

Careers Department

Trips and Events

Mr Bond

With so many Careers activities having been curtailed by Covid restrictions during 2020 and 2021, it was fantastic to get back into the cut and thrust of events and visits this year.

September kicked off with the Young Enterprise 'Step Up' programme for Year 8. Pupils got a chance to think about how the transition to secondary school would affect them, and to think about the many job roles that are necessary to keep a school running. At the other end of the age range, Year 14 had a day of mock interviews during which students had the chance to participate in a simulated recruitment process, culminating in an interview with a guest interviewer. We were very grateful to past pupils, parents and others with links to the school for giving up their time on this important day.



Later in the year, a number of trips were organised to major events in the local area where pupils from schools across the province were able to meet universities, colleges and employers and start thinking seriously about future opportunities. The Eikon Centre near Lisburn hosted two such events. Year 11 pupils visited the School Summit in October, while Year 13 attended the UCAS Exhibition in March. In both cases, it was great to see pupils engage meaningfully with exhibitors, and many came away not just with a bagful of freebies, but a bit of inspiration.

In June came the turn of Year 9, who attended the 4CUR Future skills development workshop at South Lakes Leisure Centre. This ambitious project saw employer representatives from some of Northern Ireland's biggest companies interact with pupils in tasks designed to test and develop

teamwork, communication, problem solving and organisation.

Back in school, pupils were busy developing these same skills through a range of extra and co-curricular activities. We were delighted to work with Young Enterprise on the Year 9 'QuickStart' programme, which saw 'Beachy Beads' crowned champion entrepreneurs for their start-up jewellery business. Year 10 had their chance to hone their business skills too through the Young Enterprise 10X Challenge, with some novel and opportunistic marketing ploys in evidence across the four weeks of the scheme!

Sixth formers had their share of visitors to school during the weekly lecture period, with talks from Queen's and Ulster Universities, Alchemy Technology Services, Work+, University of Cambridge and many more. We

were delighted at the end of the year to see so many Year 14 pupils secure places at their first choice universities, but also to send a number of pupils out into the workplace either in employment or on apprenticeship, with companies such as Deloitte, Norbrook and Almac.

