our Careers Fair)
- At any other time of your own choosing.

We welcome feedback whether it is positive or highlighting areas you believe need to be developed.



Careers Team Contacts

Karen Malone, Head of Careers (in school Monday to Thursday, term-time)
karen.malone@stantonbury-tove.org.uk

Cheryl Hancock, Careers Adviser (in school Tuesday and Thursday, term-time)
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Amy Hewitt, Careers Administrator (in careers Monday and Wednesday, term-time)
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