

Careers at PPC Newsletter



Careers Newsletter 1

September 2020

Thank you for reading this newsletter and welcome to the Careers department. We routinely send one newsletter per term to keep parents 'in the loop' and outline the main careers activity. Please forgive the volume of information, there is huge amounts going on in Careers!

Careers staff and their availability

Diane Bate is the college Careers adviser. She works 8am-2pm 4 days a week (Not Wednesdays). For the first six weeks, Diane will see individual students (one at a time) **by appointment only**. Students can sign up for an appointment on boards outside the Careers room. **Please note, careers advice is SELF REFERRAL ONLY** – therefore; it is imperative students are aware, if they need help, they must ask for it! From mid-October, the appointment system will be abandoned in favour of a more informal 'Drop-In clinic' (no appointment needed, just approach the Careers room ad hoc and queries will be answered!)

Our new employability adviser for this year is **Sam Matthews**. She is working on increasing opportunities for students in terms of employability skills. If, as parents, you might be interested in supporting students, either by offering work placements in your own workplace or via student mentoring, please do email Sam at s.matthews@pursglove.ac.uk for an informal discussion about how this could work.

For any concerns or ideas about the Careers department, please note that **Olivia Wytcherley** (Manager for progression) and **Paul Grainger** (Careers lead) are the managers to contact.

Careers Resources

We have an enormous amount of careers information available in electronic form. Please encourage your son/daughter to use the Careers Moodle. In addition, please ask them to check out Unifrog, Fast Tomato, Eclips and more from the Microsoft flag on any college computer. Online information is only ever a support for individual advice, of course.

Progression (Post College Options)

All career options are outlined through our tutorial programme (as well as being mentioned on the Careers Moodle). 72% of students progressed to University last year, so there is much emphasis placed on Higher Education. 22% of our applicants got into 'Russell Group' universities, which is above national average, too. There is a growing interest in the new 'degree apprenticeships' and we have links with TVLPN who help students towards this. You might want to encourage your son/daughter to check their emails a minimum of twice a week.

UCAS news

Deadlines for second year students applying to Universities:

28 Sept – Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists or Vets

16 Nov – Competitive courses (Nursing/any health course, teaching, social work and Russell group)

7 Dec – All UCAS applications to be submitted (simply NO extensions granted, sorry)

Please note it takes 3 weeks to send forms to UCAS AFTER submission, due to the number of checks needed and reference writing processes. Please advise your son/daughter to submit on time and be

patient for the period following this. We do work as fast as humanly possible! Also, if your son/daughter is struggling to choose courses, please encourage them to see Diane in Careers.

For first years, the tutorial programme will take students through progression choices but later in the year, starting around January/February time. We also run an annual progression Fair in June time.

University reduced offer schemes

Year 1: There are 3 main schemes we advertise: Realising Opportunities, Durham Progression and NU entry (Northumbria's scheme). These are advertised via email, not every student is eligible and only small numbers are recruited (typically less than 15).

Year 2: Newcastle Partners and Access to Leeds schemes. We advertise these schemes from mid-September but students are encouraged to prioritise submitting UCAS forms first!

Events coming up

- For the Autumn term, we will not be inviting any speakers in person into college, to protect everybody as far as possible. Going forward this policy will be reviewed by Olivia and Paul.
- We will be looking at setting up online (MS Team) meetings for interview preparation for Oxbridge students and health based and teaching courses. Dates for these have yet to be confirmed but likely to be early November time.

Contact with Careers staff

Diane is happy to answer parent queries by email, d.bate@pursglove.ac.uk. She will endeavour to reply within three working days. Diane does not routinely see parents, although this can be facilitated in exceptional circumstances via Olivia Wytcherley, Faculty Manager for Progression. We have recently updated our confidentiality statement. We have always been able to confirm to parents whether or not their son/daughter has accessed careers guidance but details of the guidance remain confidential. Now, as long as written student consent is given, we can now share details of the interview with parents. Students are always encouraged to share their plans with parents.

Final comments

Please do feed back to us, by email, if there is anything which would inform you better, as parents.

Work experience is best sourced using the **Do-It website**. James Cook Hospital do run volunteer schemes (although these are suspended at present, understandably) but going forward, forms will be available from Diane, if students email for them.