

## Careers Advice at MGS

**Students:**

**Do you need help with any of the following?**

*Choosing GCSE or A level subjects*

*Choosing University and College courses*

*Career Ideas*

*Employment and Apprenticeships*

*UCAS Applications*

*Study Abroad Opportunities*

*Gap Year & Volunteering*

*Work Experience*

**Mrs Acaster is the school Careers Manager and can be contacted at any time via email:**

**[careers@mgs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:careers@mgs.kent.sch.uk)**

Mrs Acaster is also available in school every Wednesday and Thursday for individual meetings

## The Quality in Careers Standard

The Quality in Careers Standard is a national quality award assessing excellence in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provision

MGS has held the Quality in Careers Standard Award through Investor in Careers (IiC) since 2012 and will be applying for reassessment in 2018

**Key strengths identified by the IiC Award assessor in June 2015**

*Whole school commitment to the provision of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance/Work Related Learning*

*A comprehensive range of activities, experiences and opportunities combined with excellent access to the highly regarded Careers and Enterprise Manager enables students to become confident decision-makers and career planners*

*A strong culture of continuous improvement ensures that the CEIAG programme develops to meet the needs of students, preparing them well for choices and decisions at key transition points*

*An impressive number of opportunities for one-to-one guidance and support. Students met by the assessor expressed their appreciation of the individual support they had received.*



**Maidstone  
Grammar  
School**

**Careers Education,  
Information,  
Advice  
and Guidance  
Activities**

## Careers Education

- Careers Education lessons are delivered, as part of the PSHCE programme, from Year 7 upwards
- Specific focus days to support key decision points include Year 8 Careers Days and Year 12 UCAS days.
- Year 11 students are fully supported to make appropriate Post-16 applications to schools, colleges or into employment/apprenticeships.

## Individual Careers Guidance Interviews

- All students in Years 11 and 12 receive individual careers guidance interviews throughout the year by the school's Careers Manager, who is a qualified Careers Adviser.
- Individual interviews are available to students in all year groups on request from students, parents or staff.

## Visiting Speakers

- Speakers from Education and Employment are invited into school on a regular basis to talk to students and parents, during assemblies, to deliver "Lunchtime Lectures" or to present at Careers Evenings. Speakers are invited from industry, universities and colleges, gap year and volunteering organisations. Many are former students.

## Careers Resources

- MGS has a comprehensive and up-to-date Careers Library, for all year groups to use.
- All students have access to numerous on-line careers and higher education resources, including Fast Tomato, Kudos and Higher Ideas.
- Morrisby Profile Psychometric Testing is offered to all Year 10 students to help identify appropriate education and career pathways.

## Work Related Learning

- All students in Year 10 and 12 undertake a work experience placements with a company of their choice, in the UK or abroad.
- Year 12 students also undertake a minimum of 50 hours volunteering/service activities.

## Career Mentoring

Career Mentoring is available to all our Year 11, 12 and 13 students through the Old Maidstonian Society, putting students in contact with former students across hundreds of different professions

## University Applications

- All students wishing to apply to university are supported through the UCAS process to make ambitious and appropriate applications.  
*(Each year the majority of our students achieve their first choice university place, with a high number attending Russell Group or UK Top 30 universities)*

## University Fair

- MGS has hosted an annual University Fair every September since 2014, attracting around 50 of the UKs leading universities, and accommodating over 800 visitors from MGS and other local schools.

## Studying Overseas

- Specialist advice and support from the Careers Manager is available to students wishing to apply to overseas universities. The USA and European Universities have been popular destinations for our students.
- We regularly host visitors delivering presentations about studying abroad, which have included The Student World, A Star Future, Burnett Global Education and Harvard University.

## Oxbridge Admissions

- A programme of activities and support is in for students wishing to apply to Oxford or Cambridge. Students are encouraged to take part in relevant activities including subject taster days, summer schools, masterclasses, essay competitions, conferences etc. Oxbridge Schools Liaison Officers visit MGS regularly to talk to students in Years 10-13.

## Employment and Apprenticeships

- Students who wish to enter Employment and Apprenticeships (including Higher and Degree Apprenticeships) are supported by the Careers Manager to find and apply for suitable opportunities.
- Students are notified of appropriate vacancies and get help with CV writing, application forms and interview skills. Students are encouraged to attend relevant employment and apprenticeship fairs.

## External Careers Events and Opportunities

- Students and parents are kept informed, by the Careers Manager, about relevant events (university taster days, subject masterclasses, lectures, job vacancies, work experience opportunities etc.) via the school daily bulletin, the school VLE and by direct email.

## Independent Advice and Guidance

- In fulfilling our statutory duty to provide independent advice and guidance to students, MGS has an annual contract with the CXK organisation to provide additional careers advice services to complement those delivered by MGS staff.
- All students in Year 8 and 10 attend careers related sessions with a qualified Careers Adviser from the CXK service and counselling is available for students in all year groups who would benefit from this service.