



**WHAT DO THE FOUR LEADING ASSOCIATIONS OF LEADERS
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES SAY ABOUT THE STANDARD?**

November 2019

Association of Colleges

“The Quality in Careers Standard offers a comprehensive framework, based upon the Gatsby benchmarks but going further by considering the impact of activities on students’ career-related learning, against which colleges can have their careers strategy and processes externally assessed and accredited nationally.”

Catherine Sezen, Senior Policy Manager – FE, AoC

Association of School & College Leaders

*“The DfE **strongly recommends** that all secondary schools work towards achieving the national “Quality in Careers Standard”. ASCL fully supports this view.*

Despite being in times of constrained resources, with never enough time to fulfil competing obligations, we firmly believe that Quality in Careers is a worthwhile investment of time and money. Quality in Careers, being externally-assessed, ensures that valuable self-assessments against the Gatsby benchmarks are rigorously evaluated with the focus moving on to look more closely at the impact of careers programmes on students’ career-related learning outcomes.

Our members tell us the benefits of the Standard to young people are considerable and can be truly life-changing. We hear this from schools who are working towards, as well as those who have achieved the Standard.”

Kevin Gilmartin is ASCL’s post-16 specialist

National Association of Head Teachers

“In times of uncertainty and change, the need to inspire our next generation is more important than ever. The earlier young people’s aspirations are raised and broadened, the better. Good careers advice and guidance should create ‘lightbulb moments’ for young people, making the connection between their studies and the opportunities that await them outside school.

Whilst Secondary School has traditionally been the phase for careers education to take place, the evidence shows that career aspirations vary very little between the ages of seven and seventeen. This means it is essential to start early. That’s why NAHT has put so much effort into the ‘Primary Futures’ programme, which brings volunteers from the world of work into schools, and why - as members of the Quality in Careers Consortium – we fully support the national Quality in Careers Standard which impacts positively upon students’ career-related learning in Secondary Schools, Special Schools and a number of Middle Schools.

High quality careers advice and guidance is essential for all pupils in all schools, and we are very pleased to be working within the Consortium on the potential impact it can have in the Primary School sector too.”

Paul Whiteman, General Secretary of NAHT.

Sixth Form Colleges Association

“The Quality in Careers Standard provides sixth form colleges with a vital framework for careers education and guidance. The national Standard allows colleges to demonstrate their commitment to a quality careers programme.

The Sixth Form Colleges Association encourages all sixth form colleges to work towards achieving the Quality in Careers Standard. By obtaining the Standard through external accreditation, colleges can feel confident that they are not only adhering to statutory careers guidance but offering their students the best possible progression advice and guidance.”

Jonathan Isaacs, Policy and Membership Services Manager, SFCA