

INSPIRING WORCESTERSHIRE “CAREERS CHAMPIONS” NETWORK

OVERVIEW

This activity will enable hub member schools the opportunity to create a “Careers Champions network” within their school.

Led by and supported through the in-house careers team within school. Each establishment will be encouraged to enrol several students to undertake the role of a “Careers Champion”.

These Champions would be provided with a similar status within school as a prefect. It has been suggested that a cohort of 6 to 8 students form this network within school. This group could be chaired by the school’s assigned Enterprise Adviser.

The Careers Champions would be tasked with supporting the school careers team to organise and facilitate careers activities taking place within school across the academic year and across ALL year groups.

This programme has been piloted by the careers team from Dyson Perrins Academy. Feedback can be found within the Inspiring Worcestershire case study document.

THE INSPIRING WORCESTERSHIRE CAREERS CHAMPIONS COULD BE TASKED WITH SUPPORTING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:



- 1. Support the Careers Team to make direct contact with employers required to support careers / curriculum activity due to take place within school.**
ACTIVITY / BENEFIT: Employers, when questioned, have intimated that they find it a lot harder to say no to participate in activities when contacted directly by a student rather than a teacher. The Careers Champions will also take responsibility for welcoming and looking after any employer visitors during their visit to school.
- 2. Help Encourage Wider Departmental Uptake in delivery of Careers Activity.**
ACTIVITY / BENEFIT: Careers Champions can support the careers teams to encourage “Whole School” buy in and participation to increase careers related activity taking place across curriculum and in turn enhance the school’s ability to achieve the Gatsby Benchmarks. Careers Champions can work directly with subject staff and help organise any of the required employer links and activities to make the activity meaningful.
- 3. Obtaining Feedback from Students and Employers.**
ACTIVITY / BENEFIT: Research has suggested that Careers Champions are more likely to obtain more meaningful feedback from other students and / or employers who have participated in careers / classroom-based activities and would be a useful means of providing suggestions on how any future activity could be improved or adapted. This activity would help ensure that the school continues to drive forward improvement of careers delivery within school. Any feedback from both students and employers will help support the content required to create a meaningful Case Study document which can be placed on the school website.

4. Creation of Bespoke Careers related Handouts / Information

ACTIVITY / BENEFIT: Careers Champions will work with the School Careers team to develop a series of Careers related handouts / information which can be displayed / shared with ALL students. Focus should be given to ensuring Yr 11 / Yr 13 students can make meaningful and fully informed transition to the next phase of their journey through education. Wider use of the documentation should increase as this information will be created by young people for young people.

5. Embedding Careers within other School Visits

ACTIVITY / BENEFIT: Careers Champions can work with subject teachers / department heads to add additional Careers related activities to existing external school visits. E.g. During a visit to a Theatre – apart from watching the theatre productions students could undertake a back-stage tour and hear from staff about the variety of different roles on offer within the organisation. Front of House / Set Designers / Technical Support / Management etc.

6. Feedback to Head Teacher / SLT / Governors

ACTIVITY / BENEFIT: Support the Careers Team, in particular the Strategic Careers Lead, to provide a student opinion of careers activity being undertaken within school to the Headteacher, SLT and/or the board of governors. Students can feedback on what has gone well and what is being valued by students but also on what could potentially be added to the programme to help future years benefit and prepare them for the world of work.

WIDER BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

Participation within this initiative will provide students with a variety of new and vital skills which will help them within the workplace. This activity will also enable the student to enhance his / her CV.

The students will also be part of a small team where they will be able to learn more about project management skills, communication skills and should receive some well-deserved recognition for their hard work and participation in the initiative following each event or in whole school assemblies.

WIDER BENEFITS TO SCHOOL CAREERS TEAM

The initiative will provide some additional support to the Careers team when organising and facilitating careers related activity within school. Using students to link with employers could increase the level of support on offer and could in turn increase whole school buy in from other members of the schools teaching staff. Using students to support the facilitation of careers activity within school will also be seen as beneficial by Ofsted should any inspection take place.

SUPPORT ON OFFER FROM HUB DELIVERY TEAM

The Worcestershire Careers Hub Delivery Team will produce a briefing document which will explain the role of the Careers Champion and the benefits of participation to the students.

The delivery team will also arrange to produce some "PREFECT" style badges which can be worn by the students to highlight their participation within the scheme.

The hub delivery team may call on these "Careers Champions" from time to time to participate in surveys and/or test and provide feedback on new resources which could benefit the entire hub network.