



# Quality in Careers >>>>

QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study:

Tendring Technology College, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

## The School

Tendring Technology College is an extra-large, mixed 11-18 Comprehensive School (1813), with two campuses, serving a coastal community in the towns of Frinton-on-Sea and Thorpe-le-Soken and its surrounding villages. The school sits at the heart of Tendring, a growing community in North Essex and is a member of Academies Enterprise Trust.

The proportion of students known to be eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years (FSM6) is higher than national average at 22%. The % of pupils with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan is higher than the national average at 14%. Most students are of White British heritage

Tendring Technology College strives to be 'unusually brave', discovering what's possible and always pushing the limits. The College has 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.

The school has been widely recognised for its work during the Covid lockdown and how it adapted its provision to ensure all students could continue to access high quality education. This includes ensuring students, at key transition stages in particular, have continued to receive quality careers information, advice and guidance.

The school's vision: ***"Our mission is to gather and motivate inspirational people committed to delivering an excellent education that launches children into remarkable lives"***

## Career Education & Guidance

Tendring Technology College is proud have completed a successful reaccreditation of the national quality award in June 2022.

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. The process of collating evidence over 12 months and the final visit from the Quality in Careers assessor was rigorous yet rewarding. It was a great opportunity to be reminded of the impact good quality

careers information, advice and guidance can have on staff, students and the local community.

The assessor commented that there is effective leadership and management in place as evidenced in the portfolio. The CEIAG programme is strong across all years, and there is evidence of strategic planning and evaluation. For instance, the careers strategy is a three-year plan, where objectives are well-written in a way that should demonstrate progress over several years. The strategic objectives and milestones document shows clear aspirations which aim for 'cross school' engagement and impact.

Careers provision within PSHE time is used well, with much activity. Employers engage in virtual talks; students have sessions using LMI and researching ideas and visit local universities and Further Education (FE) providers. The College website careers pages are a particular strength.

The College involves a wide range of employers who engage to provide work experience, mock interviews and in-school activities. An example of this is from the art department which uses local employers for input, including interior designers, a florist and architecture firms; and maths has an accountancy firm and financial planning firm in to talk to the students. Mock interviews and work experience are offered for all year 10 students. Bespoke work experience is provided for Sixth Form with Year 12 students also taking part in a work shadowing programme. The college has an extensive range of businesses in occupational areas on a spreadsheet that is used as a basis for this work, with many students being taken on locally when they leave. Year 7 and 8 students have input through *Career Ready*, *Intouni* and *Make Happen*. These sessions are aimed at developing employability skills, for instance CV building, raising aspirations, work experience preparation etc. *Intouni* delivers higher education sessions to promote university life and final outcomes for the graduates. Year 9 students have a careers fair that fits in well with their option choices.

The school has a full-time careers adviser, who is qualified to level 6 and the Essex County Council transition team is also used for some students (EHCP). Students access this through self-referral, or form tutor or head of year and pastoral/SENDCo. Students and parents are regularly advised about how to access guidance for their son/daughter and the college follows the sessions up with feedback from parents/students.

Overall, the Quality in Careers assessor considered that Tendring Technology College is delivering positive, proactive and high standard careers work, with a well-structured careers programme that aims to build upon the previous year's work. The use of alumni is a real positive here, as is the sense that students are really valued, and their future plans should be nurtured and positively encouraged. Staff and students all reflected on the positiveness of the careers team and how much they have been able to achieve. The careers programme is having impact and there is a sense of not wanting to stand still, meaning that the careers work at the college will continue to evolve by building on previous successes and experiences.

### **Measuring the impact**

The Careers programme is monitored and reviewed annually and the very low number of NEETs in Year 11 and Year 13 illustrate the positive impact the programme is making.

As a result of the school continuing to offer a one-week block of work experience for all year 10 students and a bespoke programme for Year 12 and Year 13, students are successful in gaining apprenticeships and other career opportunities when they move on after school.

Tutors are delivering a Careers Tutor Programme during tutorial on a weekly basis, following a fortnightly theme. Feedback gathered from students helps to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of topics and activities from non-career specialists.

### Careers Quality

Tendring Technology College has held the [Quality in Careers Standard](#) accreditation for the past 10 years (holding the Essex ROQA Quality Award before it was subsumed into Quality in Careers).

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 *Unifrog* and *Kudos* platforms.

The school is pleased to have been externally assessed as '*achieving the Quality in Careers Standard - fully meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks*,' and 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 is committed to retaining its Quality in Careers accreditation every three years.

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