

This year has been a little disruptive due to COVID and this has, inevitably, had an impact on our Careers programme within the classroom and getting employers and post-16 providers into school. Having said that, careers has still been very much part of the curriculum, albeit being delivered in a different way – via school comms, through form tutors as an information session and of course, over Teams!



Virtual Information Sessions / Webinars / Careers Fairs

Pupils have been able to access a variety of virtual careers fairs and information sessions and information has gone home to parents/carers to sign up to these. These include the various platforms to apply for virtual work experience, webinars from employers such as The Royal Navy, Army, NHS, Colleges and 6th Forms, Football Academies, Your Choices, The Careers and Enterprise Company/Swindon & Wiltshire Careers Hub (WoW Fest), The Big Bang STEM fair, amongst many other career and post-16 information opportunities.

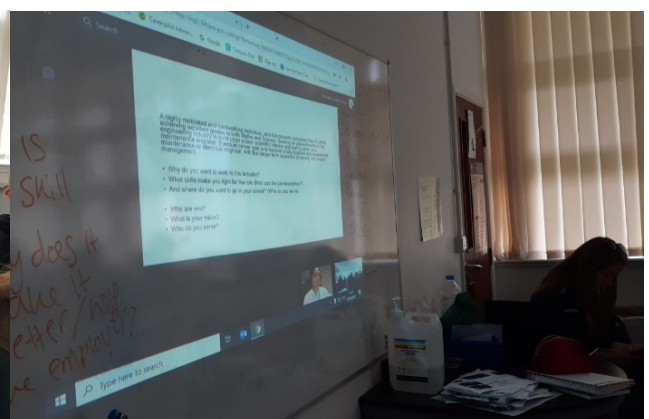
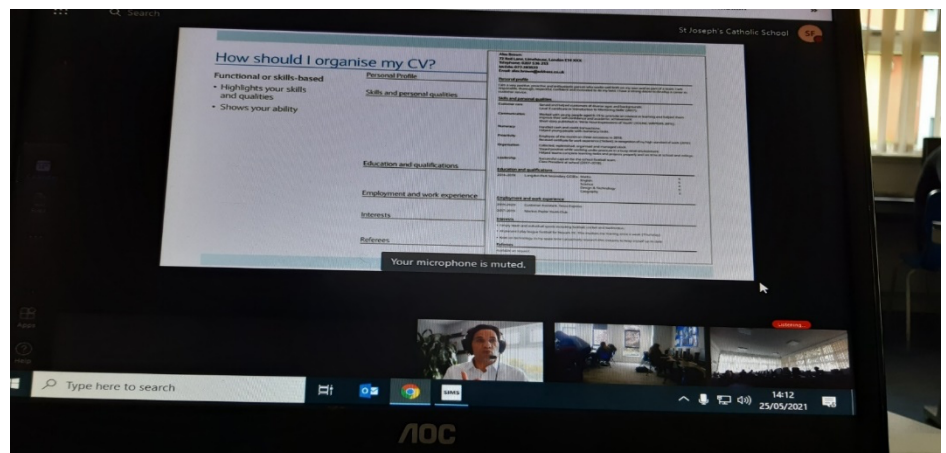
Work experience has still been able to take place, although again, this has been virtually. Employers have taken up the challenge and are delivering virtual work experience placements using various platforms. Here at St Joseph's pupils in Years 10 & 11 have been taking part in VWEX through: Speakers for Schools, Springpod, NHS, BAE Systems, Career Days, Premed Projects to name a few. Feedback from these VWEX days has been positive and pupils have gained a real insight into their chosen career.



Y10 Interview Preparation Workshop / CV Workshop / Covering letters

In March all year 10 pupils took part in an Interview preparation workshop delivered by The **Education Business Partnership** which gave them an insight into how to conduct themselves at interview, what employers were looking for, the importance of a good CV and application form, how to apply for an apprenticeship. It also got them to look at themselves, by completing a "People Like Me Quiz" which analysed their skills and qualities to see what people like themselves do and whether they were happy and successful in their chosen career. This gave them ideas for their own future careers.

In May, prior to Mock interview day, pupils were taken off timetable to complete a CV workshop. This was delivered by **ASK** via Teams. Pupils were tasked to find a job they would like to apply for using our very own **St Joseph's Employment Agency "Going Places"** within our school website in the Careers Portal (<https://sjcs.org.uk/going-places-ltd/>). Once pupils had chosen their job profile, they were able to structure their CV around the skills and qualities that were required within the job. Pupils also wrote covering letters within their English lessons to go with their CV. These were then sent to employers ready for Mock interview day at the end of June.



Our St Joseph's **Careers Enterprise Adviser Adam Macmillan-Scott from Babcock International** also gave pupils an introduction into what employers were looking for from a prospective employee and what would be expected at interview. He also gave a quick top ten tips for interview talk prior to mock interview day and acted as the CEO of "Going Places" so that it was as close to a real-life experience as we could get.

Y10 Mock Interview Day

Mock Interview day(s) was over Teams this year as employers were unable to come into school due to Covid restrictions. This gave pupils a new experience, and one which I suspect, will be the way job interviews will take place in the future as the norm. We had 16 employers on each of the two days conducting the interviews. Employers were sent the CVs and covering letters of the pupils they were interviewing prior to interview and were asked to complete a feedback form based on the paperwork and the interview. Interviews went really well – the pupils were so nervous before the interview, but came out with a smile on their face, pleased with the way it had gone and with much more self-confidence! Pupils were asked to complete their own feedback form as soon as the interview was over so that they could compare how they think they did, with how the employer thought they came across. Both feedback forms are given back to the pupils – sometimes the pupils are surprised at how well they actually did!! I would like to say a huge thank you to all the employers who gave up two afternoons to support our pupils with this worthwhile world of work experience.

- Babcock International
- Sparsholt College
- Steve Thompson RN
- Roger Thomas Art of Training
- Avon Protection
- Wiltshire Creative
- JASHair
- Wiltshire College
- Police
- Chamber of Commerce
- Daniel Slade ASK / Corethentic Ltd
- WIN – Bath Spa University

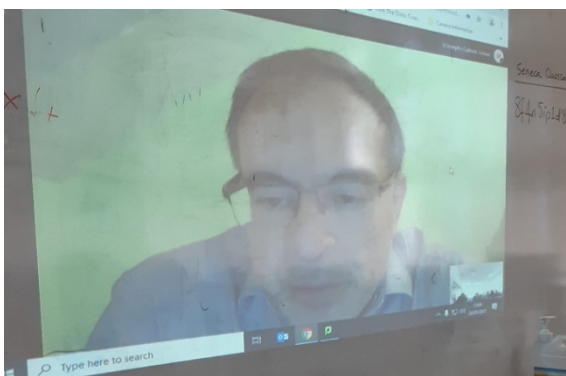
Year 11 – Post-16 Destinations

This year saw all of our Year 11 pupils applying to college or 6th form, having had a one to one career interview with our independent Careers Adviser, Sue Glover. Whether this was over Teams, or prior to lockdown and face to face, support was given to every individual, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future.

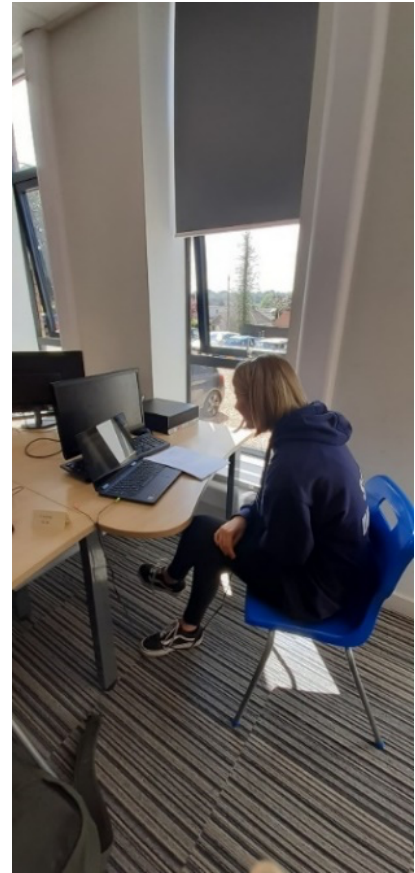
Year 9 – Swindon & Wiltshire Careers Hub WoW Fest

Year 9 were taken off lessons to attend the WoW Fest – a **Learn Live Broadcast delivered by Swindon & Wiltshire Careers Hub** offering a virtual event to all schools and colleges in Swindon & Wiltshire for young people (aged 14+). This World of Work Fest showcased the employers and their industry sectors around the county. This also went home to parents/carers to access the day and evening sessions giving them the opportunity to discover the skills gaps employers are looking for, resources and opportunities on their doorstep. Pupils then took part in a classroom discussion with their teacher after the event to see what they had learned and discuss possible future careers. This was very successful and has given them lots to think about going forward.

Y9, 10 & 11 – Royal Navy Talk from a RN officer about life in the RN and what it has to offer. This gave a real insight into the opportunities and jobs available within the Royal Navy. Pupils were able to ask lots of questions and see if the career opportunities they were looking at could be sought within the RN.



Mock Interview Day: 25th and 29th June 2021



How did Year 10 do? AMAZING!

May I take the opportunity to say what a privilege it was to talk to these students. All the students presented themselves really well and were a credit to themselves and to the school.

Appearance and first impressions was excellent, a very polite confident manner.

The questions you had for us were brilliant! Had clearly done research about the kind of questions to ask.

What was the most difficult question?

What are my strengths and weaknesses
What do I want to achieve
Tell me about yourself
What I would bring to the role

It's brilliant that you were able to offer this to the students though, such an important opportunity for them and having that practice of online interviews is really good as I am sure they will continue into the future.

An excellent 'Cover Letter', highlighting clear communication skills and a creative ability. This was perfectly tailored to the job advert, as it clearly let the employer know that you're a very suitable candidate for the job. Of particular note was your final paragraph, which rounded up where confidence, when working in teams was gained. Well done.

Well done on explaining your predicted grades, this tells me that you're aware that these are very important.

What did you get out of the interview process & how do you think you could improve for next time?

Improve my research and know more about the job
I got experience on how to answer and react to the interview and their questions
Be more confident and give longer answers
An understanding of how interviews work
It made me more confident going for interviews in the future

It was a pleasure interviewing all 3, they were genuinely nice lads, and as I said a credit to the school. Had I been appointing, and had sufficient positions, all would have been successful at interview.

85% of pupils said that the CV workshop and covering letter session has given them a better understanding of how to apply for a job

*Your CV 'Personal Statement' was well structured, it let the employer know that you had a clear vision for the future and how the role of 'Trainee Carpenter' would become a career. This is the type of wording that would see you through to the next stage of interviewing
If it was my company, I would definitely offer you a position as an assistant carpenter.*