



HOW DOES WESTON COLLEGE MEASURE UP AGAINST THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS?

In December 2017, the Department for Education (DfE) released the national strategy for careers guidance ‘Careers strategy: making the most of everyone’s skills and talents’.

The objective of this strategy is to raise the standards of careers education across the UK. The main element of the strategy and what is being described as the standard of excellence are the eight Gatsby Benchmarks. The below outlines how the College matches itself against these benchmarks.

1	A STABLE CAREERS PROGRAMME	Weston College learners are provided with numerous opportunities to access information, advice and guidance and careers education throughout their time at the College. The College has also designed its own careers portal to ensure learners can explore and access careers information and resources. This comprehensive programme of careers for all learners can be found on the College's website.
2	LEARNING FROM CAREER AND LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION	It is essential that our curriculum respond to the needs of industry and aligns itself with both regional and national priorities. The College works closely with the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, the local authority to not only design our curriculum but provide comprehensive information to help inform careers resources and displays and ensure employers from relevant industries attend college careers events.
3	ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT	Weston College learners build up a strong relationship with personal tutors and have weekly contact sessions and tutorials, where they discuss and encourage learners to research and plan for their next steps. The careers programme takes into account the differing needs of learners and Careers Advisers are always able to provide informed and impartial advice and guidance.
4	LINKING CURRICULUM LEARNING TO CAREERS	Weston College ensures careers is heavily embedded into curriculum through its design, as well as industry professionals and experts delivering programmes who can therefore link learning to real work experiences. Initiatives such as the Aspirations Budget, support employer talks and visits and a comprehensive blend of work experience and work-related learning opportunities. On top of this, all level 3 learners at the College are enrolled onto the Futures Academy.
5	ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES	Employer talks and live briefs are a regular part of a college learner's study programme. Depending on the type of programme, whether it be full-time, apprenticeship etc. learners are regularly given the opportunity to engage employers. All college learners are timetabled to attend the College's annual Brighter Futures Fayre, where employers from a wide range of sectors exhibit and promote their opportunities/careers to college learners.
6	EXPERIENCES OF WORKPLACES	All college learners are given the opportunity to take up a work experience placement, of which a growing number now require learners to complete at least one week of placement, or in some cases a 300+ hour industry placement is a compulsory element of their programme. Many learners come to college already undertaking part-time or full-time employment and they are given the opportunity to relate learning to this and evaluate this experience.
7	ENCOUNTERS WITH FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION	Universities and training providers attend the College's own Brighter Futures Fayre where learners can gather information and ask questions about their provision. The College own university centre (UCW) and training solutions team (apprenticeships) support tutorials, parents' evenings and much more. The College also takes all level 3 learners to the local UCAS Convention and provides curriculum with a small budget to put on their own bespoke trips to universities.
8	PERSONAL GUIDANCE	All college learners have access to a highly qualified and experienced team of careers advisers and staff, as well as access to licenced programmes, such as Kudos and others and the College's own online careers library. Learners also have comprehensive tutorial programmes centred on careers and employability embedded into their study programmes. In addition to this, the National Careers Service attend the College on a weekly basis to provide careers advice to adults within the local community. Weston College holds the Matrix standard for advice and guidance.