

Bablake Careers Newsletter Issue 2 (2017- 18)

Welcome to the second edition of the new fortnightly newsletter compiled by Bablake's Careers Department. This is now being emailed to parents and students, while form tutors will also receive a paper copy to display in their classrooms!

New Facilities Update!

You may have seen some carefully composed photographs of the new Careers Centre on Twitter (@bablakecareers)! Our high gloss white and orange theme is no longer a secret, while 19 years of artefacts gathered in the name of delivering careers advice at Bablake eagerly await the spoils of an IKEA delivery next week. Our 'grand opening' will be on Tues. 17th October, the night of Bablake's 'Entry to Sixth Form' evening.

The Right Attitude – Preparing for Tomorrow, Today!

'Be yourself and never apologise for it'

(Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the Green party and MP for Brighton Pavilion)

<https://www.theguardian.com/careers/2017/mar/08/international-womens-day-career-advice-successful-women>

The inspiring advice of Caroline Lucas and other leading women from politics, science, the arts and business in the article above is so relevant for all our pupils.

Writer Jeanette Winterson says: 'Find your interest. Attach it to your energy. Be ruthless with time.' Eminent medic, Prof Nazneen Rahman CBE, suggests: 'Find something you have both a talent for and a passion for. There will be something! Talents and passions change. Change with them.'

So what would advice would Bablake's Careers department offer to all students?

- *Get involved* – every experience of work or a new challenge helps shape future decisions.
- *Be curious about everything & seek/ take opportunities* – expand your intellectual curiosity and extend your network of contacts or knowledge.
- *Work hard* – inspiration, allied with preparation and perspiration, is potent!
- *Don't expect to succeed every time!* Tripping up now and then actually makes you better. Think of the hockey player who misses a tackle or fails to collect a pass – the better players never give up; they ensure their next move is a match-saving or match-winning move.
- *Challenge yourself* – stepping beyond your comfort zone makes you better in every way.
- *Stay ahead of your competitors* – it's better to be a stage ahead than catching up.
- *Play to your strengths* - don't be afraid of making careers choices that link to activities you love.

From Issue 3, we will add a regular 'What advice would you give your 16 year old self' feature – a question we are asking our former pupils. If you would like to contribute to this, please email us!

#18Before18

Don't forget to collect your free 18Before18 planner (designed by The Jade Studio) at break or lunchtime from the Careers Centre. A website for this, with suggestions for year groups on how to choose 18 action points, will be launched fully in the next week.

We mentioned our new initiative - #18Before18 – in Issue 1. By the time you read this, we will have hosted 2 of our 18 Thursday Forums, posted our first former pupil interview and be hastily preparing our second Top Tips sheet – a list of websites for popular professions. Pleasingly, Bablake's English department has hinted it will be adopting a reading initiative based around the idea of #18Before18 across the school.

Thursday Forum Report

'The MMI Experience' – Caitlin Edwards

The first in our series of 18 workshops was a very impressive presentation by former pupil Caitlin on Multiple Mini Interviews. Drawing on her own experience of interviews – converting to medicine after studying for an MA in English and spending 18 months working as an assistant in University Hospital – she gave a detailed account of how to prepare best for interview, suggesting areas to cover in work experience, likely interview questions and how to present yourself.

14 of our Sixth Form students considering degrees in dentistry, medicine and veterinary science, attended and they particularly valued the broad range of possible MMI role plays and stations. One student praised Caitlin for 'some great tips for my application and clarifying the best approach to adopt at interview', while another said how helpful it was to learn from the direct experience of someone who had completed MMIs so recently.

'Cyber Detectives' – EDT/ TCS

Last night Beccy Sanderson, a former Languages graduate and teacher, from the EDT (Engineering Development Trust) ran our first STEM Family Challenge, kindly sponsored by Tata Consultancy Services. After presentations on engineering and cyber security, the highlight of the evening - a cipher challenge – was set in motion, with teams of parents and pupils aiming to crack the code and identify a fictional cyber criminal. A keen 3rd Year team was the first team to solve the problem. Mr Michael Bull (Director of ICT) was delighted to see material from our current ICT curriculum appear during the evening and we thank him for his excellent support for this event.

Forum sessions arranged for later this term are posted later in this newsletter.

Engineering Education Scheme

Thanks to our sponsor companies and the indefatigable endeavour of Head of Design Technology, Mr Chris West, a team of Bablake Sixth Form students – usually aspiring engineers – has participated in the EES for over 20 years. Gold

CREST status, presentation experience, networking potential and practical experience of engineering dilemmas all make this initiative a highly recommended activity that stands out on a CV.

Students apply online and are then interviewed by the DT department. It is excellent to report that four of this year's applicants sought advice from the Careers department on how to ace the interview. We await news of their success!

Correctly, our students see no gender barrier in any profession. This would be welcome news for Helen Jackson, a senior consultant at Arup, who has written this excellent article, 'Clearing the path for tomorrow's female engineers': <https://www.theengineer.co.uk/clearing-the-path-for-tomorrows-female-engineers/>.

Work Experience Review 2017 – Part 1

The final week of our summer term is always set aside for the Lower Sixth to pursue suitable work experience. Some students compile a week of university visits and super-curricular reading, or journalism (The Wheatleyan/ Stretch) and volunteering for our Junior/Senior Sports Days and/or 4th year Enterprise Days. Others use that week, or time later in the summer break, to arrange a traditional work placement.

James H spent a week at Barclays and sent this fascinating report:

'I grasped the chance to undertake a week's work experience at Barclays with various teams involved with preventing or investigating fraud. This was a great experience as it allowed me to gain a working understanding of the in-depth process involved in preventing financial fraud. During the week I sat with fraud operations, RISK and the KYC teams to gain a rounded understanding of the roles they play in the detection and prevention of fraud.

With RISK, I was shown how Barclays uses algorithms to detect likely fraudulent transaction and how these processes are updated to tighten the net on those activities. I was also informed about the very important job of investigating internal fraud to prevent insiders stealing from the bank or from customers.

Under fraud operations, I observed the process when a client reports a fraud case, seeing how this is then investigated to gain an understanding of what really happened and how the fraudsters are exploiting the system for financial gain.

Finally with KYC, I gained an understanding of what goes into making sure documents about Barclays' clients are kept up to date and they know the nature of these companies to ensure they are not associated with potential risks to the bank. This also involved profiling the company to assess whether they pose a potential risk.'

We will feature other students who spent time spent at Barclays and other employers in forthcoming newsletters. Our Lower Sixth will have the opportunity to arrange placements for week commencing 1st July 2018. We advise them to look

now or seek advice on what to investigate, as the best opportunities are usually booked well before Christmas.

Mock Interview Morning 2017

Feedback about the performance of individual students who took part in our 2017 is now available from the Careers Centre. As always, our interviewers were very impressed with the L6th 'candidates' and the advice gained on the day will help our students stay ahead of their peers when they face competitive interviews in the near future.

Aaron Biddle, Chloe Desnos and Anna Elkins share the prize for 'Best Interview Performance'.

The current Lower Sixth should note our 2018 Mock Interview Morning will take place on Saturday June 30th. Please keep that day free from other commitments, as it is a day not to miss!

Staying Ahead!

We appreciate most of these options incur residential costs; where possible, we try to recommend free courses or those that students have previously attended and rated as value for money.

5th Yr Girls: 'Inspire' – a 3 day course at a leading university for those interested in STEM options: <http://www.etrust.org.uk/inspirecourse>. (Deadline: Feb 2nd 2018, although applications before Christmas are encouraged.) (Boys may apply for the Glasgow Caledonian course.) (c£230)

L6th: 'Headstart 2018' – these university courses will suit students interested in science and mathematics: <http://www.headstartcourses.org.uk>. (Deadline: February 2018 – however, since these courses are oversubscribed, we advise an early application.) (Costs vary.)

Medlink Free: <https://medlink-uk.net/medlink-free/>. 18th December (University of Nottingham) (Free, but must book.). (The 2 day Vet/ Medlink Intensive is also available at £295 – students have rated this highly, but it is expensive and does not guarantee a place for medicine. UHCW usually runs a 3 day course in February that is excellent and much cheaper.)

'So you want to be a Doctor': (www.lmi.org.uk). 19th- 20th December (Liverpool Medical Institution) (£175, which is expensive. Those hoping to apply there could see an advantage in attending and impressing.)

Diary Dates – Careers Forum

- *Forum 3: Thurs 12th Oct (1.00- 1.45pm) 'International Citizen Service' – a presentation by former pupil Simrath Dhillon about her voluntary work in Africa. (<https://www.volunteerics.org/>)*

- *Forum 4: Thurs 19th Oct (1.00- 1.45pm) 'Directing a West End stage show' - former school captain Hannah Elsy will reflect on her current experience as a director of a stage production, 'The Quenton Denton Show'.*

These presentations take place in the Careers Centre and are limited to 15 students. Please see Mr Woodward in person or email mgw@bablake.coventry.sch.uk to reserve a place.

Exciting sessions on social enterprise (an exciting homelessness campaign in Manchester), geology, estate management and life as an author are already booked for after half term.

Diary Dates – External Events

All these events are free, but you must book.

- 'The Lawyer Portal Aspire': www.thelawyerportal.com/event/the-lawyer-portal-aspire/. Sunday 1st October. (Warwick School.) An insight into Law.
- 'Health Sciences Fair': <https://medlink-uk.net/medical-and-health-science-fair/>. Monday 2nd October. (Kensington Town Hall)
- What Career/ University Live? www.whatcareerlive.co.uk. 6th- 7th October (Olympia, London). This show is also hosted in Birmingham and Liverpool in March, but the October show would suit U6th students looking at alternatives to university.
- The Skills Show: www.skillsshow.com. 16- 18th November (NEC, Birmingham)
- International Education Week: <http://www.iweek.com/>. Coming in March 2018.

Inspirational Former Pupils

- *Laura Needham*, who left the relative comforts of the corporate world for life as a yoga teacher, features in our #BablakePupilsEverywhere series: <https://bablakecareers.tumblr.com/post/165775795568/the-yoga-teacher>.
- *Enyi Ogbuneke* (a 4th year Chemical Engineering student at the University of Manchester) has launched a homelessness project: 'Love for the Streets'. He will visit Bablake in November to talk about how he set up his campaign and investigate how our Sixth Form might support Coventry's homeless.
- *Frank Sackey* should be an inspiration to those looking to play sport at a professional level. He has recently trained with Ghana's rugby team and we look forward to seeing him gain a professional cap in the very near future.
- 'Student Minds' CEO *Rosie Tressler* has been listed as 46th in the Wonkhe Higher Education Power List 2017, one place above Malala! We look forward to inviting Rosie back to Bablake to talk about her dynamic work and what inspired to take this path.

Advance Notice – Appeal for Assistance!

Bablake's Careers department would not be able to offer such strong guidance without the support of our parents and former pupils.

It is a few years since we formally canvassed for support for our pupils, but we are preparing a web page where parents may be able to offer assistance or contacts for key aspects of our guidance delivery: e.g. Mock Interview Morning, Careers Convention, work experience, Careers Forum sessions, mentoring and/or guest blogs.

More news in Issue 3!

In The Post!

- Potential medics must read the ISC Medical Schools Survey Report 2017, which summarises medical schools' entry requirements:
<https://www.isc.co.uk/media/4480/medical-schools-survey-report-2018-entry-final-version.pdf>
- 'Step into the NHS' competition: <http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.co.uk>. Suits 2nd and 3rd years.
- 'Technicians make it happen' promotion: <http://www.technicians.org.uk>.
- The MTC Apprenticeship programme, 'Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers': <http://www.the-amtc.co.uk/myfuture>.
- UCAS Tariff info:
<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/new-ucas-tariff-everything-you-need-to-know>
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/ucas-undergraduate-tariff-points>

Top Tips

Our second sheet of Top Tips – Useful Websites for over 30 professions – will be published next week. There will be a digital copy on our Careers website.

We look forward to working with you over the year and welcome comments about our newsletters.

Mark Woodward

Twitter @bablakecareers

Facebook www.facebook.com/bablakecareers

Website www.2morrow-2day.com

LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/markwoodward

Blog <http://bablakecareers.tumblr.com/>

*Issue 3!
Sneak Preview!*

- A link to our interview with former pupil Bethan Mordey, whose year out from Portsmouth University was spent as an internee at Warner Bros.
- Focus on... 5th Year – a summary of the guidance we will be offering this term: free Psychometric test (via Fast Tomato), individual Careers Review, 2017 CV Challenge.
- Further reflections on our current U6th's summer work experience.

#18BEFORE18

All Years!

Please choose 18 activities or targets to make you stand out this year?!

For example:

- *Further qualifications (driving, First Aid, music, drama, LAMDA, MOOCs)*
- *Websites to investigate*
- *Books, newspapers, magazines to read*
- *Open days, Insight days, work experience placements to attend/ organise*
- *Cocurricular clubs*
- *Team events – House, sport, charity*
- *Volunteering*
- *Part-time work, entrepreneurial activity*
- *Leadership*
- *Competitions*

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18