



Mrs Amanda O'Donnell is the new Careers Lead for Ninestiles, an Academy.

"I am excited to be working with the students and colleagues at Ninestiles. My role is to ensure all students have access to the right advice and guidance based on their aspirations and abilities. I attended Ninestiles as a student many years ago, and it's nice to be back!"

Welcome to the first Careers and Post 16 Newsletter for this academic year. The aim of this newsletter is to support learners and their parents/carers through this year and onto the next exciting stage of their education, whether it is onto Sixth Form, college or the world of work. We hope that you find the information enclosed to be useful in helping secure a successful transition from Ninestiles, An Academy.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

The government wants all young people to continue to gain qualifications once they leave school at 16 so the law has been changed and all young people are required to stay in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. Your child does, however, have a choice as to how they continue in education or training, and this could be through:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering as long as this is combined with part-time education or training.
- An Apprenticeship or Traineeship

Any young person who does not achieve a level 4 in Maths and English at school, will have to continue to study these subjects up until the end of their 18th birthday and this will be alongside their above choice of study.

Careers Support in School

Q. Who can I go to for help & support regarding careers in school?

A. Everyone! All staff are here to help; if they don't know, they will find out or point you in the right direction. Just Ask! [Careers Quiz | UCAS](#)

Mrs O'Donnell is the Careers Leader amanda.odonnell@ninestiles.org.uk - email anytime!

Careers Interviews

Careers interviews run throughout Year 11 with our **Independent Careers Advisor** and are available to all Year 11 learners so if your child would like an early interview, they should speak to Mrs O'Donnell or their tutor to arrange an appointment. Once learners have had a careers interview, they will receive a 'Careers Action Plan' via their tutor which will detail what was discussed during the interview and list the actions or next steps that they should be taking. Learners can also see Mrs O'Donnell if they have any concerns or queries. This includes help on college applications, CVs, applying for apprenticeships or any other queries that they may have.

Career Ideas

www.nationalcareersservice.gov.uk 'Job Profiles' section of the National Careers Service website is a useful tool for learners to investigate different jobs and careers.

In particular, learners should look at the entry requirements to ensure that their career choices are realistic. Other useful websites are: www.icould.com and [Careers Quiz | UCAS](#)

Applying to College or Sixth Form

As mentioned above, learners should aim to apply to college during the Autumn term so they can secure their place early and then concentrate on getting the best GCSE outcomes possible. There are many different courses that learners can apply for and these usually depend on the grades that they achieve in Year 11. Most colleges and courses have entry requirements, and these can be found on college websites or by visiting college open events. Generally, if learners are likely to achieve 5 GCSE grade 4/5 or above, including some grade 6s, then they can apply to do a Level 3 course such as a BTEC Extended Diploma, T Levels or A Levels. If expected grades are below this, learners can apply for a Level 2 or a Level 1 course. Some courses such as Motor Vehicle Maintenance or Construction may start at a Level 1 regardless of the grades achieved. We suggest that learners research colleges and sixth forms by attending open events and looking at their websites. It is recommended that learners apply to 2 or 3 different colleges/sixth forms to keep their options open. A list of upcoming open events is below, and this is updated throughout Year 11. If learners need further support with regards to this, please ask them to see Mrs O'Donnell in school, or parents/carers can email Mrs O'Donnell on amanda.odonnell@ninesfiles.org.uk

School Reference

Learners need to maintain good attendance, good punctuality and a good attitude to learning during Year 11 to ensure that they receive a good school reference. All colleges, sixth forms and employers will look at attendance and school references when deciding whether to make offers.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a great opportunity for young people to work for a real employer, earn a salary and achieve a recognised qualification while gaining invaluable work experience and skills. Whilst there is no set entry criteria for apprenticeships, entry requirements do vary and depend on the individual company. Many are looking for GCSEs grade 4/5 or above including Maths and English but not all.

Most apprenticeships are advertised on the government's website - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. Learners need to create an account which allows them to search and apply for any vacancies that they are interested in. Realistically, most apprenticeships that are open to school leavers are advertised from around March onwards, although some of the bigger companies will open their schemes earlier as they have a more rigorous application process. Learners can set up email or text alerts for when new vacancies appear.

The Amazing Apprenticeship website is also a great resource for both parents/carers and learners who want to find out more about apprenticeships or T levels. The website address is <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

We must, however, stress that apprenticeships are highly competitive, so we suggest that all learners also apply to college or sixth form as a back-up.

Upcoming Dates and Open Events for Colleges and Sixth Forms

****The below information is subject to change so please check with the college before attending. **Most colleges insist that places are booked or reserved online prior to attendance ******

King Edwards VI Camp Hill for Boys King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys - Sixth Form Open Evening (camphillboys.bham.sch.uk)	Thursday 2 November 2023: 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Ninestiles Career Fair	November TBC
Cadbury Open Days Cadbury Sixth Form College (cadcol.ac.uk) College	Open Evening Thursday 12th October
BOA BOA Imagine Everything - Home (boa-academy.co.uk)	Thursday 12th October Year 12 entry
Solihull Sixth Form College Solihull Sixth Form College: Post 16 education, A Levels and BTECs — Solihull Sixth Form College (solihullsf.ac.uk)	Saturday 21 October 9.30am – 3.30pm Last entry at 2.30pm – timed entry tickets (every 15 minutes)
Birmingham Metropolitan College Vocational Courses - Courses For School Leavers - Birmingham (bmet.ac.uk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 14th October – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm • Wednesday 15th November – 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Joseph Chamberlain College Joseph Chamberlain – Sixth Form College (jcc.ac.uk)	Open Day 21 October 10:00 am
UCB College open days University College Birmingham (ucb.ac.uk)	Saturday 7 th October
South and City College /Bournville College South and City College Birmingham - Part-Time, Full-Time & Apprenticeship Courses (sccb.ac.uk)	TBC Keep checking website
Stratford-Upon-Avon College 16 to 19 - Stratford-upon-Avon College	Saturday 14 th October 23 10am – 2pm
WMG Engineering Academy Solihull https://solihull.wmgacademy.org.uk	Open Day – Saturday 21st October – book your place here .
Arden Academy Sixth Form Sixth Form » Arden Academy	Date/ Time to be confirmed. Keep checking website
Alderbrook Sixth Form Sixth Form - Alderbrook School	Date/Time to be confirmed. Keep checking website
Solihull Collegewebsite..mfield and Woodlands Campuses www.solihull.ac.uk	Saturday 25 th November 10am – 2pm
King Edwards VI Camp Hill for Girls King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls - Sixth Form (kechg.org.uk)	Virtual Tour is available on the KECHG website. November 2023. Date/ Time to be confirmed. Keep checking website.

Useful Careers Websites:

Research career ideas: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

To search and apply for apprenticeships or traineeships use <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
<https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/> <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>.

Other Useful Websites:

www.ucas.com www.icould.com <https://targetcareers.co.uk/> <https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/>

List the Sixth Forms and Colleges you are interested in visiting and applying to. Keep checking the websites for open events and ensure you book yourself on if required to do so.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

Year 11 IS important! NEXT Steps. PPE Exams, Sixth Form, College, T levels, A levels, BTEC's, University.

FOCUS from September as your PPEs MATTER.

Remember you can apply to more than one institution.

Go for interviews and then decide.

Parental support is equally important as the support students get from school.

Did you know?

Research shows that parental engagement in careers is important to facilitate and/or expand opportunities for young people to draw upon a variety of sources & experiences to help with their career decisions. Parents have a vital part to play. Year 11 parents and carers will be sent a letter explaining how to support their child over the next coming months.

Right click & open hyper link for some useful information.

[Qualifications Ladder and Job levels NS \(1\).pdf](#)

[LMI Guide - MY WAY Into The World Of Work \(1\)](#)

[PARENTSANDCARERS-2022-A4-4pp](#)