



St. Catherine's provides the following information in relation to the delivery of careers guidance in accordance with Section 42A of the Education Act 1997.

Careers Education – Main School

Students follow a careers programme in Key Stages 3 and 4 to help them make informed choices when they are preparing to leave St Catherine's School and support them in decision making about how they might make a positive contribution to society.

As part of our curriculum for Key Stages 3 and 4, we deliver the ASDAN Key Steps Scheme. This focuses very much on key skills. It also helps to develop all of the personal learning and thinking skills, helping students to become independent enquirers, creative thinkers, reflective students, team workers, self-managers and effective participants. In particular, units six and seven of the ASDAN scheme offer a range of challenges which are designed to encourage students to develop and improve their knowledge, skills and understanding of personal finance and enterprise. It also allows students some flexibility to develop their own interests and offers a pathway to external accreditation. For example, students bake cakes and organise coffee mornings to fundraise for their chosen charities, organise mufti days and table-top sales to raise funds for local causes and design and run stalls to raise funds for the school at the annual summer fair. Specific enterprise activities have been developed for students in Key Stage 4 in relation to the ASDAN Key Steps scheme and recent projects have included offering a healthy snack tuck shop and producing a school magazine.

As part of the careers programme, the school also arranges work experience for each student in Key Stage 4. Apart from the vocational learning which takes place, work experience helps students to acquire and develop a range of independence skills. Recent placements include those at cafes, supermarkets, local shops, pubs and visitor attractions across the Isle of Wight.

The careers programme also includes direct input from an independent Careers Advisor who meets with Key Stage 4 students individually on an annual basis for a one to one session in order to explore career options and provide support, advice and information.

The careers programme is supplemented by a college links programme in Key Stage 4. Every term, for one morning per week, students are given the opportunity to attend the local college and take part in a series of courses designed to give them a taste of the options available. They learn a variety of vocational skills that extend those gained at school. In addition and as part of their preparations for moving on at the end of Year 11, students are encouraged to use the college library and the cafeteria to experience what life is like in a busy further education setting. The college programme enables an element of community participation for students as well as an understanding of enterprise and the world of work.

Careers Education – Sixth Form

In the Sixth form, students follow a careers programme to continue their explorations into the world of work and to help them to make informed choices about their future in terms of making a positive contribution to society.



Students in the Sixth form follow an ASDAN programme at the level most appropriate to their needs and competencies. Each award offers a range of challenges, which are designed to encourage students to develop independent learning strategies and improve their organisational skills. All challenges encourage students to enhance their performance in the key skills and may count towards separate key skills certification. In the third year of Sixth Form some students also study for a BTEC award in Workskills looking in particular at applying for jobs, the interview process and voluntary work. All of this is supported by the therapy departments who run modules on interview skills, team working, decision making, assertiveness and life skills to enhance learning in this area.

They also engage in Enterprise Education which gives students the opportunity to experience the responsibilities of running a small business. The students develop systems and study business procedures in response to individual needs and opportunities identified by the students themselves. Basic literacy, numeracy and communication skills are at the heart of this curriculum area.

In the Sixth Form, the chance to undertake work experience provides students with opportunities to develop their understanding of the world of work and enhance their prospects of employability. All students experience periods of planned and structured work experience, which are reviewed regularly and supported by specialist staff.

The careers programme also includes direct input from an independent Careers Advisor who meets with Sixth Form students individually on an annual basis for a one to one session in order to explore career options and provide support, advice and information.

To extend students' vocational awareness, sixth formers attend the Isle of Wight College to follow part-time courses offering vocational and personal enrichment. They attend in Year 1 as a discrete group supported by members of St. Catherine's staff.

Impact

St Catherine's monitors, measures and assesses the impact of its careers programme through the use of observations, discussions, meetings, scrutiny of students' work and examination results. St Catherine's also measures and assesses the long term impact of its careers programmes through the use of a Leavers Questionnaire. This is a document that gathers information about past pupils in terms of their progression into further education and/ or the world of work.

Further Information

Details about the careers programme and supplementary programmes can be found on the St. Catherine's website in 'The Modified Curriculum' document for main school and the 'Integrated Programmes' document for the Sixth Form. Alternatively, please contact the St. Catherine's Careers Lead, Nes Fradgley by email at fradgley@stcatherines.org.uk. Alternatively you can contact us by phone on 01983 852722 or send a request in writing to: St Catherine's, Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. PO38 1TT.