Careers Newsletter

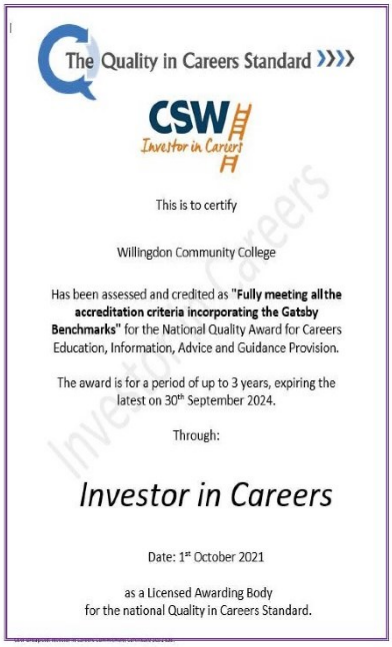
Willingdon COMMUNITY SCHOOL

January 2023

Our Vision is to provide students with a curriculum fit for their future, whilst building on the successes of their past.

I am delighted to say that once again at our most recent audit of Careers that Willingdon achieved 100% in all the Gatsby Benchmarks (a framework developed to support schools in providing students with the best possible careers education, information, and guidance).

Although students move on from Willingdon Community School for Post-16 education, we aim to ensure that students develop key transferable skills so that they can adapt to their next destination as confident learners ready to embrace life to the full.



The Quality in Careers Standard

CSW Investor in Careers

This is to certify

Willingdon Community College

Has been assessed and credited as **"Fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks"** for the National Quality Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Provision.

The award is for a period of up to 3 years, expiring the latest on 30th September 2024.

Through:

Investor in Careers

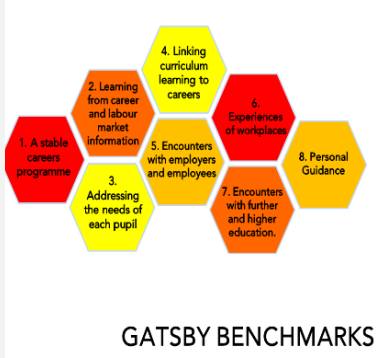
Date: 1st October 2021

as a Licensed Awarding Body
for the national Quality in Careers Standard.

"I really liked the Big Future lesson where we got to explore all the careers that link to our favourite subjects that we study at school" **Max**

To demonstrate this commitment we have been awarded by the Investors in Careers, a nationally recognised body, as 'fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks' for the National Quality Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Provision.

A comprehensive careers education programme (**Big Future**) is delivered weekly in tutor time for years 7-11. This is closely linked to the Big Theme and gives students the opportunity to learn about a featured career or job family each week which, amongst others, have included careers linked to curriculum subjects, NHS careers and apprenticeships and labour market information in East Sussex. KS3 students also receive fourteen lessons of Enterprise lessons each year, which focus on developing employability skills, understanding why businesses exist and how to effectively plan and budget. Alongside this, students continue to receive multiple opportunities to learn from employers about employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace through lessons, enrichment activities, and visiting speakers (**Gatsby benchmark 5**) and by providing them with the opportunity to visit several universities and apprenticeship providers. (**Gatsby benchmark 6**).



This year, to raise aspirations and to allow students to gain an understanding of university life, we are working closely with several local and national universities. In December, we took the whole of year 10 to the University of Sussex for the day and we have several university trips and speakers booked for all year groups in the coming terms. We are also aiming to offer a trip for parents/carers and students to visit Surrey University in May along with a shopping trip to Guildford so that the whole family can experience what university life is like and enjoy a little retail therapy too!

Inviting Inspirational speakers into the school and offering mentoring opportunities is a key feature of the careers programme and last term we gave all year 9 students the opportunity to take part in '**The Dare to Dream'** programme delivered by radio personality 'Jack the Lad' which focused on ambition, aspiration, and resilience and allowed students to develop qualities to enable them to be more successful in school and beyond. We were able to take part in this programme thanks to the support and funding of Paxton Access Ltd, a local company in Eastbourne and Brighton, who also took part in a mentoring programme of 15 year 9 students.

"We talk about jobs relevant to the Big Theme. It is really educational as it gives you a hint of jobs you can do when you're older" **Iris**

I am also delighted to say that we took part again in the **BAME** (**Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic**) mentoring programme led by University of Brighton, which now allows us to deliver this programme within school and supports a peer-to-peer mentoring programme.

Moving forward, and with the continued support and funding from Uni Connect, we will be looking to start a new mentoring workshop for 30 girls called **'Own your own potential'** along with the very successful **Girls' Network** mentoring programme which allows 20 girls the chance to be mentored for a year by local employers.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the Careers Newsletter and if you are able to help in any way, either as an employer to help deliver assemblies and workshops , offer a work placement or to help with 1:1 interviews with our year 10 and 11 students please do contact aborrell@willingdonschool.org.uk or srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk.

Alison Borrell , Associate Assistant Head/ Careers Leader, Sarah Rooney , Careers Adviser.

We would be most grateful if you could provide us with invaluable feedback by completing the following Google form so that we can improve upon further editions of the magazine. Careers magazine survey

Update from Careers Advisor

Update from Sarah Rooney, Careers Adviser

We have had a fantastic start to the 2022-23 academic year, with a number of events, assemblies, and trips taking place over the past 4 months.
We have many other exciting activities planned over the coming months. Our students will be attending careers fairs, college open days, apprenticeship talks and visits from various companies. Year 9 will have assistance with choosing their options, year 10 will experience a mock interview and they will also be going out on their work experience from 15th – 19th May.
My door is always open for students across all years to pop in should they have any questions about jobs, college courses, apprenticeships, universities, personal statements and more. I am also very happy to hear from parents if I can help in any way. My details are:
srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk
01323 485254 ext. 281

This month we meet Alison Borrell, Associate Assistant Headteacher, Careers Leader and Head of Department of Technology & Enterprise at Willingdon Community School in East Sussex.

Can you tell us a bit about your role at the school Alison? As Head of a large faculty, I can really help to drive careers across the department, As Careers Leader, I can reach out to all sorts of different local employers and establish strong links so that our students have the opportunity to experience first hand employer interactions within the classroom and workplace. Already this term we have been able to give our students a variety of experiences including a workshop from the Executive Head Chef at the Grand Hotel to a trip around the Hastings Law courts.

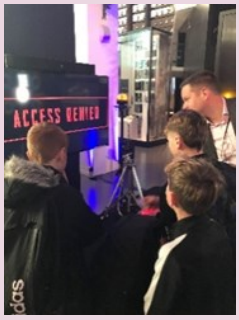
Why do you think initiatives like this are so important? Vocational talks and visits are so important because they open students' eyes to the many opportunities out there, it can spark interest in new areas and help students understand how their learning at school can help them in the future. All of this in turn inspires them to work harder and raises their aspirations. Next year, as well as offering Taster Days at local FE colleges, we are also looking at asking teachers from local sixth forms and colleges to give taster lessons on post 16 subjects that they might never have considered or had the option to do at school.

What else do you do to raise aspirations amongst your students? We aim to give every student in our school the chance to interact with a university. The whole of Year 10 visited the University of Sussex in December and we are taking students and their parents who would be first-generation university students to the Open Day at Surrey University before going shopping in Guildford. It's all about making experiences, that might not have felt accessible, feel relevant and within reach.

To read more of the Sussex Learning Networks Newsletter and interview with Alison Borrell please follow the link below: For more about all of the work we do to support students, schools and colleges in Sussex, click here.

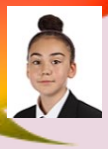
Careers within the Curriculum - Gatsby Benchmark 4

The Gatsby Benchmark 4 *states that 'all teachers should link curriculum learning with careers' and 'STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths'.* At Willingdon, we believe very strongly that showing students how different subjects are relevant to their future life can help to motivate them to study harder and try their best. To this end, all departments now have careers education embedded into their teaching practice and regularly invite employers into the classroom (either digitally or in person) as well as offer a range of exciting and informative enrichment activities and visits .



Science Museum Trip - Year 8

Ruby – "I found the trip fun and eye-opening. I enjoyed the stalls and games."



"It was very interesting and fun."
- Jacob

Riley – "I enjoyed the trip because we got to explore what life was like before"

Violet – "I really enjoyed this trip, it was a great experience and I learnt quite a lot."

Bletchley Park Visit - Year 10 & 11

Mrs P. Harrison HOD of Computer Science and ICT

Willingdon Computer Science and IT teaching team were delighted to enjoy a school visit to Bletchley Park with 43 students from across Years 9, 10, and 11. Bletchley Park is famous for its code-breaking work that many heroic men and women contributed to and ultimately helped to win World War Two. The work was covered by the Official Secrets Act and remained classified for many years after. The first impression when visiting Bletchley Park is that you have entered another era, there is a military look to the huts used and a quiet environment of secrecy and high stakes. The team of retired enthusiasts bring the place alive with their stories of how everybody that worked there were not allowed to talk about their job to others, not even to their family. Continued on next page...

Original bicycles still remain in the shelter, testimony to the urgency of the important work. Deciphered messages were rushed on bicycle from one part of the site where the message had been intercepted and then taken to the code breaking huts. As well as once being the home of the World War Two Codebreakers, Bletchley Park is also the birthplace of modern computing. Alan Turing developed the Bombe, the World's first programmable digital electronic computer which was used to crack the Enigma Machine. This helped turn the tide of the war by decrypting messages broadcast by the Germans giving coordinates of intended attacks. Students took part in a practical workshop that taught how encryption keys were needed to share communications in a secure way. Students were captivated by the stories that the guides told with such passion and humour. Please read on to hear a student's experience of the day.

A Day at Bletchley Park by Shayan Kazi

"After our early start and tedious coach journey our spirits were lifted by the engaging volunteers who greeted us and explained the plan for the day. We had a guided tour led by a retired local man who managed to keep our group interested despite the cold weather. We visited the manor house that the Bletchley team used as Headquarters and walked around all the huts they worked in. After a bit of free time to explore the park, we had a code-breaking activity where we imitated sending encrypted messages with props, within our smaller groups. I found it really interesting learning about the history and found it more engaging being at the actual site rather than the classroom. Despite the early morning and six-hour return journey, I would say the trip was very much worth it for the amount we learnt about our history.

Bletchley park is a county house and estate in Milton Keynes which was famous for being the top-secret workplace for intercepting radio communications from the Germans and decrypting them.

Bletchley park was originally privately owned by the Leon family until 1938 when MI6 took possession of the estate after there were no family members willing to inherit the property. The government looked to recruit the top minds in the country from well-renowned universities which happened to be conveniently near the site.

To actually break the code Turing built a machine called the Bombe. This machine could use logic to decrypt the encoded messages from the Germans but required human understanding to work. The Bletchley team predicted words that would be in the message by looking for patterns. They knew that the Germans sent a weather report and they could be certain the message contained the word "weather" but they also knew they could find the phrase "Heil Hitler" signing off the message.

The reason why it was so hard to crack this code was that it changed its settings after every keystroke. For example, if you press the letter "A" three times it would come up as three different letters. The way the enigma machine works is by moving a set of cogs after every keystroke. This means to decipher the code you need an enigma machine and the starting state of the message.

However, the first two four-letter words are message indicators and can be ignored as they are not part of the message. They were used to ensure good reception and are repeated at the beginning and end of the message. The reason the Bletchley team was able to figure this out was one message sent by a specific German operator. His message indicator was "kity" every time instead of changing it every message. This was his nickname for his girlfriend whom he lost and he used her name as a way to remember her, even though this effectively cost Germany the whole war.

Despite the idea that Britain broke the enigma code independently this is actually false because the Polish were working everyday intercepting codes and a memorial is on the site for the "forgotten heroes" of the war.

After the war, everyone who worked at Bletchley had to keep the organisation a secret and simply return to their normal lives. This was a precaution in case Germany tried to rise again and the site could be useful.

The park was used as a teacher training college and in 1990 was prepared for demolition but the "Bletchley park trust" to preserve the site and protect it from development. Now it is a museum for the public to visit run by retired locals who volunteer to provide tours and talks at the site".

Year 9 - Careers in the NHS Production

On 29th November, Enact Solutions came into school to deliver a 'Think Careers' performance to year 9 students to highlight the numerous careers in the NHS.

"The production told us all about the jobs in the NHS that we wouldn't have known about" **Jack**

"They found a way to give information about the jobs in the NHS that was fun and enjoyable" **Giorgio**

"The production was great – really engaging" **Ethan**

"I found it really inspiring and funny" **Keira**

"It was really interesting and really helped with ideas of what I would like to do in the future" **Lily**

"It was quite inspiring for people who may want a career in the NHS" **Henry**

"It was really educational and inspiring" **Alex**

"The production was good and entertaining" **Flo**

Year 9 & 10 - Trips to Hastings Combined Court

On 19th October (Year 9) and 23rd November (Year 10) students attended Hastings Combined Court to observe cases brought to court. Students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and witnessed a variety of cases.

"I found this trip interesting as I had the opportunity of seeing real-life cases being resolved, and had an inside look at how our judicial system really works. I also developed an understanding of the work environment and the tense atmosphere when working in a court". **Giorgio**

It was a great experience and I would highly recommend it. It was very interesting to see the prison cells and the tour of the courts. **Rodney**

"It was really interesting seeing the magistrates discussing the cases and making decisions"

"I really enjoyed going on the trip to Hastings court and seeing what happens"

"It was so interesting to see what goes on in a courtroom"

Year 10 Apprenticeship & Career opportunities at the Elite Hotel Group

To ensure that Willingdon students have the opportunity to find out about technical qualifications and apprenticeships, The Executive Head Chef, Hrvoje Loncarevic, from the Grand Hotel Eastbourne, and Simon King, Training Officer for Ashdown Park, came to talk about career opportunities and apprenticeships across the Elite Hotel Group to 48 year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students.

The Executive Head Chef from the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne visited our Food and Nutrition lesson. He demonstrated how to make a delicious lemon posset, which is a dessert dish that was very enjoyable. Whilst he was making the dish, he told us about his life as a chef in a variety of exciting jobs like working at the Amex Stadium and cooking for the Queen at Royal Ascot. Hearing about the job he did at the Amex, and with me being a Brighton fan, really inspired me to potentially try and reach those limits. He also showed us how to decorate the posset using flowers which I didn't know could be eaten. Overall, the demonstration was brilliant and inspired me to work in the food industry in the future. **Dylan**

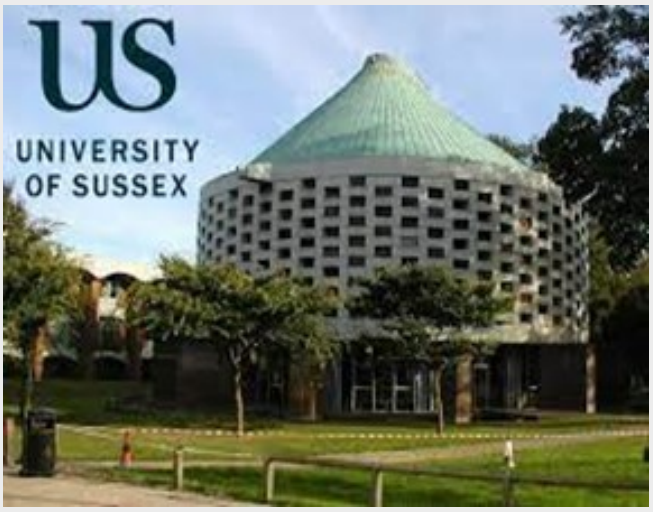
The Head Chef from The Grand Hotel came to our school and showed us how to make a lemon posset and gave us an overview of his career journey. We learned about tempering chocolate. I enjoyed learning about the science relating to making the lemon posset and how he had worked his way up from apprentice to Executive Chef. His presentation showed me that to get where you want in life you have to work hard, but that if you do anything is possible. **Evie**

I enjoyed watching the Executive Chef make a dessert as it taught me new skills and introduced me to new equipment. I really enjoyed tasting the dessert and liked the fact that the actual dish was sold in the hotel. The visit taught me that you have to be determined to be successful and work hard to achieve your dream**. Jasmine**

While the chef was making the posset, he talked to us about how he got to this position. He told us that he worked in lots of restaurants, sometimes for free, so that he could build up his experience and CV. The visit taught me that you have to grab every opportunity you can if you want to achieve your dream job. **Aoife**

The Executive Head Chef inspired me by showing us how to make and decorate a lemon posset to a high standard. What inspired me the most is how he was so fast and so quick with making the dessert. I have chosen to do my work experience at The Grand Hotel and so this visit really inspired me. I would like to have more people come into other lessons and teach us about their careers as I think it was a very engaging experience for all of us. I can't wait for my work experience at the hotel. **Clay**

Year 10 - Trip to University of Sussex



On Wednesday 14th December, Year 10 went on a trip to the University of Sussex. Students were given talks on all elements of university life including the wide variety of courses on offer, accommodation, clubs & societies, lectures, campus facilities, costs associated with the university, budgeting, and much more. Current student ambassadors spoke about their individual journeys at the university and gave Willingdon students a tour of the grounds.

Feedback from students

- **What did you take from the trip?** *I learned about the societies you can join, I was really interested in the social side.*
- **Has the trip changed your views on university?** *Yes, I wasn't thinking about going before but now I am going to university.*

If we ran the trip again, what would you want to see/ learn? *More information about the courses available- I'd like to do criminology.*

- **What did you take from the trip?** *I found it really inspirational, I liked the style of the lecture rooms and how big the campus was. I also liked all of the facilities.*
- **Has the trip changed your views on university?** *No, I already knew I wanted to go because I want to work with teenage mental health or social work, but I didn't know which one. I think I want to go to Sussex University now.*

If we ran the trip again, what would you want to see/ learn? *I'd like to see more of the teaching side.*

- **What did you take from the trip?** *I have more knowledge of the courses offered.*
- **Has the trip changed your views on university?** *Yes, before the trip I thought it was just for rich people and just to carry on the same subjects we already do.*

If we ran the trip again, what would you want to see/ learn? *I'd like to go to a different university to see the different types.*

- **What did you take from the trip?** *I took knowledge about the facilities on campus and budgeting.*
- **Has the trip changed your views on university?** *I still don't want to go but it did show me that there are a lot more courses on offer.*

If we ran the trip again, what would you want to see/ learn? *I'd like to see more of the campus, the gym, and the dorms.*

- **What did you take from the trip?** *It gave me an insight into what Uni life is really like, I thought the facilities (library and lecture halls) were really good.*
- **Has the trip changed your views on university?** *Yes, I think I would go to Uni now, I really didn't fancy it but seeing other students made me want to go. I liked the social aspect.*
- **If we ran the trip again, what would you want to see/ learn?** *I'd like to see more detail of the campus, and walk around the inside of the buildings a bit more.*

Year 10 BAME Mentoring programme

From September 2022, ten Year 10 students took part in a 6 week mentoring programme, run in conjunction with the University of Brighton, tailored for students who identify as Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnic background (BAME). The University of Brighton students who identify as BAME spent an hour a week mentoring Willingdon students either at the Eastbourne campus of the University of Brighton or at Willingdon Community School.

The last session included providing feedback on the programme, a celebration lunch, and a tour of the Eastbourne campus. Mentors and mentees received a certificate, as well as a number of other goodies, for participating. In addition, Willingdon students wrote a letter to their mentor and mentors did the same for our students, which was a very poignant end to the programme.

The programme was a great success and has given students an invaluable experience that can be added to their personal statements for their college applications and discussed at future interviews.

We are hopeful that our students that participated may want to participate in the upcoming Peer-to-Peer programme and support students that identify as BAME in the lower year groups.

"The mentoring scheme helped me to grow in confidence by talking to someone I did not know."

"As a result of this course, I developed my understanding of university life by being able to explore the campus and learn more about the surroundings around me. Through our conversations, we also discussed finance and ways to manage a budget."

"It allowed me to understand the difficulties that I could encounter in university. I was able to see how people manage their daily life with their life on campus."

"I got a lot of tips and tricks that I didn't know about the university and how I could get my way around it. At first, I had no clue what university was like until I went to this programme and my mentor told me a lot of stuff about the uni."

"In the mentoring scheme, we heard from an inspiring university student about how she overcame her struggles and looked for all the opportunities around her."

"I was given advice on how I should revise for all my tests and subjects I would like to do well at in school."

"Each week we had a different focus for our discussions and did different activities. For example, we talked about aspirations. I am focused on doing, English literature, law, and history at college to help me achieve my longer-term goals."

"My communication skills developed as I got better at learning how to start conversations. The scheme strived to encourage us to talk to other people and learn more about their experiences."

"The scheme helped to improve my communication skills. It pushed me to come out of my shell and talk to new people and learn more. it also helped me overcome my small fear of talking to new people. This skill would help me in my everyday social life."

Year 11 Mock Interviews

On Friday 6th January, year 11 took part in a mock interview to give students in this year group another opportunity to practice their interview technique before their college interviews. Students were asked a number of questions and interviewers completed feedback forms providing tips and advice for future interviews.

The interviewers involved in the day were full of praise for our students, with comments on how well-dressed, polite, and enthusiastic they were. One of the interviewers emailed following the event to say how enjoyable it was to participate and "what delightful students you have".

Despite their initial, and understandable, nerves a number of students felt very happy with how they had performed in their interview and felt that it had been a valuable experience.

We are extremely proud of the students who represented the school brilliantly and who are showing great promise for their future at college and beyond.

"My interview went better than I expected. I really liked the interviewer because they were really nice and made me feel less nervous" **Ella**

"I feel I spoke quite confidently and I gave good points and examples to the questions asked" **Poppy**

"It went well. They were friendly and helpful" **Harvey**

"My interview was better this time as I was more confident in speaking to my interviewer" **Liam**

"My interviewer was very welcoming and he seemed genuinely interested in what I had to say" **Rebecca**

"The interviewers were friendly and efficient" **Charlie**

Alumni

At Willingdon Community School we really value our alumni relations which is open to all former students and staff. We really want to hear about our former pupils and their success stories as we feel that sharing these stories can be an inspiration to our current student body. If you are interested in becoming part of our alumni please contact srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk or click Alumni Google Form

Hi, I'm Miss Choudhury and I attended Willingdon Community School from 2015-2020. During my time at school, my love for science and maths continued to grow, which also helped my interest in medicine to develop. For this reason, I decided to do work experience in a hospital, witnessing training sessions with junior doctors.

In college, I decided to study Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics as they were my strongest subjects, which I also loved. During my second year of college, I did a six-month volunteering programme at St Wilfrid's Hospice, where I worked alongside doctors, nurses, and healthcare assistants for the end-of-life care of patients. This helped me to get an insight into what working in a multi-disciplinary team would be like. My job entailed in going on ward rounds with the doctors, meeting each patient, and getting to know them. Helping the nurses with their drug rounds and making sure the patients and their families were comfortable with the health care assistants.

After college, I have decided to take a gap year to gain experience in a working environment, which will greatly benefit me in the future. After this, I am planning to then go on to study Biomedical science at University of Brighton.

Hi, I'm Miss Branson. I attended Willingdon from 2015-2020. Over my time at school, I really enjoyed English and Drama, and I both acted in and helped behind the scenes to put on the school plays. The opportunity to represent the school at both Youth Council and Youth Parliament helped to foster my interest in politics and was one reason that I chose Politics at A-level. I also did A levels in English Literature and History. I enjoyed my time at college, as it gave me more freedom and personal responsibility, especially in the coursework and my EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), which was about diversity in Young Adult literature - I've always loved reading! I was sure I wanted to attend university to do English Literature, but I didn't have a clear idea of where. After reading up on some courses, and visiting a couple of universities in person, I decided that the University of East Anglia was my top choice.

I knew from quite early on that I was keen to return to Willingdon as a learning mentor. As my year 11 was cut short by COVID, and I didn't end up doing my GCSEs, I had quite some time to think about what I wanted to do after college. I knew I wanted a gap year, as a break from 14 years of school, and after my time as a learning mentor, I hope to travel before taking up my deferred place at university doing English and American Literature. In the future, I'd like to work in publishing.

I hope that my time as a learning mentor will be a fulfilling and rewarding experience. I'm enjoying working with students, and getting to know the staff on the other side of the staff room door!

Learning Mentor Initiative

The Learning Mentor initiative was brought in by Mrs May and is a programme that has been hugely successful at Willingdon. The Learning Mentors are young people either taking a gap year before starting employment or university. Many of them are ex-students who are keen to give back to the school and develop valued employability skills. Learning Mentors play an invaluable role as they help students to understand their future aspirations and run a variety of STEM and homework clubs. They also help to mentor students who respond positively to the interaction with adults closer to their own age.

Hi, I'm Mr Burton. I have joined the learning mentor team here at Willingdon after completing my degree in Politics at the University of Leicester. I was unsure of my next steps after graduating from university; I wasn't ready to work in a graduate role however I also didn't want to waste this year either. For me, the learning mentor role offered a way for me to work in a way that was both meaningful and useful for my own personal development.

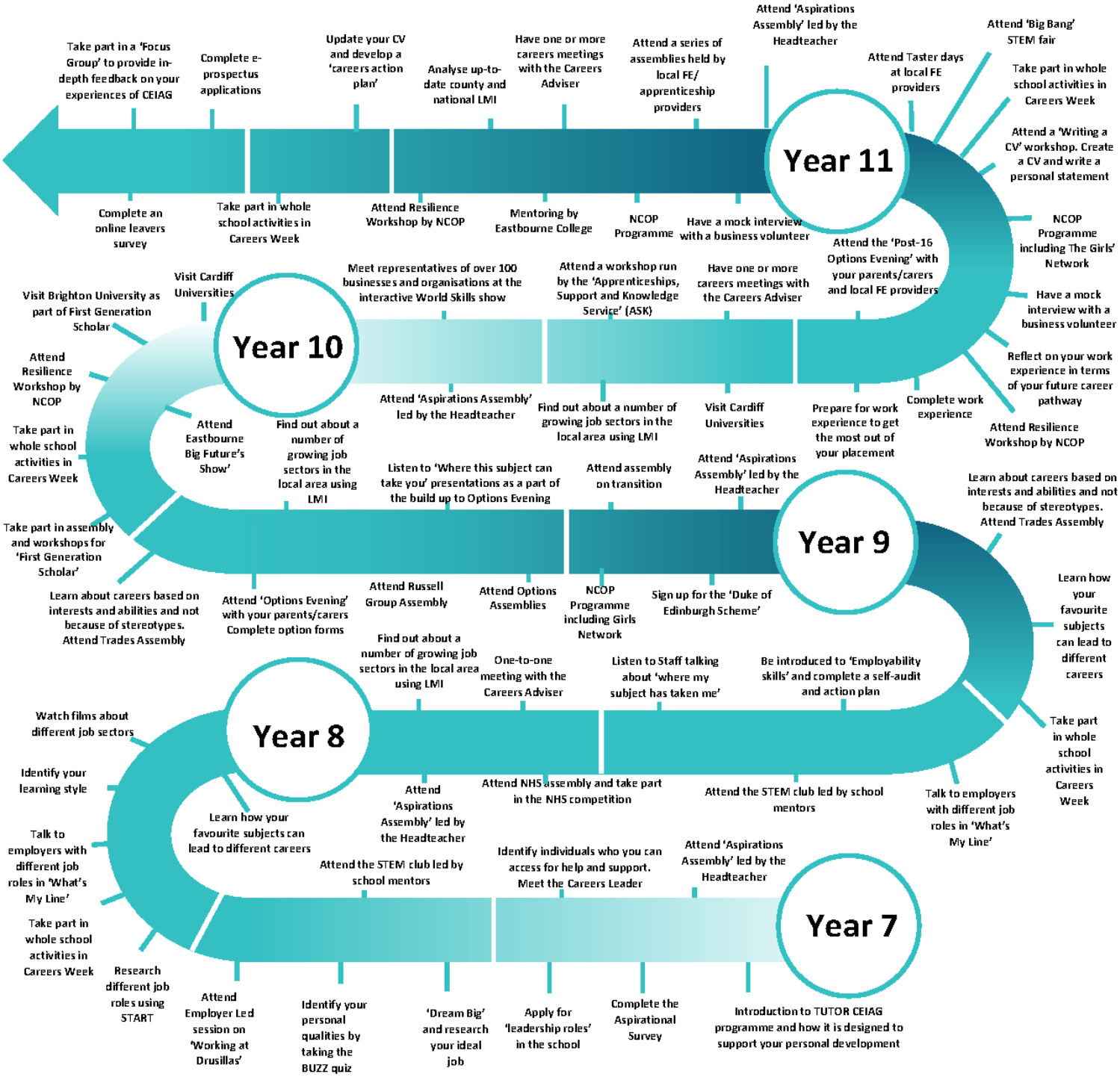
After leaving Ratton school in 2017, I went on to study A levels in Maths, English Literature and Politics at Bexhill College. I enjoyed my time at college and liked having the opportunity to learn about my favourite subjects in greater detail. At college, I was unsure about what I wanted to study at university however, I ultimately chose to study Politics as this was what I was more passionate about.

I loved my time at university and, just like at A-level, I enjoyed learning about one of my favourite subjects in greater depth. Specifically, I enjoyed modules centred around the political philosophy of gender and race. I am also going to use this gap year to spend time traveling as visiting new places is one of my favourite things to do!

Hi, I'm Miss Alley. I attended Willingdon school from 2012-2017. During my time here I discovered that I had a keen interest for humanities subjects such as History, Sociology, and Ethics.

These choices I made at school led me to attend East Sussex College Eastbourne where I studied Politics, Law and Psychology A-levels. I enjoyed my time at college as I got a taste of exploring subjects which I had specifically chosen to do and learn about them in more depth. Following on from A-levels, I was unsure of where to go or what to study in furthering my education. I didn't think about University until I was in my second year of college. After attending a few universities open days, I decided on the University of Kent in Canterbury to study Politics and International Relations. This degree allowed me to expand my passion in all things political. In June 2020, I helped organise a BLM protest in Eastbourne following the injustice George Floyd faced earlier that year in the USA. Even though it was difficult to carry out I persevered and saw an amazing turnout and support on the day. Although the COVID-19 pandemic started in my first year, I still managed to graduate with a 2:1 honours degree. Post-university, I was unsure of where to go next. I didn't want to go straight into a graduate job, but the Learning Mentor role suited me in my gap year plans; working for a year to save up and go traveling. I'm hoping that in my role as a Learning Mentor, I gain significant and meaningful experience which I can apply and use for the rest of my life. I'm looking forward to the year ahead.

Hi, my name is Mr Burdekin. I am one of the learning mentors here at Willingdon and this year I will be specialising in Science, Geography, and PE. During my time at school both in Kent and here in East Sussex I have always had a strong passion for Science, more specifically Biology. After studying A-level Biology, Geography, and an Animal management BTEC in sixth form, I am set to go to the University of York in the September of 2023 where I will be studying Ecology.

Sport and PE are also areas in which I have a real passion. Over my school career, I have played lots of football and I have also played rugby and cricket at the club level. I have been fortunate enough to play both club-level hockey for Eastbourne and county-level Hockey where I have represented the u16 and u18 Sussex hockey sides. When I saw the opportunity to become a Learning Mentor, I thought it would be a great way to use my gap year to gain some work experience and build up some valuable skills. So far, I have enjoyed every minute of my Willingdon experience and I've had the opportunity to work with so many great teachers and students both in and out of lesson time.

Careers Learning Journey