

September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

### **CAREERS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2016**

This term is particularly important for Year 11 students. During the term they will all be researching and considering what they want to do in the future in terms of further education or careers. After this academic year they will have four main options open to them:-

1. A Levels and a limited number of AS levels. Students can study these on their own or combine them with other level 2 or level 3 equivalent qualifications
2. Vocational more practical based college courses e.g. plumbing, childcare, ICT etc. from level 1 to level 3
3. Apprenticeships at both intermediate (level 2) and advance level (level 3)
4. Employment that must include a defined learning programme

It is important that students take their time deciding what they want to do and make the right choices for themselves. The Vale Academy will be supporting them in making their choices, but the final decision will be down to each individual.

### **VALE ACADEMY SUPPORT**

Below are a number of ways the academy will be supporting your child over the coming term.

#### **A. Learning Platform**

It is important that each student is starting his/her own research with regard to further education colleges and possible career routes. We have developed a specialist careers section on the student learning platform to support this. It provides links to local colleges, apprenticeship web sites, careers' search sites like U-explore as well as information on areas such as the armed forces, NHS etc. This will also be the area where details will be posted regarding college open days or evenings and apprenticeships in the local area. It is vital that your son/daughter accesses information on a regular basis. Your son/daughter can access the learning platform from home via the academy website on the internet. Just type in [www.valeacademy.org.uk/Links](http://www.valeacademy.org.uk/Links) and then 'Student Links' and finally 'Learning Platform'.

#### **B. Post 16 and Careers Area of the academy website**

A lot of the information on the student learning platform has been put on the academy website to allow parents/carers to support the students in making their choices. It can be accessed at [www.valeacademy.org.uk](http://www.valeacademy.org.uk).

#### **C. U-Explore**

The academy also has a licence to U-Explore, which is a site that allows students or parents/carers to research careers and qualifications needed to access these careers. Parents/Carers and students can register by going to [u-explore.com](http://u-explore.com), clicking on the LOGIN tab, then U-Explore Online Login on the right hand side and then registering your details. The only additional information you will need is the academy registration code which is 44305.

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#### **D. Careers Discussions**

I will be meeting individually with each year 11 this term to give them advice and guidance to enable them make informed decisions. This can include advice on which colleges do which courses, pathways to careers, apprenticeships, applications, CVs etc. Each discussion is tailored to the needs of the individual student. If students need more support or specific support e.g. help with applications, CVs then follow up discussions will take place in the half term following the Christmas break.

#### **E. Careers Fair**

To help the year 11s start their research, we will be taking the entire year group to the Careers Fair at Forest Pines on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>. A wide range of further education colleges, local businesses and armed forces careers will have stands at the fair, so it is a valuable way to access a diverse range of information. We are restricted to one and a half hours there as it is popular with local schools, so please encourage your child to make the best use of this valuable time.

#### **F. Careers Assemblies**

Mr Collins and I will be presenting two specific careers information assemblies this term to pass on relevant careers information to the year 11s.

#### **G. Parents' Evening**

I will be available at the year 11 parents' evening on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any queries please come and see me on the night. There is no need to book a specific appointment, just come and see me in between your teacher appointments.

The academy has also arranged for an independent careers advisor to attend should you or your child wish to seek alternative advice other than that provided within the academy. You can just speak to the independent advisor on the night, but if you would like a specific appointment please contact me at the academy either through your child, by e-mail at [HearfieldR@valeacademy.org.uk](mailto:HearfieldR@valeacademy.org.uk) or by ringing me at the academy on 01652 652908. You will be advised of your appointment time prior to the event.

#### **H. PHSE Lessons**

Within the academy programme of PHSE lessons there will be several related to careers and work related skills. Your child has already started these in previous school years and will be continuing them this year. It is important that students understand the work related skills they have already picked up and the relevance and importance of them within a work environment.

#### **FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGE OPEN DAYS AUTUMN TERM**

1. Brigg 6<sup>th</sup> Form – Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> 6.30 to 8.30pm
2. John Leggott College – Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> 5.00 to 8.00pm, Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 2.00pm
3. North Lindsey College – Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 5.00 to 8.00pm, Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> 4.30 to 7.00pm
4. Grimsby Institute – Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> 5.00 to 7.30pm, Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> 5.00 to 7.30pm
5. Bishop Burton – Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 1.00pm, Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> 5.00 to 8.00pm, Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 1.00pm, Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> 5.00 to 8.00pm

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6. Wyke 6<sup>th</sup> Form (Hull) – Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 5.30 to 8.00pm, Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> 5.30 to 8.00pm
7. Franklin College (Grimsby) – Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> 6.00 to 8.30pm, Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30am to 12.00 noon, Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> 6.00 to 8.30pm
8. UTC – Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 4.00 to 7.00pm

The dates and times above are as advised to the academy at the time of this newsletter but can be subject to change. It is recommended that you check dates and times on the individual college's website before you take your child. Any changes that the academy are made aware of will be put on the student learning platform.

### **HETA APPRENTICESHIP OPEN EVENTS**

For students interested in engineering and craft related apprenticeships, HETA are holding open evenings at their Scunthorpe site on October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. Each event starts at 5.30 pm. They are also running a taster session during half term on Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. To reserve a place at any event contact [scunthorpeadmin@heta.co.uk](mailto:scunthorpeadmin@heta.co.uk).

HETA are important in our area as they provide apprenticeship training for and have links to a number of major local companies. They also have sites in Hull and Grimsby and details of their open events can be found on their website.

### **APPRENTICESHIPS**

Whilst the academy will put information on the student learning platform regarding apprenticeships offered by the major local companies, many other medium and small sized companies offer apprenticeships over a huge range of career sectors. If your child is interested in the apprenticeship option next year I would recommend that they register themselves at <https://www.gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>. This site holds details of nearly all apprenticeships available in England. By registering you can put defaults into your profile such as the distance you can travel from your postcode, the career sectors that interest you etc. Apprenticeships come up throughout the year but major companies in our area usually open their application process this term. The other key time for starting an apprenticeship next year is around National Apprenticeship Week which starts on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Of the major local companies that we are aware of, British Steel are opening their application process for 2017 this month.

### **PLOTR WEBSITE**

Another useful free careers website is PLOTR. This site is specifically mentioned in the latest government CEIAG guidance and provides a useful source of careers information that complements U-explore. Students can register at [www.plotr.co.uk/register/](http://www.plotr.co.uk/register/). The site gives you access to its monthly magazine, a profiling game that points students to possible careers, general advice on things such as CVs, interviews, lots of information on specific careers and sponsor companies etc. There is also a free app that students can download to I phones to access the site.

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I hope this gives you an idea of the support your child will be given by the academy this term and points you to useful external sources available to you, however if you have any further queries please contact me. Similarly if your child has any query that cannot wait until his/her careers appointment, please ask him/her to speak to me at any time they see me around the academy.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Hearfield  
**Careers Coordinator**

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