



QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study: Batley Girls' High School

The School

Batley Girls' High School is a single-sex 11-19 academy which was judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted in every category (Oct 2013). The school's key aim is to continue to achieve outstanding outcomes while working with its local community to ensure that its students have high aspirations and the skills and experience to make a positive economic and social contribution.

The local community has a high level of economic deprivation and many of its students and parents have a 'narrow' perspective of careers and employability. The key aim is to improve awareness and engagement.

Batley Girls' High School shares a profound commitment to the principles and ethos based on Achievement, Respect and Transformation.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The school has a dedicated Careers Leader, Iffat Ahmad, who is line managed by Co-Head David Cooper and works closely with the PHSCE Co-ordinator and the external Careers Practitioner (additionally bought-in). There is excellent support from a careers mentor and administrator.

Close links are maintained with employers and higher education institutions. The school's careers and employability work with students has been recognised as outstanding by Ofsted Key Stage 3 Good practice (2015).

There is an excellent partnership with Cummins Turbo Technologies, and they provide practical and financial support for the Change Project which brings together STEM and Art activities. Since starting in 2012 it has become an annual project and follows a similar format each year – artists run workshops with school groups to create artwork inspired by the theme of 'change', and all the work comes together in an exhibition at Batley Art Gallery in the summer.

Batley Girls' High School sees the strategic benefits of CEIAG as being:

- Direction for its whole-school strategy (The school's SEF)
- An embedded relationship and deep appreciation of its community and challenges which help to shape and evaluate its Careers Development Plan
- Raised profile of the Careers Programme within the school curriculum, local community and with Governors
- Reduction of NEET

Developing Curriculum Links

The careers programme is delivered in PSHCE via a 50-minute lesson every week and careers is a topic every half term. The programme is well resourced and well organised.

Batley Girls uses a range of approaches to highlight to students the relevance of the content, skills and values of the courses they are taking to their future careers.

For example, Local MP Tracy Brabin organised a behind the scenes visit to Pinewood Studios for a group of students to gain an insight into the range of careers in TV and media.

Working with Parents

Batley Girls' is the lead school in the Kirklees Careers Hub and is leading on the working party to develop good practice in parental engagement. The school has an active Parents' forum which meets every half term. At these meetings careers information and activity is a standing agenda item.

The school also has established a programme with its Parents' Forum group through a series of visits and parent-led 'Employability Roadshow' in order to promote careers opportunities for its young women students. This has provided an excellent platform – the school works diligently at raising aspirations of young women and opening horizons by engaging their parents directly in this process.

Key Stage 3: Good Practice Case Study (Ofsted 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-key-stage-3-curriculum-survey-2015-8-good-practice-case-studies>

The Parents' Forum is involved with numerous visits to local universities and businesses. This offers the experience of a typical university day and the opportunity to find out about funding at Higher Education.

- Parents and daughters visited the school's business partner, Cummins Turbo Technologies.
- Parents value the chance to be involved in the Careers Conventions and the STEM events and to be given a discussion point with their daughters about their futures.

Quality

At its latest **Quality in Careers Standard** assessment in April 2019 the school gained recognition for fully meeting the Standard including all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks.

Batley Girls' has continuously held the C&K CEIAG Quality Standard and then the national Quality in Careers Standard since 1999. It has therefore undergone a number of 3 yearly reviews. Each review has demonstrated that the school continues to see CEIAG as very important and is not content to rest upon its laurels but continuously strives to improve provision.

There is a real commitment from the Co-Heads to provide high-quality CEIAG in school and this is reflected in the school's ethos and Charter: *'Every learner has the potential to excel and we work with all our young women to help them to realise their dreams and ambitions.'*

The school was showcased by Ofsted as a case study of good practice for its approach in Key Stage 3 to raise students' aspirations for the future. This includes the early focus on CEIAG, STEM events, access to the Careers Convention for students and parents and Key Stage 3 graduation.

This demonstrates an excellent and innovative approach.

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