Pupils' Future Prospects – Careers and Higher Education

(Reviewer: Dominic Mott, August 2021)

Our objective at Hurst is to provide all of our students with the highest level of information about post-school opportunities, to enable them to make the best choices for their own futures. We start this process through the PSHE programme in the Prep School and also through targeted Careers lessons in the Shell. Students in all year groups are able to attend the series of careers talks which are offered in the Michaelmas term, on a range of different professions. In the Vth Form, all students undertake the Futurewise assessments, the results generated from these assessments are then reviewed with each student in a one-to-one guidance meeting with our Head of Careers, in advance of the Sixth Form Choices morning which takes place in January.

In the Sixth Form, pupils have access to general careers guidance, in addition so the following programmes:

Hurst Work Experience Programme. This includes being available to support any pupil with interview and CV preparation guidance; running our programme of talks during the Michaelmas term, with guest speakers coming in to discuss a comprehensive range of careers; managing our sophisticated programme of work placements and internships – available to LVI and some Vth Form pupils; offering guidance for pupils on apprenticeships and alternative further education opportunities.

The Vets, Medics and Dentistry programme, supports our Veterinary, Medical and Dentistry applicants, delivering specialist interview preparation; guidance on obtaining work experience; support for completing BMAT and UKCAT exams; etc.

The Higher Education Programme. This includes: working directly with the LVI and UVI on the process of applying for university level courses in the UK; providing a Higher Education evening for LVI students and parents in the Lent term (to introduce how the application process works and the decisions to be made) with further meetings in the UVI to explain the fine detail of applying and then the strategy of replying to offers and managing outcomes when exam results come in. In addition opportunities are arranged for students to visit universities and a University Fair held at the College. General advice is also provided on completing UCAS forms; applying after leaving school; completing additional tests such as BMAT and LNAT; etc.

The Overseas programme – works specifically with those students considering applying to overseas

In addition, the Head of Careers runs the Young Enterprise Programme for those students in the Lower Sixth who want the opportunity to set up and manage their own commercial business on a competitive level, as well as organising a half day practical course for the Lower Sixth in the Summer term, on Safe Travel (be it short holidays or a Gap Year). Any student in the College is able to book a one-to-one guidance meeting with our Head of Careers.