

Careers Information, Advice & Guidance

For every pupil, making the right choices is crucial to a fulfilling and rewarding life. At Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form, our careers service equips pupils with the information, guidance and assistance they need to define their next steps.

Careers and university – come and talk to us

A complete advice service

The Careers Department offers a whole host of services designed to help pupils understand the opportunities open to them and to make the most of them.

As well as advice on careers and applying to university we offer information about BTEC courses, apprenticeships and fully funded degree opportunities. We also offer guidance about, work experience and enterprise.

Work experience

Work experience is a fantastic way for every pupil to explore their potential and capabilities. It is also an advantage when the time comes to write their CV's and personal statements.

At Stoke Newington our students benefit from a two week work experience placement in Y10 and again in sixth form in Y12. In Y10 students are encouraged to find their own placement but can also choose from a list provided by Inspire our Education Business Partners. We pay Inspire to check the health and safety of every placement. In sixth form the students source and undertake their own work experience placement.

Careers Fair

For pupils looking to explore what opportunities are open to them, or to learn more about a chosen career path, the Careers Department hosts a Y10 Careers Speed Networking Event each year. Students get the opportunity to network informally with a wide range of more than 50 professionals, in order to gain an insight into various professions.

Taster Day

In Y11 students attend a sixth form Taster Day to learn about SNS sixth form provision and alternative courses at local sixth form colleges.

Trips & Opportunities

The Careers team organise a range of trips and opportunities for students to discover or build on their passions, with a range of bespoke and tailored programme of subject appropriate excursions. Year 7 Cambridge and Oxford Aspiration Raising Trips. These have been proven to have a positive effect on students in their first year at secondary school. Year 8 GCSE Option Ready trips to a range of London universities, to enable students to make informed and sensible decisions about their GCSE choices. Year 9 targeted GCSE to A level to Career mentoring trips. Year 10 Work Experience and Careers Speed Networking. Year 11 one to one Post 16 interviews. Taster Day with sixth form alternative provision. In Sixth Form Work Experience, Careers Networking Day, Summer Schools, Medical Day.

Careers Department opening hours

The Careers Department is open throughout the school year. We run an after school drop in every evening from 3.15-4.15pm to help students with college applications. Plus an in school drop in for SEND (special needs and disabled) students every Tuesday from 2-3pm. We actively encourage pupils to drop in and browse through our range of university prospectuses and brochures to help inform their choices.

Preparing for a life ahead

The encouragement of aspiration

At SNS, encouragement of pupils' aspirations is central to everything we do – in terms of their school life, their university choices and their career preferences.

It is a key function of the Careers team to ensure that every pupil is encouraged to explore the limits of their passions and curiosity in order to make the most informed decisions about where they see their futures lie.

Not just for Sixth Form

Although careers and university advice is usually sought by pupils in the Sixth Form, at SNS, we believe that every pupil should seek to find their passion early on in their time here. For this reason, we invite everyone to use this service to help them understand what might be available to them in the years ahead.

Post 16 advice

The SNS ethos is very much about helping every pupil explore their passion to enable them to lead an enriching and fulfilling life. For some, this may not include an A level pathway, for others the pursuit of a BTEC, vocational or apprenticeship route.

Applying for university

At SNS, our aim is that every pupil should gain a place at their first choice university. This means that the most significant role of the Careers Department is to offer advice with regard to universities and degree courses.

A degree without Fees?

Degree apprenticeships offer students the chance to gain a degree while working and have all their university fees paid for by their employer and the government. They are an excellent opportunity for anyone who is looking at a degree subject such as engineering, IT, finance or law.

This is an excellent summary of the what, where and how of degree apprenticeships:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>

Use the websites mentioned above, to find vacancies or try UCAS who have introduced a [Career Finder](#) which has apprenticeship - including degree apprenticeship - vacancies.

Help with personal statements

Today, a core component of applications to UK universities is the personal statement, a detailed account showing why the pupil is interested in the course they wish to study and to talk of recent achievements. This is a notoriously onerous task and one which should be given a lot of thought and careful consideration. We encourage our pupils to start writing the personal statement at the end of the Y12, and to ask their personal tutor to read and comment on several drafts of this statement.

Additional resources

As well as offering core guidance on careers, the department also advises on work experience, working abroad and effective gap years. It houses an extensive library of books and prospectuses relating to universities and colleges in the UK.

For Apprenticeship information: Vacancies can be found on the government's [Find an Apprenticeship](#) service, as well as the [CLC Building Futures](#) website which has a Weekly Opportunities bulletin focusing on London.

We use a range of online careers tools with students. <http://icould.com/> a simple online quiz to get students thinking about careers. In Y7-8 <http://www.plotr.co.uk/> which literally helps students plot their career pathway. Y9-10 <https://www.unifrog.org/> a complete Post 16 and Post 18 online platform which lists every university, college and apprenticeship course in the UK. Y12-13

Essential information for careers and university

The links below will provide pupils with more information about applying for university:

- [The Fulbright Commission](#)
- [Universities & Colleges Admissions Service \(UCAS\)](#)
- [UCAS presentation](#)
- [Mentoring scheme](#)
- [Obtaining past exam results](#)
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