



CHELTENHAM  
LADIES'  
COLLEGE

# HIGHER EDUCATION CAREERS PROGRAMME

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Throughout the school we offer a comprehensive programme of activities, events and talks designed to enable students to make the decisions which are right for them. Sessions are run in an engaging, enlightening, and fun way. We work on developing skills of self-analysis and independent research. We also work on professional transferable skills, understanding of the world of work and awareness of the wide variety of routes open to students. Our goal is to ensure students are well-informed and able to make sensible decisions as we support them in their well-considered choices at GCSE, A Level, IB, university subjects and in their careers.

### **LC1/Year 7**

In LC1 (Year 7) the focus for students is on getting to know their own skills and to understand the complexity of different organisations. Students are introduced to various careers and encouraged to consider their strengths with a view to developing thoughts and ideas around their futures. This is approached through a session titled 'What am I good at?' as well as meeting a range of departments from within College to fully appreciate the variety of roles which make up a large organisation. Students are also introduced to the Unifrog online platform as a tool to help research choices.

### **LC2/Year 8**

In LC2 (Year 8) the aim is to develop students' understanding of key skills, self-development and to understand how this can be achieved at College. We also look further into the complexity of different companies and specific roles within them. In addition a session is run where students look at different environments to work in.

The popular Mary Poppins session takes students through an exercise to get them to consider and appreciate skills and competencies needed for particular jobs. Work continues on Unifrog to research different opportunities and a lively 'Balloon Debate' with external speakers demonstrates different fields of work.

### **LC3/Year 9**

LC3 (Year 9) gives us the opportunity to talk about understanding the choices available to students as this is the year when GCSE subject choices are made. During this year, the aim is to get students to understand the rewards and challenges of particular jobs and roles and the skills required through a session entitled 'What is my job all about'. We also start thinking about the Labour Market and use a mind map to link interests to possible future careers.

We take a trip out to visit a local company so students can see an organisation 'at work' and to gain first-hand experience of the workplace.

Students visit the PGC for 1-1 appointments where they have individual guidance on GCSE subject choices.

## **UC4 / Year 10**

In UC4 (Year 10) we welcome a local company to College to run a real-life workshop developing teamworking skills, presenting, problem-solving and project management. Through the Enrichment programme students consider what is important to them, employment skills and challenged to consider degree subjects and careers they may not have previously thought of. Students are also encouraged to record their competencies via the Unifrog platform, thus highlighting their skills for employability.

## **UC5 / Year 11**

Students start UC5 (Year 11) with the My Future Choice psychometric test, after which they have a follow up 1-1 interview with an independent careers adviser. This exercise helps them choose their immediate next steps in terms of Sixth Form choices but also gives them a chance to look ahead to possible career options. A session on what you want from your career and workplace allows students to reflect on their skills, how to upskill and the implications of their Sixth Form choices for which they meet with Head of Year and members of the PGC. As well as a session on interview skills, students also have time set aside on Unifrog to aid their choices.

After their GCSEs, all students are encouraged to obtain some form of work experience whether this is through College or through personal contacts.

## **SFC1 / Year 12**

SFC1 (Year 12) starts with students settling into new routines and studying fewer subjects, which for some will be new, and moves on to looking ahead to life after school. Each student in Year 12 is invited to a 1-1 meeting with a member of the PGC as they start to consider their HE and Career options in greater focus.

Events during Year 12 include a trip to a university fair, in-house What's Next events which include talks from universities, time with subject teachers to work on personal statements, presentations from employers sharing information about their industries, and a talk about taking a Gap Year. We also hold a popular Law Day introducing students to various aspects of Law and culminates in a mock trial.

Comprehensive preparation programmes are followed by students considering applying to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Psychology, Law and to universities in America.

Students also have opportunities to visit university open days.

## **SFC2 / Year 13**

Throughout SFC2 (Year 13) the focus is on applications for the next stage in the student's journey, whether that is for higher or further education in the UK or abroad, apprenticeships or gap year activities. Full support is provided, tailored to the individual's particular circumstances. Practice interviews are offered and through teaching departments preparation for university admissions tests is provided.

## **All Year Groups**

Events are hosted throughout the school year to enhance our provision. These include talks from universities (both in the UK and abroad) and also presentations from employers who highlight opportunities for apprenticeships as well as graduate entry routes. A separate Apprenticeships talk is offered internally. For UC5 / Year 11 upwards, Networking Events are organised to enable students to chat informally with visitors from a range of different industries. CV writing workshops are also offered.

During National Careers Week the focus is put on linking curriculum learning to careers. Careers displays are enjoyed by students in all subject areas as they move around the school helping to make careers come alive.

In addition to the work the PGC carries out with students, College's Guild Office also organise networking events both in person and online for students to learn more about various professions and the world of work.

The department circulates a weekly newsletter to students highlighting upcoming opportunities.

Advice, guidance, and support is tailored to the needs of each individual through a team of highly experienced and qualified advisers.