

CAREERS ENGLAND WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study:

Kingsbridge Community College, Devon

The School

Kingsbridge Community College is a thriving, well-subscribed comprehensive school with over 1400 students, including 350 in the Sixth Form. The School is an Academy and was rated “outstanding” in its last Ofsted inspection.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The Head and his staff take their responsibility to ensure students receive impartial and independent careers education, information, advice and guidance seriously. They seek to ensure students are aware of all the options, in particular post 16, so they can make informed choices. Local FE Colleges and apprenticeship providers are invited in to school and students are given opportunities to visit FE Colleges for taster days. The school holds the Investor in Careers CEIAG Quality Award.

Curriculum

Careers Education is delivered across all year groups. Activities include take ‘Your Child to Work’ day in year 8, use of the Careers South West Career Readiness Tool in Year 10 and employability skills days in 6th Form.

The main content of the Careers Education programme is delivered in year 9 as part of the Personal Social Health Education carousel. Students have a six week block of lessons built around the Careers South West STEP booklets. They identify and develop their own career management skills, knowledge and attitudes, gain understanding of what employers look for, and are introduced to web-based resources and to the College’s careers library.

The College has a valued partnership with Careers South West – the external careers guidance service provider. This is characterised by the strong professional relationship between the external careers advisers and relevant school staff.

Two days per week of service provision is commissioned. This is mainly used to deliver one to one careers guidance sessions to young people in year 11 and in the 6th Form. Although referrals are received from all school staff, the number of self referrals is high. Hence the service provided is both targeted and universal.

Advisers also deliver group work in year 9 and in year 12. They attend several parent evenings and deliver a post 18 choices presentation to parents of students in year 12.

The Careers and Work-Related Learning Coordinator meets regularly with the external careers advisers to monitor referrals, discuss progress and share good practice. The school actively promotes the external careers guidance service and the careers advisers have a high profile in the school, both among pupils and staff. The

advisers go into tutor groups and assemblies regularly, attend relevant staff meetings and deliver presentations to year teams.

This year, the Work Related Learning team has observed the external careers advisers' interviews with a view to conducting their own diagnostic short interviews to selected students. This ensures best use of available resources and gives school staff an overview of student's career intentions.

Those students who need in depth careers guidance interviews are referred on to Careers South West careers advisers. There is also close liaison with other key staff such as the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and the Learning Coordinators to enable appropriate support to be given to the more vulnerable students. Careers South West careers advisers attend the multi-agency meetings convened by the school and are part of the integrated support plans in place for specific students.

External liaison

The College has a very strong link with the local business community. Employers are involved in mock interviews for students going on work experience placements and are invited in to talk about their particular vocational sector. Careers South West careers advisers have attended local business network meetings to talk about apprenticeships and training opportunities.

The College offers work experience to all year 12 students. Careers South West careers advisers are part of the delivery team to prepare students for work experience. This includes providing sessions on employability and local labour market information/ intelligence. They also visit students during work experience week at the College's request. They are included in all aspects of the College's careers and work related learning programme.

Targeted groups, for example those in the "Mind the Gap" bracket, have the opportunity to participate in out of school activities designed to increase aspirations. These include visits to Flybe (Airport), Exeter Football Club and Plymouth University.

Strategic benefits

As a direct result of the close liaison between the Careers South West careers advisers and key staff at Kingsbridge Community College, with the interventions put in place, the number of young people who are NEET is low and those who are Not Known in terms of destinations is currently 'negligible'.

As a result of its CEIAG programmes, the College believes that:

- Students are better informed, have higher personal career management skills, high aspirations and are open to more options.
- Students have an understanding of the national and local labour market and how to be ready for its challenges.
- Parents have a good understanding of post 16 and 18 options and how to support their child in their decision making.

Key Principles

The College values CEIAG highly, understanding the importance, particularly in a rural isolated area, of preparing their students for the world beyond school. CEIAG is seen as a crucial part of this.

Quality

The College achieved Investor in Careers status in 2011. It has also recently gained the Global Entrepreneurship Award.

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