



# Careers Newsletter

## Happy Easter

Issue 3  
March 2024

### Welcome to Issue 3 of our School Careers Newsletter

Top Tip  
Plan ahead for work  
experience:  
**ASK EARLY!**

### What's Coming Up:

Date	Event
26th April	UCAS Convention (Yr13)
14th May	QUB Junior Academy (Yr9)
17-21 June	Work Experience (Yr11)

This term we hosted some of the most significant events in our careers calendar. From our highly anticipated annual careers fair to intensive Interview Skills workshops tailored for our Year 14 and Year 12 students, it's been a whirlwind of activity aimed at preparing our students for the next steps in their journeys.

In addition to these events, our school community has been engaged in a number of enriching activities and workshops. Our partnership with Young Enterprise has provided invaluable insights into entrepreneurship and business acumen through immersive workshops. Furthermore, our Year 10 and Year 12 students have navigated through crucial decision-making processes during our Options events, selecting their GCSEs and A-Levels with informed guidance and support.

We also took a moment to celebrate International Women's Day by participating in a Women in STEM event held at W5. Moreover, our Psychology students had the privilege of hosting a guest speaker from Queen's University Belfast, offering them a unique perspective into the world of academia and research. Additionally, our Year 13 Business students honed their skills at a Catalyst workshop, gaining practical insights and strategies to excel in the dynamic world of business and entrepreneurship.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the newsletter as we continue to navigate the exciting journey of education and careers together. Here's to a future brimming with endless possibilities. Enjoy the read!

Ms G Ferguson

### Celebrating Women In STEM:

Empowering, enlightening, and utterly inspiring – these were just some of the sentiments echoed by a group of Year 12 female students as they embarked on a day of celebration at W5. This event served as a platform for our students to immerse themselves in the world of STEM while celebrating the achievements of women and girls in these fields.

The highlight of the day was the opportunity to hear from a panel of remarkable women who are trailblazers in their respective industries across the Belfast Harbour Estate. From maritime engineering to corporate leadership, each speaker shared their unique journey, insights, and experiences, leaving an indelible mark on the minds of our young learners.

In addition to the talks, students had the opportunity to explore 'Inspiration Stations' showcasing exciting careers in STEM, the maritime industry, and more. From interactive exhibits to hands-on activities, the students were able to gain firsthand insight into the diverse array of career pathways available to them.

Overall, the day proved to be a transformative experience for our Year 12 students, igniting their curiosity, ambition, and determination to pursue their dreams fearlessly. As they left W5 full of inspiration and minds buzzing with possibilities, one thing became clear – the future of STEM is female, and the sky's the limit for these bright young minds.



### What's Been Happening:

Date	Event
25th January	Young Enterprise Workshop(Yr 11) Year 10 and Year 12 Options Event
30th January	Interview Skills Workshop (Yr 14)
29th February	Annual Careers Fair (Yr10-14)
11th March	Interview Skills Workshop (Yr 12)
13th March	Catalyst Workshop (Yr 13)
14th March	Young Enterprise Workshop (Yr 10)
17th March	Women In Stem @W5 (Yr 12)
19th March	QUB Psychology Guest Speaker
20th March	Young Enterprise Masterclass

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## Breda Students Excel at Young Enterprise Masterclass



Travel & Tourism and Business students from Years 11 and 12 were invited to attend a Young Enterprise event at Lisburn's Lagan Valley Island. This masterclass involved students having to come up with an idea that they could incorporate into society. Once they put their idea down on paper, each group had to complete a presentation where all members had to inform the audience about their idea. Judges then selected first and second place winners. Students who achieved first place each received a £20 gift voucher and second place winners each received a £10 gift voucher.

We were also fortunate to be invited to have a private viewing of the Chambers. Students were allowed to sit in the seats and Councillor John Laverty (BEM) spoke to the students about the election process and the importance of their voice when it comes to their time to vote.

All in all, both staff and students had a really enjoyable and informative time.



## Celebrating Success: Highlights From Our Annual Careers Fair

Our school community came together in full force for our highly anticipated Annual Careers Fair, and what a day it was! With over 45 local employers, colleges, universities, and training organizations in attendance, the event was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on students, staff, and parents alike.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the fair was witnessing the enthusiasm and engagement of our students. From Year 10 to Year 14, they approached each booth with curiosity and eagerness to learn about various career paths and opportunities. Their behavior, manners, and genuine interest were commended by employers, who were impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm displayed by our students throughout the event.

The feedback from our esteemed guests echoed the sentiment of pride and optimism for the future. Employers noted the remarkable qualities exhibited by our students, highlighting their exceptional behavior, manners, and genuine interest in exploring different career avenues. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, as well as the supportive environment fostered within our school community.

Moreover, the presence of familiar faces added an extra layer of warmth and inspiration to the event. Past pupils returned, representing their respective companies and sharing their experiences since graduating from our school. It was heartening to see the tangible impact our education has had on their journeys and to witness the success stories that have emerged from our alumni network.

The Careers Fair served as a valuable platform for students to gain insights into various industries, explore career options, and network with professionals. Whether they were considering further education, apprenticeships, or entering the workforce directly, the fair



## Empowering Students: Interview Skills Workshop

Led by Interview Skills Coach Kevin O'Reilly, our Interview Skills Day for our Year 12 and Year 14 students aimed to provide them with invaluable tools and insights to navigate the competitive world of job interviews and applications. The morning began with a focus on Communication Skills, where students engaged in interactive exercises to refine their verbal and non-verbal communication techniques. After a break, the session shifted to the importance of a Social Media Cleanse, emphasizing the need for a professional online presence. This followed with application form preparation, guiding students on effectively showcasing their qualifications. Students exhibited enthusiasm and commitment, demonstrating a readiness to navigate future interviews and applications with confidence.

In the afternoon, the excitement continued as we hosted over 20 local businesses who generously volunteered their time to deliver mock interviews to our students. What an incredible opportunity for real-world practice and feedback!

A big thank you to all local businesses that supported this event.

