



Halesbury School Careers Newsletter

Spring Term 2024 Newsletter:

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of our Careers newsletter! The last term has certainly been a busy one with lots of our children and young people having lots of new experiences as a result of the recently implemented Preparing for Adulthood day, which takes place every Thursday. We have also begun forming new relationships with curriculum partners, such as Birmingham Hippodrome, which has meant that we have been able to provide enriching, creative experiences, both in, and out of school. We are also in the process of beginning to finalise next steps and plan transition support for our Year 11 and Year 14 pupils. As ever, if there is anyone worrying about the next steps for their child, then please do get in touch so that we can support you as we appreciate the enormity of this decision.

Mrs Harris

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Website: <https://www.halesbury.dudley.sch.uk/careers/careers-home>

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Transition Workshops at Halesbury School:

We recognise that the idea of transitioning into a new setting, away from Halesbury, can be worrying and upsetting for many of our young people, as well as their parents/carers as it is often a time of uncertainty.

In order to support both you, and your child, with their upcoming transition, we have arranged two workshops, in conjunctions with the team from Reflexions. They are primarily aimed at those young people in Year 11 and Year 14 who will be leaving Halesbury in the Summer, as well as their parents/carers.

Details of the workshops are below:

Year 11 and Year 14 Parent/Carer Workshop – ‘Preparing for Transition’

When: Thursday 18th April at 1.30pm

Where: Halesbury School

What: An opportunity to explore the idea of transition and what it may mean for you and your child. There will be the chance to speak to other parents/carers who are also supporting their child with their upcoming transition and voice any concerns to key staff who may be able to support you e.g. Mrs Harris and Mrs Plummer as well as the Reflexions team.

Year 11 and Year 14 Pupil Workshop – ‘Preparing for Transition’

When: Wednesday 5th June at 9.30am

Where: Halesbury School

What: This will be a useful opportunity for pupils to receive support from the Reflexions team, as well as Halesbury staff, as they prepare for their upcoming transition. All Year 11 and Year 14 pupils will be attending this session as it is during the normal school day.

I shall post reminders of the workshops on ClassDojo, closer to the time, but wanted to make sure that you had the dates/times as soon as possible.

If you would like more information on the organisation Reflexions, and the support they offer, please visit: <https://dudleyci.co.uk/storage/5193/Reflexions-Leaflet-0323.pdf>

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Phase Trust:

As well as the transition workshops that are taking place in school, we are also working closely with an external organisation called Phase Trust to provide further transition support for Year 11 pupils.

Based, in Halesowen, **Phase Trust** is a widely-respected youth organisation that works across Dudley Borough, and beyond, to support programmes that encourage children & young people, with a variety of social, emotional and learning needs, to maximise opportunities and reach their full potential as citizens. This year, Phase Trust are running **two transition programmes** that may be useful to our Year 11 pupils - **Boost** and **Forward**.

Boost:

Boost is a 3 day programme over 3 weeks (mid July - early August) that is delivered in partnership with Connexions. Boost will be delivered from **Halesowen College** and **Dudley College** and has been designed specifically for pupils who will be attending these colleges in September. This programme is designed for those who are anxious about transitioning to college and will help them feel more confident, prepared and also give them the opportunity to meet and make friends with other students. Included in the programme are sessions around: building confidence, positive relationships and managing change and there is a college tour lead by a college staff member. Phase Trust can cater for most needs and will get in touch with parent/carer to talk more about their child's needs before the programme.

Forward:

Forward is also designed to support students who are very anxious about going to college in September 2024 but is aimed at those who would not cope well with attending Boost and being in larger groups. Forward will be **delivered at Phase Trust's facility in Halesowen** (2 days a week for 3 weeks mid to end July) and will involve confidence building sessions and activities aimed at students feeling less anxious around new people, more prepared for college and happier interacting with peers. Phase Trust are able to cater for most needs and will get in touch with parent/carer to talk more about their child's needs before the programme. Forward also has **an open evening** scheduled for **22/5/24** for those referred to the programme or wanting to see the location.

I am able to refer students for either of the programmes so for flyers, referral forms or more information, please do get in touch!

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Our Highlights:

Across the next two pages, you will find photos and quotes from students in the Secondary phase of school showing their highlights from the first term of Careers and Preparing for Adulthood activities.







Nick came to visit us. He's a firefighter and we got to try on his kit! It's really heavy because it helps to keep him safe.

We visited a nursing home and played games with the residents. Lots of them had really interesting stories to tell us.



Pathway 1 really enjoyed working with Sam from the Hippodrome because 'he was funny and played lots of good games'.

   
Emerald Class like horse-riding



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Our Highlights:



We go to Ashfield Gardens every week. We do different activities like looking after animals and working in the gardens.



When we went to the theatre to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' there was a sensory room that we could use if we felt a bit stressed. This helped me to calm down and I watched the show on the TV screen.

This half term, we have been going to BOM in Birmingham. I have really enjoyed using technology to create our own superhero digital artwork.



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Parent/Carer Survey:

On Monday 19th February, we will be launching our mid-year parent/carer survey of our Careers and Preparing for Adulthood survey. Please look out for the link, which will be shared on Class Dojo. We really welcome your input and views as we take the survey results into account when planning our provision. The survey link will be open for one week and the results of the survey will be shared with you in the Summer edition of our newsletter.



Spring/Summer Open Days:

Over the next couple of months, colleges and further education providers will be holding their last open days for this academic year. If your child is **currently in Year 10**, it is a really good idea to start visiting settings now so that you and your child have a good idea of which setting is your preferred option - this can then be shared with your case officer in your child's Year 11 EHCP review, which will take place in September/October.

The following colleges are holding open days this term and dates/booking links can be found at the back of this newsletter:

- Halesowen College
- Dudley College
- Sandwell College
- Queen Alexandra College
- Glasshouse College



Alternatively, you may wish to contact the following providers to arrange a 1:1 visit:

- Juniper Training
- Nova Training
- Pens Meadow Post 16
- Halesbury Post 16

If you would to discuss which options may be most suited to your child, then please get in touch with me to arrange a suitable time to meet.

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Out and About in the Community:

Dudley Holiday Activity Fund (HAF):

Dudley Holiday Activities provides free school holiday activities and food for children aged 5 – 16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and other vulnerable groups. Pupils with EHCPs are eligible to apply. This year, there is now a new system for registering for HAF so you may have to re-register, even if you previously had a HAF code and attended activities last year.

To register for HAF, please visit:

<https://register.bookinglab.co.uk/dudley/37001/register>



We Love Carers – CHAOS! Clubs:

We Love Carers is a charitable organisation designed to support carers of disabled children/adults. One aspect of their work is the development of Chaos! clubs which aim to provide play sessions for children and young adults with a wide range of disabilities. Details of the clubs are:

1. Total Chaos! – Sessions are for children aged 4-13, and their siblings, and takes place on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm, at a cost of £5 per session. (Held at Mary Stevens Centre, DY8 2JR)

2. Extreme Chaos! - Sessions are for young people aged 13-25, and their siblings, and takes place on fortnightly Tuesday evenings from 7pm-8.30pm, at a cost of £5 per session. (Held at Mary Stevens Centre, DY8 2JR)

3. Inclusive Sports - Sessions are for young people aged 13-25, and their siblings, and takes place on Thursday evenings from 7pm-9pm, at a cost of £5 per session. (Held at Woodside Community Centre, DY2 0TQ)

There are also holiday sessions that take place through this organisation.

Please note that you must be a registered member of We Love Carers to attend any of these groups. For more information, visit their website (<https://www.welovecarers.org/>) or email: hello@welovecarers.org



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Dates for your Diary:

- **Tuesday 5th March 2024:** Sandwell College Open Evening (4pm-7pm)
Book here: <https://www.sandwell.ac.uk/opensdays/>
- **Wednesday 6th March 2024:** Queen Alexandra College (QAC) Open Day (9.45am-12pm)
To book, call: 0121 803 5484
- **Saturday 9th March 2024:** Sandwell College Open Day (11am-3pm)
Book here: <https://www.sandwell.ac.uk/opensdays/>
- **Saturday 9th March 2024:** Dudley College Open Day (10am-2pm)
Book here: <https://dudleycol.ac.uk/event/open-day-march/>
- **Tuesday 16th April 2024:** Glasshouse College Open Day (Various Time Slots Available)
To book, call: 07977174774 or email: wmadmissions@rmt.org
- **Thursday 18th April 2024:** Reflexions Transition Workshop for Parents/Carers – Held at Halesbury – Booking info to follow
- **Wednesday 24th April 2024:** Halesowen College Open Evening (6pm-8pm)
Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/halesowen-college-open-events-202324-registration-640386131157>
- **Wednesday 1st May 2024:** Glasshouse College Open Day (Various Time Slots Available)
To book, call: 07977174774 or email: wmadmissions@rmt.org
- **Wednesday 22nd May 2024:** Phase Trust 'Forward Programme' Information Evening (6pm-7pm) – Held at Phase Trust, Halesowen. For more information, contact: nathaliedean@phasetrust.org.uk
- **Wednesday 5th June 2024:** Reflexions Transition Workshop for Year 11 Pupils – Held at Halesbury
- **Wednesday 12th June 2024:** Dudley College Open Evening (4pm-7pm)
Book here: <https://dudleycol.ac.uk/event/open-evening-june/>
- **Wednesday 19th June 2024:** Glasshouse College Open Day (Various Time Slots Available)
To book, call: 07977174774 or email: wmadmissions@rmt.org

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