

Careers update – September 2019

New government legislation sets out 8 benchmarks that every school must meet by 2020.

Using the Compass Careers Benchmark tool we can assess where we are up to as a school.

This is the latest result (the last being completed in November 2018) using the assessment tool.

Benchmark 1

A stable careers programme

We have met 94% of the 17 assessment areas in benchmark 1

We use the Start platform for students across all year groups to help achieve this benchmark:

A free and sustainable online platform for delivering careers information

Underpinned by a programme for students in Years 7 to 13

Accessible to all students, staff and parents

We need to add the programme to the school's website with information aimed specifically at employers

This will be achieved once the students are further into their work placements. Once we have more information we will be able to add information that is specific to the types of employers that our students are interested in working for in the future.

Benchmark 2

Learning from career & labour market information

We have met 60% of the 2 assessment areas in benchmark 2

All information is on the website with links to more detail. We now need to encourage parents and carers to use career path and labour market information to aid the support given to their children

Benchmark 3

Addressing the needs of each pupil

We have met 100% of the 7 assessment areas in benchmark 3

Once we have data for the academic year we will share it with the local authority.

We still need to think about how we challenge stereotypical thinking but we are working together to ensure all options are explored and students are not pushed to pathways that are seen as the easy option

Benchmark 4

Linking curriculum learning to careers

We have met 100% of the 4 assessment areas in benchmark 4

This is ongoing as part of the careers programme. We are working towards ensuring all subjects have posters displaying potential careers and that we link at least one subject related trip or visit each year to careers within their subject

Benchmark 5

Encounters with employers & employees

We have met 100% of the assessment area in benchmark 5

We are continuing with last year's successful programme of visits and ensuring all students have positive encounters with employers and employees

Benchmark 6

Experiences of workplaces

We have met 100% of the assessment area in benchmark 6

All year 11 students are on the work placement programme. We also have several year 10 students who have secured placement for one day a week.

By using PfA (Preparation for Adulthood) sessions we are also able to show students what different workplaces look like.

Benchmark 7

Encounters with further and higher education

We have met 83% of the 6 assessment areas in benchmark 7

Students are now taking part in regular trips to Reaseheath College. We are also setting up opportunities for them to attend local open days at other colleges and sixth form centres. In order to meet this benchmark we need to increase the number of visits to higher education sites. The Careers Lead has been working with Staffordshire University and will be looking at other local universities in order to try and achieve this.

Benchmark 8

Personal guidance

We have met 100% of the assessment area in benchmark 8

We now have careers guidance from several people. Allie Swindlehurst visits once a half term to work with each year group and offer advice on college, apprenticeships and employment. John Knight and Craig Blount from Changing Education visit the schools on a weekly basis and worked with the students regarding work placements and employability skills.

As a school, we are well on our way to completing the benchmarks and are confident we will achieve it by the September 2020 deadline.