



# Careers

Meaningful | Aspirational | Relevant



St Paul's  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

# Newsletter

Pentecost 2  
2025



## What a year it has been!

*As we approach the end of the academic year, we end on a high. Careers have delivered a Careers Fair, Alumni Day, Workout sessions for our Year 7, 8 and 9 students and much more. Throughout the year our pupils have had a wide range of meaningful encounters with many different providers, and we have noticed how much more confident our pupils are in meeting guests whether they are Alumni or external guests.*



## Alumni network



The network continues to develop and grow, and we are delighted with how many Alumni have visited school in the past year to share their experiences of the world of work since leaving St Paul's. They have come into school to deliver talks to raise the aspirations of pupils and talk to them in more detail about their particular job (Broadening Horizons), over 25 attended our SPA Day in June where they met with Year 9 pupils and talked about all things work related and much more. Everyone had a great time and there was a real buzz in the room during the sessions. They have assisted at Collective Worship.

Amazon, through an ex pupil, have donated money to school which has enabled us to buy equipment for our Dof E pupils. We are so grateful for their contribution as it allows more pupils to be involved in the scheme. If you would like to be part of the network please contact us at [alumniandsupporters@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:alumniandsupporters@st-pauls.org.uk)



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## Journey to Work

Year 9 have started a series of activities we are calling Journey to Work as part of their preparation for work experience. The idea is for the pupils to understand and develop their transferable skills which are so important in the workplace. To that end we have invited pupils to the Careers Fair, to an Army Day and Work Out sessions with our Alumni. For all the events, pupils had the chance to gain confidence in speaking and listening to different people from different organisations. We have been really impressed with how confident they have become in these situations. On Work Related Learning Day they completed a variety of workshops where the focus was on other transferable skills such as problem solving, team work and time management.



## Ofsted

As you know we recently had an Ofsted inspection and we were delighted with the outcome for Careers. The inspectors felt that the ***"careers offer prepares pupils for the future exceptionally well"*** and that ***"Careers provision is comprehensive. Pupils benefit from presentations and experiences provided by a variety of former pupils and partners from education, training and employment."***

A very positive outcome for us and one we are very proud of.

## Celebrating Our Year 13 Apprenticeship Cohort

Throughout the year, our students engaged in a rich programme of support and development. In recent months, we've been fortunate to welcome inspiring guest speakers to lead tailored sessions, as well as an experienced careers coach who guided students through the crucial transition from Sixth Form to the world of apprenticeships, offering practical advice and reassurance. Lucy, a careers expert, brought a fresh perspective on how to stay true to yourself during the application process, while also exploring the role of AI in job applications and how to use it ethically and effectively.

We were thrilled to end the year on a high with a visit to VW Headquarters, where students connected with professionals, participated in mock interviews, and explored cutting-edge technologies shaping the future of the industry.

Thanks to their hard work and resilience, many of our students have now secured apprenticeships across a diverse range of sectors – from finance and logistics to professional services and motorsports. Their success is a testament not only to their talent, but to their perseverance and passion.



## Work Related Learning Day

As always we finish the year with the whole school involved in work related activities. This is a chance for pupils to put to use all the transferable skills they have learned about throughout the year. Year 7 participated in health and wellbeing activities, Year 8 did STEM workshops, Year 9 experienced a series of workshops in preparation for their WEX and Year 10 spent the day doing a soap enterprise challenge. The emphasis was on learning about the world of work in an interactive way and I think pupils enjoyed all the activities and also gained confidence in their teamwork, problem solving, speaking and listening skills.

### Get that Job



All Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to apply for a job, understand the shortlisting process and then either interview or be interviewed for the job. In the process they developed their speaking and listening skills as well as an understanding of how to apply for a job and gain confidence in an interview situation.

We also welcomed several of our Post 16 pupils to lead the interview panels.

### Work Experience

At the end of March we launched WEX with our Year 9 cohort. Each pupil is now equipped with a booklet to help them to source placements and navigate Unifrog. This booklet has been shared with parents. Over the summer we are also providing all students with a summer booklet to further guide them about how to find placements. A copy has been sent to parents and is also on Classcharts. Year 12 have just completed their Work Experience programme, and this year each student has had a meaningful encounter with an employer. We are also keen to develop their experience of work through volunteering experiences both in and out of school. In school pupils have had the chance to lead interview panels, assisted at our summer school, Worktree trained pupils to be facilitators at our Virtual Workout sessions. Outside of school a pupil has volunteered at the MK Community Foundation, some have worked in charity shops and also in community based activities. We admire their initiative and willingness to give back to the community in their own time.

### Unifrog

As part of the Careers Curriculum careers use a platform called Unifrog from Year 7 – 13. The Unifrog platform helps students with the whole progression process - from exploring their interests, to recording the great things they've done, to finding education and training opportunities, to drafting their applications.

We are very excited to announce that Unifrog have launched a parent profile account. As parents/carers we recognise the importance you have helping our pupils in making decisions about their future. We encourage all parents/carers to sign up today by visiting the Careers page on the school website. By doing this you will have access to the same information as your child.





## Gatsby Benchmarks

There are eight benchmarks that we have to achieve as a school and the Careers team have worked really hard to ensure this has happened. To achieve Benchmark three - addressing the needs of each young person and Benchmark five - encounters with employers and employees, we organised Get that Job, Virtual Career Workouts and a Careers Fair. Virtual Workouts were for Year 7's to engage with guests and ask them questions about their jobs and what a day at work is like. We are delighted that from next year the Workouts will be in person rather than virtual.

There were over 26 different providers present at our Careers Fair which was for Years 10 and 12, giving them the opportunity to discover pathways, qualifications and jobs in the local area and beyond. For Benchmark seven - encounters with FE and HE institutes we have continued with our visits to Bucks New University (Year 9), Oxford Brookes (Year 10) and Northampton (year 11). The visits gave pupils the opportunity to discuss academic courses available to them and student finance. There were also several University representatives at our Careers Fair.

Logos of some of the companies that came to the Careers Fair



Volkswagen



Careers Fair TVP Josh Shaw Alumni





## Broadening Horizons

During National Careers Week we introduced a new activity called Broadening Horizons. Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to discuss with guests and Alumni jobs that they might not be aware of and so we were 'broadening their horizons'. The jobs included - a philanthropy officer, Another Artist.co, Local government officers, a clay sculptor working for Aston Martin, the Fire Service talking about HR and H&S opportunities as well as medical practitioners. The 2 sessions were so successful we are planning to hold more sessions like this next year.

*Broadening horizons Alumni -John, Maya, Natasha, Victoria, Mia Ruphia and Gabriella*



## Future activities

As always, we are trying to expand and develop our network of providers who come into school. If you would like to be involved in any of the activities mentioned in this newsletter, please contact us at [careers@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:careers@st-pauls.org.uk).

To recap we offer Careers Fairs, In Person Work outs, Broadening Horizons career talks, as well as hosting pupils for work experience.

## Upcoming Events

- STEM X events for Year 9 in October and Year 7 in November.
- Broadening Horizons - Year 9 October and Year 10 November
  - Unifrog sessions Year 8 Sept - Oct
- Unifrog WEX support session Year 10 throughout the term
  - In person Work out Year 8 October
  - Careers Fair Year 11 and Post 16- 3rd December.
  - I Work - preparation for WEX Year 10 December.