

Our Ref: LDS

April 2020

ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS



Dear Students

We hope that you and your families are all well in these uncertain and difficult times. Whilst you are busy working on your GCSE courses, it is also time to start thinking about your future pathway after leaving Dormston, which is only one year away!

Due to the current situation we will be unable to deliver our normal careers programme in the same format, so we will have to adapt how we deliver and provide support for you. We were all so disappointed that your Work Experience was cancelled and that the Careers Week scheduled for July is also unlikely to go ahead. This does not mean however that you will not get the support and guidance you need but it does mean that it will be offered and delivered in an alternative way and that you will need to be proactive too!

Careers Interviews via Microsoft Teams (or telephone)

Mr Pete Small (www.theyetild.com) is an independent Careers Adviser and has supported the school for a number of years. Many of you will already have had contact with him over the years at various careers events and he recently delivered your assembly during National Careers Week. **A copy of the assembly is attached.** As part of the school's careers programme all students have at least 1 one-to-one interview with Mr Small before the end of Year 11. As we are presently unable to conduct these interviews in school, Mr Small is offering these interviews via Microsoft Teams or telephone. During the interview he will offer independent support and guidance and will complete an individual action plan, which will be e-mailed to your school e-mail address and a copy to your parents. Due to the size of this particular year group and the uncertainty of when we will return to school, we recommend that as many students as possible take up this invaluable offer as there may not be time to offer each student an interview as/when we return to school. We have outlined the Post 16 routes available to you in this letter and this information will be useful to you when you have your interview. **If you would like an interview by Teams or telephone, please let me know so that we can arrange to send out a meeting invite. Please indicate if you prefer a Teams or telephone interview and provide relevant email or telephone information. We will need your parents' permission to go ahead with the interview too.**

Virtual Work Experience

Via the Black Country Careers Hub, we have a fantastic and exciting offer of a virtual work experience programme. **Construction/STEM 18 May 2020 - for 5 days.** The programme is delivered by Scape, who have partnered with Class of Your Own, Learn Live and Engineering Development Trust to look at the myriad of careers pathways available in the construction/STEM industries. **Please click link for full details and contact me at school if you wish me to register a place.** <https://www.scapegroup.co.uk/learning-in-lockdown>

CV Writing

During the summer term, Year 10 students usually prepare a CV. The CV writing session is supported by the English Department and this year will be no exception. Next month, as part of your English work, you will be given the resources to complete your CV. Further details and instructions will be sent by Miss Cope.

Post 16 Pathways

There are a number of options to you Post 16 and it is advisable to research carefully all the routes open to you. The current options available to you are outlined below (and in the attached assembly notes). There are also a number of useful websites to support you in making this choice. Please see the Careers Education and Guidance Section of the school website for more information. <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk/317/careers-education-amp-guidance>

➤ **Sixth Form – A Levels**

Sixth Forms can be attached to a secondary school or they can be a college. You choose to study A Levels for a two year period which culminates in examinations. Usually you opt to study 3 academic subjects. For example: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business, Economics, Computing, Languages, Drama, Music, Art, and many more. These are excellent qualifications that are valued by employers and universities. A Levels offer a great route to degree level study. If you want to study A Levels the entry requirement is usually at least 5 (or more) GCSEs including English and Maths at level 5 or higher. Different colleges/courses may vary so you would need to check what entry requirements are needed.

➤ **College – BTEC and Vocational Courses**

These types of courses are usually related to a broad employment area such as business, engineering, IT, health and social care. They often lead to specific jobs such as hairdressing, accounting, professional cookery or plumbing. These qualifications are ideal if you have a particular career in mind. Again these courses usually studied for two years. These courses are offered at different levels (this is not the same as GCSE levels!). These courses are more coursework and assessment based but may also have an element of examinations. Entry requirements for these courses vary; to apply for a Level 3 course (A Level equivalent) you will need 5 GCSEs including English and Maths at level 5 or higher. A Level 2 course requires 4 GCSE passes at levels 4 and above. There are alternative courses if you do not have meet the entry requirements above.

➤ **T Levels**

Levels are new courses starting September 2020. They are equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses, which are equivalent to 3 A Levels, offer a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). At present the information we have for entry requirements is the same as A Levels but as these are new courses this may change for September 2021.

➤ **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships give you the chance to learn - and gain nationally recognised qualifications - while getting a weekly wage. Apprenticeships take 1 to 4 years to complete depending on the level. Some apprenticeships take students from the age of 16. Apprenticeships are graded in levels. There are some higher level apprenticeships available in: science, engineering, technology, retail, construction, business, administration, environmental services, etc. Entry requirements will depend on the Apprenticeship you want to do. Depending on your grades in GCSE Maths and English, you may also need to take a literacy and/or numeracy test.

➤ **Traineeships**

You can enrol with a training Provider who will provide high quality work placements and support with employability skills so that you can progress to the next steps of college, an apprenticeship or a job. They will also support with English and Maths (if appropriate). Traineeships are unpaid.

➤ **Employment**

By law, you can get a job at 16 years but the employer should provide accredited training until you are 18 years. Most jobs will only pay minimum wage £4.05 ph.

➤ **Armed Forces**

The 4 main branches of the armed forces open to school leavers are The Army, The Royal Navy, The Royal Marines and The Royal Air Force. There are a vast range of jobs available in all services including technicians, chefs, and engineers.

There is a lot of information to take in but please don't worry as we are here to support you at each stage of your journey. This is an ideal opportunity for you to research what the future could hold for you.

Myself, Mrs Bradnick and Mr Small are available to help and support you not only during term time but during the holidays too, so please don't hesitate to contact us by e-mail if you have any questions.

In the meantime, don't forget to get in touch to book your careers interview and/or take part in the virtual work experience.

Take Care!

L Dawes

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