



QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study: Hednesford Valley High School, Staffordshire

The School

Hednesford Valley High School is a **generic special needs secondary school (11-19)** based in Staffordshire with (*as of January 2022*) approximately 186 students from the local area and the surrounding areas who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Hednesford Valley High embeds the vision of inspiring a generation of students to believe that they can achieve and succeed, and this starts with the whole school curriculum intent: *“To build resilient learners with the knowledge and skills to be responsible members of the community through a holistic approach.”*

Every member of staff within the school works towards the common goal of ensuring each student is given the skills, knowledge, confidence and desire to go out into the community and achieve.

Achievements in the school are highly celebrated and rewarded meaning that students develop the understanding that hard work creates opportunities and rewards. Some students within the school are now working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award after achieving their Silver award.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The CEIAG team consists of Emma Perry (Assistant Head Teacher), Andrew Dale (Vocational development officer for work experience) and two appointed CEIAG link governors.

The careers programme includes careers education sessions, career guidance activities (group work and individual interviews) and work-related learning. Links are made with local colleges and other links are being developed with local partners.

All staff contribute to careers education through their roles as tutors and subject teachers. The careers programme is delivered through PSHCE lessons across the school and in a designated careers lesson in Key Stage 4 and 5. All students in the sixth form participate in work experience in a variety of local businesses and they also have dedicated employability lessons.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 discreet Citizenship lessons are taught with clear links to skills needed for employability.

In Year 9 students choose option courses based on their interests which will help them towards their chosen pathways.

In Years 10 and 11 students participate in a 'Vocational Friday' curriculum where some students attend Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre to learn skills such as bricklaying, hair and beauty, painting and decorating, carpentry and car maintenance. The remaining students complete lessons in life skills, horticulture and employability.

In Years 11 and 14 students will meet with the Careers lead to discuss their aspirations and look at finding courses and filling out application forms.

Each year the school hosts an annual Careers Fayre where the school invites local education providers and employers as well as training providers to give information to both students and parents/carers.

The school also works closely with Cannock Chase High (a local mainstream high school) to offer a broader sixth form curriculum. Students benefit from a more academic curriculum delivered in partnership with Cannock Chase High. Studying across two sites has also improved independence.

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. This is a typical example of the school's programme:

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 8	Assembly with external provider	Assembly with external provider	Assembly with external provider
Year 9	Assembly with external provider Travel Training	Assembly with external provider Transition planning meeting with Careers lead Travel Training Options assembly	Assembly with external provider Travel Training
Year 10	Assembly with external provider	Assembly with external provider Duke of Edinburgh Award	Assembly with external provider

	Duke of Edinburgh Award Careers lessons	Careers lessons	Duke of Edinburgh Award Careers lessons
Year 11	Transition planning meeting with Careers lead Assembly with external provider 6 th Form Open evening Careers interview with qualified Careers Adviser Duke of Edinburgh Award Travel Training Careers lessons Post 16 transition open evening	Transition Days Assembly with external provider Duke of Edinburgh Award Travel Training Careers lessons	Careers Fayre Assembly with external provider NCS Programme Duke of Edinburgh Award Travel Training Careers lessons
Year 12	Work Experience Employability lessons Assembly with external provider	Work Experience Employability lessons Assembly with external provider	Careers Fayre Work Experience Employability lessons Assembly with external provider
Year 13	Work Experience Employability lessons Assembly with external provider	Work Experience Employability lessons Assembly with external provider	Careers Fayre Work Experience

			Employability lessons Assembly with external provider
Year 14	Work Experience Transition planning meeting with Careers lead Careers interview with qualified Careers Adviser Employability lessons Assembly with external provider Year 14 Transition Coffee morning	Work Experience Transition Days Employability lessons Assembly with external provider	Careers Fayre Work Experience Employability lessons Assembly with external provider

CEIAG Evaluation

Hednesford Valley High School monitors and evaluates its programme annually through staff/ student, parent/carer and employer surveys. The Careers Lead evaluates the responses and provides a report to the senior leadership team regarding any recommendations for change. These recommendations are discussed with the governing board and implemented at the next possible opportunity.

Measuring the Impact

The Careers & Enterprise Company's *Compass+ Tracker* is used to evaluate provision, as well as identifying areas for development, and to target support for learners who have specific needs and interests.

The CDI Framework has been used effectively to map the current provision and measure outcomes which has led to a very low number of NEET over the last few years.

Quality Assurance

In December 2021, Hednesford Valley High achieved the national **Quality in Careers Standard** through the Licensed Awarding Body – Entrust. Comments from the Assessor included:

- *We were very impressed by the school's vision, passion and enthusiasm for careers.*
- *Feedback from your students and parents was overwhelmingly positive and it was a pleasure to be part of your assessment team.*
- *Parent feedback was incredibly positive.*
- *Parents reported on the significant improvement in their children being able to achieve independence, life skills, increasing confidence, being able to travel independently.*
- *A parent described how a 6th form pack has helped both parents and children to understand what 6th form is about and given assurance to the student about their transition.*
- *A parent described that school has helped their son to become confident in knowing what he wants to do for his future, and knowing what his options are, and now has some ideas to work towards.*
- *Teachers are confident talking about careers related to their subject and understand the pathways and skills in demand from employers.*
- *A good range of methods are used to deliver careers-related activities including 1 -1 meetings, groupwork, assemblies, trips to opportunity providers and work experience placements. Career activities can be tailored to individual student needs where appropriate.*
- *In particular, feedback from employers indicated that school is particularly good at helping students to understand the skills needed for the workplace.*

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