

Careers Provision at ASCEND

The Quality in Careers Standard Award

Ormiston Park Academy is working towards The Quality in Careers Standard Award. Our aim is to gain this award by July 2025. It is a national award that shows we provide a good quality of Careers Education and Guidance at Ormiston Park Academy.

Careers Advice and Guidance at Ormiston Park Academy

Quality Assurance

At Ormiston Park Academy we are committed to ensuring that our Careers provision meets all the current guidelines for good practice, to prepare and equip our students for their future careers.

We measure and evaluate our programme via the Quality in Careers Standard and the 8 GATSBY Benchmarks. Hitting the Gatsby Bench marks ensure that Ormiston Park Academy meet our legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 (known as the Baker Clause).

There is a statutory duty to give independent careers guidance for all students from Year 8 onwards and the Government also recommends that all schools should work towards the National Quality in Careers Standard. OPA offers a range of activities to introduce students to the world of work and help them make decisions about life after school. The academy works very closely with a number of different providers to ensure every opportunity is given to our students and to make them aware of all that is available to them.

GATSBY Benchmarks

1) A Stable Careers Programme

A programme of careers education and guidance within tutor time for all years and careers education will also be part of PSHE lessons for all pupils.

Information about future study options and the labour market is available to students at Open Evenings, through the National Careers Services and through the Independent Careers Adviser to give impartial advice on careers and future opportunities, as well as workshops/assemblies/lessons and with our partnerships stakeholders such as Inspire Thurrock and Make Happen.

We provide students with opportunities within the Academy to have direct contact with employers by hosting careers drop in talks. We have invited in parents and local companies and training providers to speak with students about their experiences or their careers.

Careers Provision at ASCEND

Students can attend a variety of careers fairs and events, whether this is off site or at school. These events allow students to meet employers as well as leaders from colleges and universities.

In addition, as noted previously we have strong links with Inspire Thurrock and Make Happen how offer a wide range of support and opportunity to students.

Learning from Career and labour market information

To identify the needs of our students in regard to careers guidance, all students are entitled to an appointment with our external careers adviser in year 10 and/or year 11.

If individual students speak with tutors in regard to their future aspirations, staff members can use these conversations to identify any further guidance and support the Academy can give to the student.

2) Addressing the need of each student

To address the needs of our students, we use the Compass Plus tracking website. After analysis of information on the tracker, we organise trips, events, workshops, lesson content, assemblies based on the data that has been returned. These events will be organised and then aimed targeted towards those students/groups of students who would benefit the most in the event.

3) Linking curriculum learning to careers

To ensure that careers are incorporated into the curriculum learning of students, we follow the career development plan, once curriculum information has been input by Curriculum Leaders. The information displays the links of the students' learning to any career's possibilities or opportunities. An Action Plan will be written by each curriculum area for how they wish to develop this further.

4) Encounters with employers and employees

Our students can potentially have many encounters with employers and employees. We will record all encounters via Compass Plus and target students who may not have engaged in any activities and events. Students may attend, trips, assemblies, workshops, careers and educational fairs.

5) Experiences of workplaces

To ensure that our students experience the workplace whilst they are still school age, we are looking at the potential of all Year 10 students participating in work experience. This provides them with experiences of

Careers Provision at ASCEND

the workplace and insights into the career path that they may have an interest in.

6) Encounters with further and higher education

The Academy invites apprenticeship providers in to talk to students about apprenticeships this is hosted by Inspire Thurrock and includes a wide range of follow up activities and support for students, including how to find and apply for apprenticeships, through assemblies and specific talks. We also welcome and actively organise University talks and visits, this is hosted by Make Happen and again includes a wide range of follow up activities and support for students.

7) Personal guidance

We have a level 6 Careers Adviser; students are offered at least one appointment during year 11. If a follow up appointment is required that can be organised.

Parents and carers are welcome to attend careers appointments with their sons/daughters and after school appointments are available.

Ascend Year 11 Careers interviews	18.12.2024
Ascend Year 11 Follow up careers Interviews	09.06.25
Ascend Year 10 Careers Interviews	16.06.25

Student entitlement – Students in years 8-13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
 - To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options evenings, assemblies, group discussions and careers fairs.
 - To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses through the mentor programme, workshops and seminars and via our independent career adviser.
- The Careers Department plays a full and active part at Ormiston Park Academy; its aim is to prepare students for work by:
- contributing to raising their achievements and motivation
 - raising their awareness of their current and future life choices
 - enhancing their skills in coping with future transitions
 - enabling their access to Higher Education

Careers Provision at ASCEND

- developing skills and talents for employment