



QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study: Scissett Middle School, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

This case study has been updated to provide a flavour of how it has coped with the impact of the COVID19 pandemic.

The School

Scissett Middle School is a 10-13 Middle School situated in the semi-rural Dearne Valley. It has a wide catchment area which includes the villages of Scissett, Denby Dale, Skelmanthorpe, Flockton and Cumberworth. It has around 600 students.

Children at Scissett Middle School enjoy a wide range of activities which extends their experience in many parts of the curriculum. Health and Safety is emphasised in all School activities and always plays a key role in the organisation of field trips and visits.

School Vision: *To ensure that we are all inspired with a love of learning, a zest for life and the confidence to excel whilst keeping our values at the heart of everything we do.*

School Values: *A School that provides outstanding learning opportunities underpinned by a culture of: Respect, Resilience, Excellence, Support, Pride, Enjoyment, Creativity and Trust*

The transition from Primary School

All Year 5 pupils work with their form tutors and Head of year with a Transition passport. The Head of Careers has been to the MAT primary schools for an introduction – with a Maths Teacher, who is also a fighter pilot in RAF – he talked about how important Maths is in many exciting careers whilst wearing his uniform.

Pupil Premium, vulnerable and SEN students

The School has a number of Pupil Premium and SEN students who have been to Honley High School to attend their Careers Fair pre-COVID. This will continue after COVID. In March 2021 they were also invited to attend resilience sessions to gain confidence and a positive growth mindset.

The School has invested in a scheme by OPUS - Ducto which brings engaging employers to commit and provide quality employer encounters for young people with SEND.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Scissett Middle School gained the Quality in Careers Standard through the Awarding Body C+K in 2019 in recognition of its excellent, comprehensive approach to CEIAG.

Students normally take part in an Enterprise scheme which involves the Year 7 students working with a charity to raise money from an end of year Summer Fair. The students have drop-down days to prepare for this fair and also meet with a variety of local and national charities to learn about what they do.

This has not been possible due to COVID19 but it is planned to start again from 2021. Instead school has run a course of sessions working with NatWest – the project was about entrepreneurship. They have also run an Entrepreneurs club for students who want to run their own business. This has been facilitated by a Business Coordinator and is a series of Zoom sessions – as a result, the students have started to work in groups to run their own business.

Drop-down days for Careers involve students meeting employers from a variety of businesses, employees such as STEM ambassadors, institutions such as Colleges, Universities and also Apprenticeship schemes. These will continue after COVID.

Careers fairs have been virtual since COVID. Annually the school has a ‘Careers in the Curriculum’ day in which the students will move around departments and have practical lessons which show them all the different subjects that are needed for specific careers.

There is a speaker in School at least once a year to promote positivity, work ethic, choices and different career paths.

In April 2019 the School was lucky enough to have an Aspirational speaker who worked in the Music industry and is heavily involved in the BRIT AWARDS.

Before (and to resume after COVID) the School also held ‘Well-being’ drop-down days run by the Head of Well-being and Head of Life/PHSE/RS. This is for all year groups and includes speakers and activities led by outside people (covering topics such as Yoga, meditation, and fitness).

Promotion of CEIAG

The School has ensured it has up to date information about careers on its website (under “Our school, careers information”). An external consultant supported the School in putting together a CEIAG policy, incorporating a ‘provider access policy’ and details of the careers programme from Year 6 through to Year 8.

The School has also looked at how it promotes CEIAG across the School and as a result, now has a display outside the Technology Classroom advertising events and LMI (Local Labour Market Information).

As a result of looking at how careers is embedded into the curriculum and to raise awareness of whole staff, there are now displays up all around the School which explain “Careers in the Curriculum”.

A section in the School library provides students with prospectuses and leaflets about local institutes for studying. A computerised display in the library gives good up to date information on a range of relevant websites.

The School also send out **facebook** texts and emails on a regular basis highlighting where pupils can get relevant career-related information.

Aims of the Scissett Middle School CEIAG programme:

- *To encourage all students to recognise and value their own skills and abilities and to appreciate their relationships with, and responsibilities towards, other people, the community and environment.*
- *To develop the skills that will help them to make informed and realistic choices for their future.*
- *To enable students and parents to be aware of the alternatives and opportunities open to them at different stages of their life and to raise aspirations.*
- *To encourage understanding and experience of the world of work through Work Related Learning and enterprise activities.*
- *To promote equality of opportunity in respect of race, religion, gender and special needs disability.*
- *To develop students’ capabilities and to help them to understand their own needs and abilities.*

CEIAG Delivery Organisation and Content

The CEIAG programme is designed to meet the needs of all students. The School has used the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Quality in Careers Standard national criteria as a means to inform its programme.

The School actively promotes personalised learning approaches in order to raise aspirations and to breakdown cultural and economic barriers, to enable all students to fulfil their potential. Cross-curricular links are made with appropriate departments and enhanced by

Enterprise activities (such as the charity-based Fair at the end of the year – in which the students in Year 7 plan and organise the event to make a profit for their chosen charity).

All students are encouraged to develop an understanding and awareness of equality in relation to gender, ethnicity/religion, disability, age and sexual orientation.

Specific aspects of CEIAG are delivered in a range of ways including:

- A planned careers education programme delivered through the curriculum in RSPHCE (Religious, Social, Personal, Health and Citizenship Education). The School was introduced to the “CDI framework for careers employability and enterprise education” by its C&K consultant and reports that this was “*very useful in mapping our provision*”. The School will use the new CDI Career Development Framework too.
- Tutor time activities and assemblies.
- Personalised guidance through Evaluations/questionnaires for students and parents.
- Curriculum enrichment activities e.g. work-related learning talks by visiting speakers, activities in and out of school, trips and visits to HE institutions, planned cross curricular and collapsed timetable activities, careers events and the Bi-annual Careers Fair.

Taster Sessions and visits to further and higher education

As part of working towards meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks, and achieving the externally-assessed Quality in Careers Standard, the School has developed this aspect of its programme substantially.

In “normal times” the School aims to offer, to all Year 8 students, the chance to attend Taster Sessions at Huddersfield New College (6th form centre) and a University (Huddersfield, Leeds or Sheffield).

A small group of students will also attend Taster Sessions at Kirklees College - such as Bricklaying, Hair and Beauty, Animal Care, and Motor Mechanics.

From 2021 the school has arranged with Barnsley College for all year 8 students to attend a full day visit. Students will explore Barnsley College as a workplace then attend taster sessions such as sport, engineering, theatre performance, hospitality and more.

During COVID, Huddersfield University designed the school a bespoke virtual visit with Kahoot quiz – the students were able to ask questions and were answered at a later date. Students also experienced a 3D virtual visit to the University Technical College in Leeds, Kirklees College and Barnsley College.

The whole of year 7 attended a virtual work related half day at Magna to see engineering in the workplace and STEM careers.

Resources

The School has an annual allocation of money for CEIAG resources. Pupil Premium and disadvantaged students do not have to pay for visits to universities and colleges.

Professional development is emphasised and provided in line with the School's commitment to CPD. In-house training is ongoing for newly appointed staff and designated bespoke training is delivered for specific issues related to the CEIAG curriculum.

The School CEIAG programme is reviewed and adapted to ensure it continues to meet the needs of students. The School reports that it has found the *Guide to the Quality in Careers Standard* documentation to be key in informing its provision, leading to its successful award of the national quality Standard:

"I cannot fault any of the process – I felt unbelievably supported and comfortable with the whole process – in fact, it was a pleasure to work with the C+K team.

It is a way to know you are heading in the right direction and it is excellent when you are going through process to be advised – another expert passing on their knowledge. Collaboration is worth so much."

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