



DSFC Careers Programme

Our careers education provision and curriculum is available and accessible for all students, who are encouraged to follow progression routes which suit their individual interests, skills and strengths. The provision reflects our commitment to equality of opportunity, the absence of stereotyping and to the promotion of a place where diversity is celebrated.

Our Progression Program at Durham Sixth Form Centre aims to achieve the below learning outcomes:

- All students will have the opportunity to find out about higher and technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options, available at each transition point.
- All students will have access to support in making personalised and competitive applications through participating in the CORE:Progression programme, within timetabled CORE sessions.
- All students will have the opportunity to hear from a wide range of local HE, FE employers and apprenticeship providers about the various opportunities and pathways available through Parent Consultation and Progression evenings, presentations, workshops, assemblies, group discussions, career events and the CORE:Progression Programme.
- All students will understand how to make competitive applications for the full range of academic, apprenticeship and technical courses.
- All students will receive impartial 1:2:1 information, advice and guidance from our experienced Progression Team through our mandated Summer Progression Meetings and Y13 interactions, as well as through our opt-in 'Drop-In' service. This includes general impartial guidance, interview preparation, development of skills, sourcing opportunities and much more.

Our learning outcomes for students across the time that they are with us are achieved through our structured and thorough Progression Programme as outlined below, structured around the eight Gatsby Benchmarks

Pre-enrolment:

- Autumn & Spring Open Evenings - Progression Team presence to discuss careers and options
 - **BM 1, 2, 3, 8**
- Summer Taster Days for Year 10
 - **BM 1, 2, 3, 8**
- Year 11 Open Days for prospective students
 - **BM 1, 2, 3, 8**
- Attendance at recruitment and information events at partner schools
 - **BM 2**
- A 1:2:1 recruitment interview for every student applicant to discuss their post-16 options and progression plans
 - **BM 1, 2, 3, 8**
- Advice on how to choose subjects and careers information included in our enrolment booklet

Benchmark

- ☒ 1
- ☒ 2
- ☒ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☒ 8

○ BM 1, 2 ● Progression Team presence at enrolment - all students must meet a member of the team as part of the process ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8	
Overall Offer - Across both year groups ● CORE: Progression Programme. For example: ○ CVs and Cover Letters ○ Skills Builder Benchmarking ○ Labour Market Information ○ Exploring post-18 options ○ Application Statements ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8 ● Specialist Programme including expert support, access to conferences and speakers. For example: ○ Oxford and Cambridge ○ Medicine ○ Dentistry ○ Veterinary Medicine ○ Health Careers ○ Engineering ○ Aviation ○ Armed Forces / Uniformed Public Services ○ Widening Participation ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 ● Employer engagement and work experience/volunteering opportunities ○ Specialist Support from dedicated team members ○ Work Experience in Vocational Subjects ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 ● Active promotion of 'Widening Participation' opportunities. For example: ○ Durham Supported Progression ○ Sutton Trust ○ Newcastle Partners ○ Access to Leeds ○ BM 1, 3, 7, 8 ● MA/Aspire Programme ○ Most Able Academic Mentor ○ Competitive University Application Support/Presentations ○ Academic Enrichment Offer ○ BM 1, 3, 7, 8 ● 1:2:1 personal guidance Interviews with Level 6 qualified Careers Professionals	Benchmark ☒ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒ 4 ☒ 5 ☒ 6 ☒ 7 ☒ 8

○ Drop in service for students and parents/carers ○ BM 1, 3, 8 ● Access to Progression Google Site and Google Classroom ○ BM 1, 3 ● Access to Work Experience Google Classroom ○ BM 1, 3 ● Visits to HEIs e.g. Durham, York, Northumbria ○ BM 1, 3, 7 ● Visiting speakers - employers, HEIs, apprenticeship providers ○ BM 1, 3, 5, 7 ● Curriculum teaching staff who receive regular training and support to facilitate careers based learning throughout education programmes and schemes of work ○ BM 1, 4	
Year 12 Specific ● Y12 Parents Information Evening (Sept) BM 1, 2 ● Y12 Annual Parents Careers Conference ○ Parent & Student Event (February) ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 ● Curriculum Careers Week ○ Subject Presentations by all subjects - “Careers in...” ○ Subject Skills ○ Guest Speakers ○ Alumni Event ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 ● UCAS Exhibition - Newcastle ○ BM 1, 7 ● Mandatory Summer Progression Meeting - 1:1 for all students ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8 ● Progression Fair ○ HEIs ○ Employers ○ Providers ○ BM 1, 5, 7 ● Y12 - Y13 Parents Progression Evening ○ UCAS ○ Student Finance ○ Apprenticeships ○ Other routes	Benchmark ☒ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒ 4 ☒ 5 ☒ 6 ☒ 7 ☒ 8

○ BM 1, 5, 7, 8 ● Opportunities Week - focus on work experience, employer engagement, employer led enrichment ○ BM 1, 5, 6	
Year 13 Specific ● Y13 Welcome Back and Information Evening (Parent & Student Event) ○ BM 1, 2 ● UCAS Support with designated personal UCAS/Progression Lead ○ Personal Statement and Application support ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8 ● Higher level/degree/level 3 apprenticeships specialist application support ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8 ● Apprenticeship Networking Events x2 ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 ● Apprenticeship Expo Visit ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 ● Interview preparation including: ○ Mock Assessment days ○ Mock Interview Panels online/face-to-face ○ 1:2:1 interviews with industry professionals ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8	Benchmark ☒ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4 ☒ 5 ☐ 6 ☒ 7 ☒ 8
Ongoing support available to DSFC alumni (for up to two years after leaving): ● UCAS Application support and reference provision ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8 ● Interview and CV Preparation ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8 ● 1:2:1 Guidance interviews and Careers advice ○ BM 1, 2, 3, 8	Benchmark ☒ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☒ 8

Benchmark 1: A stable careers programme	Benchmark 2: Learning from career and labour market information	Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each pupil	Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers
Benchmark 5: Encounters with employers and employees	Benchmark 6: Experiences of workplaces	Benchmark 7: Encounters with further and higher education	Benchmark 8: Personal guidance

