

CEIAG Case Study:

The Deepings School, Peterborough/South Lincolnshire

### The School

The Deepings School is a larger than average-sized, mixed 11-18 Comprehensive School (1515) serving a rural community in the town of Deeping St. James and its surrounding villages. The school sits at the heart of The Deepings, a vibrant, growing community in South Lincolnshire and is a member of a family of schools forming part of Anthem Trust.

The school first opened its doors in 1958. It was 'officially' opened the following year by the 6th Marquess of Exeter who presided over Burghley House, and it was then known as The Deepings Secondary Modern School with a total of 247 students on roll. In September 2021, the average number of students in each year group 7 – 11 was 250, with just under 200 in the Sixth Form.

Most students are of White British heritage. The % of pupils with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and care (EHC) plan is lower than the national average at 1.5%. The proportion of students known to be eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years (FSM6) is well below average at 15%.

The Deepings School is proud to be a community comprehensive school that takes most of the students in its catchment area and many from beyond.

The Deepings School has a 'culture of care', and positive relationships provide students with the confidence and independence they need to succeed both inside and outside school. They have high expectations of students during the seven years that the majority of them are part of the school family and have equally high expectations of parents/carers and members of staff.

Despite the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic, the school has been widely recognised and applauded for its work in ensuring students embraced remote learning and remained engaged with tasks and activities throughout the national school lockdowns, and with their on-going work to support students who are self-isolating. This includes ensuring students, at key transition stages in particular, continue to receive quality careers information, advice and guidance.

The school's vision: ***"Our students grow into well-rounded individuals, equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to lead happy, meaningful lives within society"***

### Career Guidance

The Deepings School is especially proud have completed a further successful reaccreditation of the national quality award in November 2021, particularly in light of the need to adapt the programme during the pandemic, including on-line activities, which took place prior to the assessment. The [Quality in Careers Standard](#) provides the school with recognition of the high quality of its careers education, information, advice and guidance provision for all students, providing them with the knowledge and skills needed when they move on from the school.

This could be into employment, on an apprenticeship or technical course, embrace a gap year, or to continue study within further and higher education. The school has always invited in external organisations to speak to students about possible Post 16 and Post 18 pathways, albeit some held virtually during the lockdown, ensuring full compliance with the Baker Clause. Employer engagement is good, with local and national organisations providing up-to-date information about the labour market and opportunities within their sector.

The Deepings School provides a comprehensive Careers Guidance programme for students in every year group and of all abilities, incorporating aspects of work-related learning, enterprise education, option choices and LMI (labour market information). This includes positive encounters with a range of employers through a combination of workplace visits, presentations in school and 'market place' careers fairs. The school purchased the REED Education virtual work experience and enterprise programmes during the autumn of 2020, to ensure students could still undertake a work-related programme that included encounters with staff from a range of departments, coupled with associated tasks. The school's Enterprise Adviser provides feedback.

The school contracts with a professionally qualified independent careers adviser. Some of these interventions took place remotely during school closures in COVID19-time, but they have now resumed face-to-face. Having completed her Careers Leadership training in 2019, the school's Careers Lead is now studying for a L6 Careers Guidance qualification, to supplement the work of the contracted adviser.

Students in the Sixth Form are very well supported as they make their applications to University, apply for Higher Level Apprenticeships or other non-University post 18 pathways, as are SEND students, who are supported by their internal additional needs team and external providers. Careers and work-related resources have also been provided to external education leads working with local feeder primary schools.

With the backing of the senior leadership team and governors, the Careers programme continues to develop and embrace new resources, establishing innovative ways to ensure high quality.

The Careers programme and student entitlement is developed in consideration of the new six-point CDI (Career Development Institute) framework and the eight Gatsby Benchmarks. Three key areas continue to be:

- **Self Development** - through careers, employability and enterprise education
- **Careers Exploration** - learning about careers and the world of work
- **Career Management** - learning how to develop career management and employability skills (to include managing changes and transitions)

### Measuring the impact

Monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the Careers programme takes place regularly and the very low number of NEETs and positive transitions for students illustrate the impact the programme is making.

The school continues to offer a one-week block of work experience for all year 10 students and an additional week for year 12 students. As a result, students are successful in gaining apprenticeships and other career opportunities when they move on after school. Views are sought from all stakeholders and the programme evolves year on year to consider the needs of students and the local, national and global jobs market.

The school actively promotes the National Citizen Programme and has been one of their Champion Schools. This programme enables students to develop their skills further and provides opportunities for them to work within their community, having a direct positive impact.

Heads of subjects are continuing to expand their own departmental links with employers who regularly support teaching and learning in school. Subjects teachers are also actively making careers links during their curriculum teaching. Potential careers and pathways are featured within school publications and at progress and options evenings.

Tutors are delivering work-related topics through tutorial periods and there is a timetabled PSHE/Careers lesson with the curriculum. Feedback gathered from students via School Council meetings helps to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of topics and activities from non-career specialists.

### Careers Quality

The Deepings School has held the originally-named Career Mark quality award and now the national [Quality in Careers Standard](#) accreditation for the past 18 years.

The school also participates in an external partnership with the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and is part of a regional careers hub.

The school uses the Compass self-assessment tool and is further developing methods for students to record and evidence their careers and work-related learning, using the Unifrog and XELLO platforms. Whilst the school is naturally pleased to have been externally assessed as *'fully meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks,'* it will continue to evaluate its provision to ensure further progression, with the aim of meeting the ever-changing needs of all its young people – and retaining its Quality in Careers accreditation every two years.

**CONTACT DETAILS: *Linda Taylor, Careers Leader, The Deepings School***

**[ltaylor@deepings.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:ltaylor@deepings.anthemtrust.uk)**

*Tel: 01778 342159*

*January 2022*

**© Quality in Careers 2022**