

FEBRUARY 2025

PATHWAYS AND EMPLOYABILITY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the Pathways and Employability newsletter for 2025! It has been wonderful to welcome students back to the academy after the festive break and this half term has been as busy as ever as we support our students to develop their transferable employability skills through their 5Cs and become the best version of themselves.

Our Music department has been busy since September. Here is a snippet of what has gone on so far this year:

- Visited by the Alina Orchestra - a number of students from across the academy were invited to attend, where they were treated to a performance featuring a range of classical, film and contemporary music. In addition they were taught about the instruments of the orchestra and even had an opportunity to have a go at conducting!
- Songwriting Workshop - GCSE Students had the opportunity to work with visiting singer/songwriter Lex Gibbon to learn about the art of song writing, before working in groups to produce and perform their own piece of music.
- Band in a Van - Y7 students were visited in January by a fantastic group of Musicians, who took them through the wonders of Brass instruments, performed a number of well-known tunes and tested their ability to keep a rhythm.
- We have had a number of industry professionals working with GCSE students, including West End Conductor Alex Aitken

- Extra-Curricular Clubs - the Hazeley Orchestra and Rock School are now up, running and growing in popularity. After half term we will begin our School Choir, so watch this space!
- Peripatetic Music Lessons- we have almost doubled the number of students participating in instrumental lessons across the academy since September. This means welcoming new tutors, to work alongside our wonderful existing team! If your child is interested in learning a new instrument, please contact Miss Newby or Miss Thomas via Enquiries@haz5d.com . Pupil Premium recipients may be eligible for financial support with this, so reach out to find out more.

There is a LOT more to come throughout the Spring and Summer terms, so stay tuned



Year 8 Unifrog

Unifrog is a fantastic pathway planning tool that allows students to research career pathways linked to their current subjects whilst discovering salary information and future career prospects along with the types and levels of qualification that each career requires.



During this half term, all Year 8 students have been provided with an opportunity to explore the Unifrog platform by undertaking a range of activities during form time sessions to support their GCSE options process. Unifrog can be found at the address below and can be accessed from home. Student's usernames are their school email addresses and students create their own passwords: www.unifrog.org

Year 9 – Proactive Speed Networking

It was wonderful to welcome a range of business volunteers to the academy in January who gave their time to meet with our Year 9 students during a Speed Networking event. These events provide our students with a fantastic opportunity to meet with external professionals and discover information regarding local employment opportunities while also developing their transferable employability skills and building confidence.



Year 10 Unifrog

Students in Year 10 were also provided with an opportunity to complete a series of Unifrog activities during form sessions, which focused on work experience and transferable employability skills. We hope our students found these sessions useful as part of their work experience programme.



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students continue to search and apply for work experience placements, which they will undertake during the week commencing the 9 June and it great to see students begin to return their completed work experience forms to the academy.

Year 11 Apprenticeship Session

Mrs Harris, Pathways and Employability Lead, delivered a lesson to Year 11 students who have stated that an apprenticeship is their first-choice destination on completion of their GCSE study. Students were provided with information regarding how to search and apply for opportunities and began to create their CVs.



Year 11 Pathway Planning

We realise that making decisions regarding next steps and also completing GCSEs during Year 11 is a big challenge and to ensure that students receive as much support as possible, Mrs Harris and Mrs Miller, Therapeutic Lead, have begun to deliver support sessions to students to help provide further information regarding how to successfully navigate this academic year and ensure that all students can move confidently to the next stage of their education and training.

Year 11 Big Yellow Buss

During January, we welcomed a team of professionals from MK College to the academy who arrived in their Big Yellow Bus, to provide students with a further opportunity to explore post-16 education and training options and meet with professionals from the college. Students were able to discuss the MK College A Level courses, BTEC courses, T Levels and apprenticeships.



Year 13 Apprenticeship Support Group

Miss Bennison and Mrs Harris held a further meeting of the Year 13 Apprenticeship Support group to continue to support our students who would like to obtain an apprenticeship on completion of their Sixth Form study. It has been wonderful to hear from students about their experiences as they progress through the application process and brilliant to celebrate with our students as they begin to receive offers!



Year 13 Apprenticeship Fair

Students in the Year 13 Apprenticeship Support Group were accompanied by Miss Bennison to the Apprenticeship Careers Fair at Thornton College, providing a further opportunity for our students to meet with apprenticeship providers and research opportunities.

Drop Down Day

The Hazeley Academy held its first Drop-Down Day of 2025, which saw students engage in a range of Pathways and Employability activities and events including:



Year 7 - Students engaged in a STEM day in collaboration with Niftylift and took part in a "Cage Design" mini project during which they were provided with an opportunity to design a cage for a Niftylift cherry picker.

Year 10 – Using the transferable skills that our students develop within their study of GCSE History, students took part in a mock trial, demonstrating how these transferable skills are used within the legal sector.



Year 12 – All Year 12 students took part in an Employability Day during which they met with a range of external business professionals to conduct mock interviews, attended a presentation regarding LinkedIn and its importance as a professional networking tool and attended a CV building session to further update and develop their CVs.



A massive thank you to all the local education and training providers and business volunteers who have helped support our students this half term, your contribution is invaluable! We really appreciate your support.

CONTACT

Please contact Mrs Harris, Pathways and Employability Lead or Mrs Mayles, Assistant Principal KS5 Director, if you have any questions regarding the Pathways and Employability Programme on the email addresses below:



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