

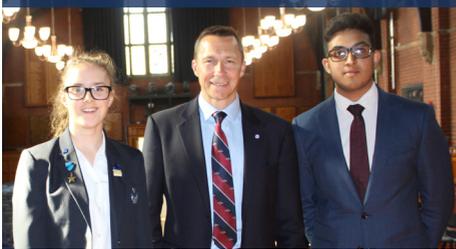


# BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

## CAREERS DEPARTMENT



STANDING OUT FROM THE CROWD



**Bury Grammar School gives pupils wise advice and excellent guidance on future options and careers.**

Careers and options advice are part of life at Bury Grammar School from age 11 right through to age 18. Former students have, over the years, progressed into a wide range of prestigious career routes, higher education courses and vocational options. Whichever field you are passionate about is the one we want to help you access!

Our Careers Department aims to ensure that students have accurate and up-to-date information to help them reach an informed decision, having considered a range of options. Students are given access to resources which enable them to explore and develop their career aspirations.

The broad range of skills and talents that we have encountered in our students over the years have provided experience in a wide range of career routes, higher education courses and vocational options.

## WHERE TO FIND US

The Careers Department is housed in a new and modern careers hub in our state of the art Sixth Form Centre. It is home to our Head of Careers and the Competitive Courses Coordinator, both of whom have extensive experience in preparing our pupils for life beyond BGS.

Boys and Girls of any age are encouraged to drop in to discuss their plans or are welcome to make a formal appointment with any member of the team. Both libraries are also well stocked with up to date publications and resources.



## CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

Students are encouraged to explore a variety of career options from Year 7 through PSHE sessions and form time activities. From the beginning of Year 9 we use **Unifrog** as a tool for students to explore their interests as well as through **MOOCs**, which helps to record extracurricular activities and to search for a particular degree, apprenticeship or alternative option that suits their career aspirations. We work closely with the academic and pastoral teams to support and guide students in achieving their career aspirations. We also encourage students to visit the **UCAS** website for additional career information.

Through our **Careers and Higher Education Convention**, students have a wealth of opportunities to discover a wide range of careers. This biennial event is well supported by national and overseas universities, as well as large and small companies and individuals who they can speak to directly.

Our Careers department is open to students of all ages and there are 'drop in' sessions at lunchtimes. If a student wishes to book a career interview they can request a time with the Head of Careers.

## KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7 AND 8)

### SELF DEVELOPMENT and CAREER EXPLORATION

Our Year 7 pupils take part in a cross-curricular careers project, which explores the world of work. Students research a variety of careers and go on to lead and manage their own Careers Fair, which our Year 6 students enjoy visiting.

At BGS Year 8 is the crucial GCSE options year. Traditionally parents and students are invited to the Year 8 Options evening, which is followed by individual options interviews with senior staff, ahead of making their GCSE choices. This year students will explore their choices through PSHE. Students are encouraged to research subject/career links in advance of their option choices.



## KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 9, 10 & 11)

### CAREER MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Throughout Key Stage 4, visits for aspiring Oxbridge applicants are arranged during their GCSE courses and potential applicants for Competitive Courses can seek advice and guidance from our Competitive Courses Coordinator. Traditionally in Year 10 students have the opportunity to complete a week of Work Experience in the summer term. Students are encouraged to find placements based on their career interests.

In Year 11 students are invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening, which signals the start of the A Level Options process. Following this, all Year 11 students have individual careers interviews with pastoral and senior staff in preparation to choose A Levels.

Sixth Form experience days give a taste of the next stage of the BGS journey and provide a valuable opportunity to work with our highly skilled Sixth Form team who offer support and advice on their next steps.



## KEY STAGE 5 (SIXTH FORM)

In Year 12 students are encouraged to apply for taster courses and also to arrange their own **university Open Day visits**. There are form time activities and assemblies focused on how to choose the correct course and university, as well as information on degree apprenticeships and other alternative career pathways.

Students intending to apply for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Sciences are supported in their search for vital work experience. Students interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge attend a conference where they can explore courses and learn about undergraduate study. Our **Competitive Courses Coordinator** also arranges day trips to both Oxford and Cambridge to visit our link colleges at each university.

Sixth Form students can hone their debating and leadership skills, whilst exploring potential careers, by taking part in numerous events and competitions, for example, the **Sir Rhys Davies Mock Law Trial** and the **Young Enterprise competition**. With the careers department located in the Sixth Form Centre, students are encouraged to use the careers drop-in sessions to discuss choice of courses, universities and alternative pathways.

In Year 13 all students are offered **mock interviews** in which they meet with an external interviewer, to help them prepare for a potential university interview. Those who volunteer their time to help our students include BGS governors and other professionals from industry and academia. This experience is extremely beneficial to helping our students overcome any nerves they have before university or interview preparations.



**The Careers Department enables students to develop the skills and contacts required to realise their ambitions. We are excited to play a key role in bidding farewell to our students at the end of their BGS journey but are equally fortunate to welcome them back to celebrate and learn from their successes in the future.**