



Quality in Careers >>>>

QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study:

Ryburn Valley High School, West Yorkshire

The School

Ryburn Valley High School is a secondary school and sixth form in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire with approximately 1500 students on roll.

The ethos of *'everyone matters, and every dream counts'* is firmly embedded. This precept together with the traditional values of kindness, endeavour and respect are at the heart of everything they do.

'Our core purpose is to inspire young people with a love of learning, a zest for life and a genuine confidence to excel in a colourful world.' These sentiments were echoed very strongly during the assessment process.

The school now holds the **Quality in Careers Standard** (awarded in 2019 by the Licensed Awarding Body "C&K Careers") having been successful in **fully meeting** all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks and the impact criteria required by Quality in Careers.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The careers programme is delivered through innovative "iGen" lessons which cover PSHE topics and careers learning outcomes through the shared exploration of literature. In addition there are "iD" (Identity) days which provide the opportunity for visitors to talk about their experiences so students can try new things and develop resilience and ambition. Examples include learning CPR and sign language, self-defence sessions, meeting an ornithologist and finding out about birds of prey.

The Careers lead is also responsible for the school's marketing and community engagement and has used this effectively to promote the CEIAG programme and engage with students, parents and other stakeholders. The use of short videos showcasing people talking about their job, whether it be alumni or other visitors to the school, is considered by the Quality in Careers assessor to be "impressive" -and on the day of the Quality in Careers external assessment there was a TV producer in school who agreed to be filmed talking about his job.

Students receive good support and guidance in choosing their GCSE options to ensure that their choices link to their future aspirations and their ability. In Year 8, they have the opportunity to take part in taster sessions so that they can try out subjects that are new to them, such as Health & Social Care and Business Studies. This gives them confidence in making the right choices for them.

The school's learning mindset approach encourages employability skills across the curriculum including ambition, resilience, risk taking, collaboration and self-management.

Students have access to a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Creative Arts is a real strength of the school and students are involved in the Channel 4 school-based drama Ackley Bridge and Happy Valley. Ryburn has also been chosen to be the feature school for the CBBC TV programme *"Our School"* which will also provide exciting opportunities for students to be involved.

The school has careers weeks scheduled throughout the academic year. During these weeks external employers and organisations are invited into school to talk to students about different employment opportunities and career pathways, and also carry out interactive workshops. Teachers ensure their lessons have a clear careers/employability skills focus, and digital media is used to highlight different career pathways.

The school contracts with an external careers guidance service. Their Careers Adviser is highly valued and is actively involved with planning and organising work experience and other aspects of the programme. All students access at least one careers interview pre-16 and also have access to impartial guidance in the Sixth Form.

The Careers Adviser focuses information into "topics of the month" which is an innovative approach. For example, if asked a lot about Modern Foreign Languages, the Careers Adviser will focus library information around this.

There is a thriving STEM club with various activities taking place, including students testing the skills to be an air traffic controller, and a "meet the Scientist" live web chat.

Measuring the impact

The LEP Enterprise Coordinator has supported the school in working towards meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Compass self-assessment tool has been used to evaluate and develop provision leading up to the successful external Quality in Careers accreditation. The Ryburn strategic plan 2018-2021 clearly shows how CEIAG is embedded and also serves as an effective tool for continuous improvement.

The iGen curriculum at Ryburn is well resourced and this has had a knock-on effect on all subject areas with clear improvements in Progress 8 scores as a result.

Destinations data is collected and analysed to meet the needs of individuals and groups. The external Careers Adviser provides comprehensive end of term reports detailing how students have been supported and their destinations.

Progression is considered to be "excellent" with the numbers Not in Education, Employment or Training below the Calderdale average.

CEIAG Quality: achieving the Quality in Careers Standard

The Annual Service Delivery Agreement with the external careers company provides further scope for impact measurement and evaluation and is mapped against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Student feedback mechanisms are in place to assess the quality of guidance provided and results have been overwhelmingly positive. Evaluation takes place throughout the careers programme and students reflect on their varied experiences (employer encounters, further and higher education visits) using an Employability Passport, in order to take stock of learning and ensure encounters are meaningful.

The external Quality in Careers assessor considered the quality of embedding within subject areas as “particularly impressive”. The assessor also observed a lesson in Maths where real work situation problems were used to demonstrate Mathematical skills.

The assessor was impressed with the enthusiastic and passionate approach adopted by all staff and the varied and range of interesting opportunities that students experienced, enabling them to learn about future options and increase self-awareness.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Triestina Bozzo, Careers Leader,

Ryburn Valley High School

E-mail: T.Bozzo@rvhschool.co.uk

Tel: 01422 832070

(p) October 2019

© Quality in Careers Consortium 2019