

My School Career Journey by Avisha Jayakody

Year 09 options evening was an event that enabled me to explore my options and make an informed decision on what subjects I want to study and take into consideration what subjects will help in working towards my career goal. My goal is heavily based on science, so the evening was more helpful to me when deciding what options would benefit me in the workplace. Therefore, I chose Geography, Business and French all subjects which I enjoyed.

The year 10 work experience was something new and foreign to me. I was able to get an opportunity to work at The Entertainer with the help of the school. Although the work was not related to the career I aspire to do, I was able to improve my organisation skills, time management and learn how to respond to an unexpected problem calmly and logically. It gave me an insight into how competitive getting a job can be.

Landing a job has several steps, which include the CV and interviews. We had PSHEE lessons dedicated to educating us about how to write CVs, the dos, the don'ts and similarly for interviews. These lessons were also accompanied by the mock interview. I found this particularly helpful as although I have had interviews before this point, I was able to get feedback from the guest on what I did good and what works for which situation as well as some tips and advice since this was a mock, unlike the rest.

We also met various guests at the careers carousel. At various carousels over the years I was able to learn about jobs I hadn't even known about and understand that the world of work demands one thing from everyone no matter the job, a hardworking and passionate mindset. A careers talk that I remember specifically is the talk with the GP as I was able to learn about working for the NHS and more about the world of medicine from a professional's perspective. I got to learn more about working in the NHS and the various departments through the Human Guinea Pig Show at Harlow College. The information booklets given out were incredibly helpful in differentiating between the different jobs in the NHS.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown, we did not get as many opportunities in sixth form to look into prospects regarding careers but the school did their best to support us through our UCAS applications by having talks by universities such as Sterling university and promoting events that would benefit us. These talks were the reason I was aware that various factors such as the course, community, location etc. needed to be considered when choosing a university. We also had guest talks concerning finance at university which was valuable. The careers bulletin was essential during these times as it was easy to find events and opportunities that benefited you. They always had a variety of subjects varying from university advice to apprenticeships.

Of course, we got assistance from within the school as well. From the careers leader to the sixth form leaders and subject teachers, various people had input on our UCAS applications and personal statements to ensure that we did our best.

Teachers who were aware of the career I aspire to do were able to assist more. Mrs Shuttlewood recommended to me an event by Wellcome Sanger Institute and it was unbelievably insightful and related to my career goal that I continued to attend events hosted by the institute. Mrs Lumby encouraged me to inquire about work experience from the Babraham Institute when we visited a local school for a genetics talk hosted by them. Regrettably, I was not able to do work experience due to the pandemic.

I can say for certain that without my school career journey I would have not been prepared to look forward to my next step in life which is further education let alone enter the world of work.







