

# PRIORY SCHOOL

## *CAREERS GUIDANCE*

Careers Guidance is an important part of the advice and support given to those pupils when they come to the end of their school career, in S5/Year 11 for GCSE candidates, and from 2010 for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form pupils who will leave at U6/Year 13.

It is present in the school throughout pupils' education, as both visits to the school by speakers, representatives and volunteers, and trips from the school to both island and mainland are encouraged and fostered throughout the years. Collaborating with the appropriate outside advisors and visiting speakers, we aim to ensure that all students are well equipped to make informed choices, allowing them to plan for both personal satisfaction, the proper development of their talents and also economic success.

The range and type of activity, and forward schedules for each term, are shown under Events & Visits on the website. The Isle of Wight is a delightful and safe environment in which children may grow up; but being an island it is vital to open to our pupils windows on the wider world. This is both for their knowledge and understanding, and also vitally to begin to equip them for what they might do in their lives. The events & visits that the school organises are testimony to this and prepare the ground for the more specific individual and year Careers Guidance as outlined below.

The careers program is in 3 main parts:

1. Individual Guidance for pupils in Years 9/10/11 both for further education and the world of work including links to other schools/6<sup>th</sup> Forms and the Isle of Wight College; this includes external visits for instance to Oxford & Cambridge
2. Incoming generic careers counselling from such as Connexions and Springboard
3. Visits internal and external of which recent examples include: RAF and services; IBM visit; Media & Arts practitioners for example Deborah Hodgson of Isle of Wight Festival, Fabien Hartwell of Encore, Quay Arts in Newport; Business Studies exploration of setting up in business; Local Authority.

There is also a distinct program for those who wish to go onto Vocational training, either at the Isle of Wight College (day release is an option for pupils wishing to do studies at both Priory School and the College), or for instance at Sparsholt College for Veterinary Studies. There is also a range of tutors that can be drawn on to support this program both in school and external. This is being developed all the time.

Also, for those pupils with a very specific career track in mind, in particular if it involves set standards or qualifications that must be achieved, then the program of GCSE studies is tailored for that. We have successfully prepared pupils, for instance, for entry to Catering, and are preparing for instance for Music as a career, and Mechanics. The

emphasis throughout is on the individual development of the pupil, and will involve discussions with both the pupil and his/her family, and 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers such as the College.

The greatest emphasis does fall on the individual exploration of career paths, as distinct from Academic options, by a series of meetings with pupils and parents in the Winter and Spring terms. This often reflects on the final GCSEs and their levels opted for, but is designed to look at these, and entry to 6<sup>th</sup> Form, or further education, or training, in light of the career preferences involved. Questionnaires such as Connexions supply can assist, as does the continuous assessment and report systems of the school. But the core is individual meeting with Senior Tutors and one-to-one discussion which is often renewed throughout the final years.

This is in line with the emphasis on the individual, and consideration of his or her particular wishes, strengths, abilities and preferences.

The Careers Co-ordinator is Mr Graham Smart, one of the Senior Maths Tutors; and also Mr Tony Adlam Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form along with Mrs Glynis Bates, Head of Senior School.

A further useful reference is [www.connexions-isleofwight.org](http://www.connexions-isleofwight.org) and annual visits or more by Connexions staff is an aspect of school life.

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