

Careers Careers

Mr Bond

September is always a busy month in Careers, and last year was no exception.

We kicked off the year with training for our team of prefects, delivered by leadership consultant Rebecca McGerrigan. The role of the prefect is an important one within the school and the team was encouraged to think about their personal goals, their strengths and weaknesses, and their place within the wider organisation.

Looking ahead to UCAS applications, we headed off with pupils to all three of Ulster University's new campuses. Many pupils enjoyed the chance to visit the new multi-million pound campus in Belfast, while others got a taste for the north-west with a trip to

Derry/Londonderry.

PeopleHawk launched at Banbridge Academy in March 2023, and 2023/24 saw the platform more deeply embedded in the Careers curriculum. PeopleHawk continues to develop, offering pupils the chance to reflect on their personality, competencies, values and cognitive abilities. Pupils have been able to avail of practice in video interviews, which has been valuable to so many applying to competitive courses.

We continued to work with Young Enterprise this year, drawing on the organisation's excellent range of programmes. In Year 8, pupils enjoyed the chance to explore their employability skills as they transition from primary school with 'Step Up'. In Year 9 and

Year 10, they flexed their entrepreneurial muscles with 'QuickStart' and the '10X challenge'. In Year 12 we used the 'You're Hired' programme in conjunction with PeopleHawk to help pupils understand the job market and produce winning CVs.

As usual, sixth form pupils attended the weekly 'Lecture Period', an opportunity to bring in visiting speakers presenting a diverse range of opportunities. In addition to the normal round of visits from local universities, pupils got to hear about the work of local companies like First Derivative. We were also delighted to welcome back past pupils Brooke Gilliliand and Beth Sterrit to talk about their first year as apprentices with PWC.



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