



ISSUE 3 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Welcome to Issue 3 of our new fortnightly Careers Newsletter, which is not only emailed to all parents and students, but also posted on tutor group noticeboards. You will surely notice a superb design makeover for this edition too – thank you, Mrs Mair (Reprographics) for the radical revamp and redesign!**

## The Right Attitude... Part 2

In Issue 2, we offered students advice on how to stay ahead of the rest. We urged them to get involved, be curious, seek opportunities, work hard, show resilience when they trip up, play to strengths and challenge themselves.

We also asked what advice parents and former pupils might have given to their 16 year old self. Old Wheat Paul Burke (90-97), now a learning and development specialist for Paraxel, a pharmaceuticals company based in Tokyo, wrote:

“Surround yourself with the right people – your best network will involve those who are at the top of their game, have in-depth knowledge and experience, are passionate about their actions and, as well as excelling, are committed to excellence.”

The importance of networking to the highest level possible is perfectly encapsulated in Paul’s words.

We would add that seeking fulfilment rather than success is easier to measure, attain and enjoy. Bablake students always have been and always will be surrounded by excellent peers. First place cannot be won by everyone each year, but competition for the top spot or testing your upper limit is excellent good practice.

An A\* for professionalism, resilience, perspiration, innovation, curiosity, belief, patience and courage may be as valuable as public examination grades for many routes after formal education.

### Half term already? Really?

Is it really possible half term is just a week away? It has been a hectic first 8 weeks.

We are delighted with our new Careers facilities - very much an IKEA and Amazon-sponsored space – and our Maintenance team has worked stoically over the last few weeks to allow us to be ready to open our doors proudly to current and prospective parents at the opening of our Sixth Form Centre.

We have held two Careers Forums in the new room, answered a good number of individual enquiries and now look forward to involving new technology more in the second half of the term when we should have the facility to project onto the walls.

*Don't forget to collect your free #18Before18 planner - designed by The Jade Studio & Mollie O'Sullivan.*



### **CAREERS FORUM (3) – ‘International Citizen Service’**

Former pupil Simrath Dhillon, now a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year veterinary science student kindly delivered a super session highlighting her experiences earlier this year in Togo, a French-speaking West African nation on the Gulf of Ghana, as part of the ICS programme – a scheme fully funded by the government, although you are urged to fundraise £800 - £1500 before departure!

Simrath, who was hosted by a family in Atakpame during her placement, was part of a group of 8 volunteers. They ran English and Health clubs for local children and even spent some of their time working with prisoners in the local jail. Summarising the benefits she gained from ICS, Simrath said: a) she had wanted a change and a challenge; b) she had gained many of the skills employers value most – a new language, leadership roles etc; c) she had immersed herself in a new community and met new people; and d) there was no worry about paying money for the scheme.

All ICS placements help develop a series of sustainable goals to be achieved by 2030. Another former pupil Mwelwa Mukwashi, who completed a programme in Honduras a few years ago, said she had the time of her life during her 10 week placement.



We suspect that those who have completed or signed up for NCS after their GCSEs would adapt well to the rigours of this programme.

For further information on ICS, please see [www.volunteerics.org.uk](http://www.volunteerics.org.uk).

## 5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR GUIDANCE

Choosing options beyond GCSE is an important time for our Y11 pupils. Narrowing to 3 subjects for A level (plus a Bablake Advantage option) does not necessarily narrow options for life, but a lot of care and guidance is necessary during this process.

Heads of year (Mrs French – 5<sup>th</sup>; Mrs Tumber – 6<sup>th</sup>), subject tutors, form tutors and heads of departments are all able to assist, but you may be interested to know what official Careers department input there will be this term especially.

1. All pupils will undertake a *psychometric test* (free) via the 'Fast Tomato' website. The report they receive can then be interpreted online and there are excellent links from this software.
2. Before the end of this term, each pupil will receive a *15/20 minute initial review* with Mr Woodward to discuss their options. With the 'Fast Tomato' report at hand, he will talk about their aspirations, talents outside the classroom et al. There is no limit to the number of times pupil may then come back and discuss their decisions after this initial review.
3. Students will receive information about Bablake's 2017 5<sup>th</sup> Year CV Challenge on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for submission will be Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.

Next term, on Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup> (6 – 9pm), we will be hosting our biennial *Careers Convention*, so please book that day now in your diaries.

Attending 'The Skills Show', or similar, helps too.

Don't be afraid of choosing new challenges or subjects you already enjoy and are good at. If there are aspirations for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or any form of engineering, then please research carefully any suitable entry requirements.

*The Prospects* ([www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)) website is excellent at suggesting post university routes for most subjects.

## IN THE POST

### Apprenticeships

- Degree apprenticeships – a recent TES weblink: <https://www.tes.com/news/further-education/breaking-news/details-new-degree-apprenticeships-revealed>. Coventry, Newcastle and Warwick are among the partners offering these courses.
- 'The Law Apprenticeships Guide 2018' – [www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net). (Free copies)
- MGTS – information about applying for an engineering apprenticeship: [www.mgts.co.uk/apprenticeship](http://www.mgts.co.uk/apprenticeship). Training providers like MGTS or PET-Xi will ensure you are employed by a company while being taught.

### Gap Year Options

#### General

- [www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com)
- <http://www.yearoutgroup.org/>

#### Specific Companies

- [www.frontier.ac.uk](http://www.frontier.ac.uk)

### Miscellaneous

- 'The Beginner's Guide to a Careers in Law 2018' - [www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net). (Free copies)
- 'Moving On' magazine – also online via <http://movingonmagazine.co.uk/>.

### Taster Days

- 'Medicine Taster Day' at the University of Liverpool. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. (£35) **RECOMMENDED!**
- Virtual Insight Event with PWC: <http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/Events/ShowEvent/Virtual-event-Discover-Tech-PwC/876315>. 25th October (3pm - 4pm)

## CAREERS FORUM

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 1pm (Careers Centre)

Former school captain Hannah Elsy will be talking about her experience directing a musical at The Fringe and in London's West End.

*Suiting 3rds and above?*



## ...AND AFTER HALF TERM

Thursday Careers Forum Sessions

16<sup>th</sup> November: Enyi Ogbuneke (Social Enterprise).

23<sup>rd</sup> November: Dr Catherine Russell (Geology).

30<sup>th</sup> November: Lauren James (Author and Scientist).

7<sup>th</sup> December: Professor David Higgins – Birmingham City University (A Career in Property – More Than Bricks and Mortar).

Email [mgw@bablake.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:mgw@bablake.coventry.sch.uk) to book a place!  
Bring your lunch. Squash and biscuits provided!

## IN YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – AG Careers Live (9.30am - 3.00pm) (Telford International Centre) (Free?)
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November – 'Pilot Careers Live/ Aviation Careers Zone' (10am – 4.30pm) (London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5)
- **BABLAKES CAREERS CONVENTION** – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February (6pm - 8.30pm)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – 'International Education' week: Study Abroad fair at Bablake during registration (5<sup>th</sup> year) and Life Choices (L6th). (*Provisional date*)

## ISSUE 4 – SNEAK PREVIEW!

- Links to our latest blogs and 18 Tips sheets.
- We will be canvassing parents about how their dynamic network could be utilised to assist our students in their decisions.
- Case Study: Engineering Apprentice – Ben Turnbull
- Advice for new Physics graduates/ budding scientists – Physics World October '17.

## SCHOOL INFO

### Mr Mark Woodward

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