

Ms R Phillips, Headteacher
Woodchurch High School
Carr Bridge Road
Birkenhead
CH49 7NG

5 May 2020

Dear Ms Phillips,

Woodchurch High School has been part of the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub for nearly two years and has been receiving support from the Careers and Enterprise Company to work towards achieving the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks, thereby inspiring and preparing young people for the fast-changing world of work.

Data shows that schools and colleges in the Careers Hubs and Enterprise Advisor Network are already outperforming the national average across all aspects of careers education nationally.

- In the last 12 months there has been a 56% improvement across the Benchmarks in careers education in Hubs compared with a five per cent improvement in those outside the network.
- Over half of mainstream schools (55%) offer students employer encounters every year they are at school. This has increased from 37% in 2018.
- Over half of mainstream schools (57%) provide the majority of students with at least one experience of the workplace by the end of Year 11. This has increased from 48% in 2018.
- 98% of schools and colleges say Enterprise Advisers have helped them achieve improvement in careers guidance through the Gatsby Benchmarks

The impacts on our young people are becoming increasingly significant. For example, the 'Closing the Gap' report (Jan 2020),

- Found participation in career talks to have positive impacts on self-efficacy, motivation, career plans and GCSE results.
- The wage premium associated with careers talks from outside speakers has been shown to continue increasing.
- The benefits of employer engagement are particularly powerful for students from disadvantaged backgrounds with weaker networks.

The LCR Careers Hub has successfully expanded to include more schools across the Liverpool City Region. Our work has been focussed on providing the personalised support for our schools to ensure they make effective progress and there is a clear impact on outcomes for our young people.

Examples of the specific support delivered by the Hub includes:

- Workplace Safari at Walton Centre with plans to offer more sessions.
- Careers Leader training with paid bursary
- Curriculum resources from "Success at School" – subject posters, apprenticeship posters and access to lesson plans.
- Virtual Wallet could be added for appropriate schools.
- Offer of bidding for funding to implement sustainable careers initiatives.
- BM6 training workshop.

We have also worked with many partner organisations such as the Civil Service North West and Shaping Futures to target support within the Careers Hub and to ensure our schools benefit from as many opportunities as possible.

It has been a pleasure to continue to work with Woodchurch High School. Your Enterprise Coordinator, Charlotte Lawrence, has been working with your Careers Lead, Lauren Quigley. Lauren continues to provide excellent support for the students and has developed approaches suitable for remote support.

Recently, there have been some interesting challenges afforded by the impact of the Covid-19 situation. The Careers Hub has continued to support the schools by:

- sending out a list of resources that can be accessed remotely.
- Your Enterprise Coordinator has been in regular contact with your careers leader and they are currently focusing on:
 1. BM1 – reviewing website and offering feedback.
 2. BM1 – sending examples of best practice re feedback.

Your Enterprise Adviser, Mark Sutherberry, Manufacturing Technology Centre, continues to provide excellent support for the school.

I have attached a sheet which shows the progress made against each of the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks. You will see that you are fully achieving 6 of the Benchmarks.

The key challenges remaining for the school are:

- Whole school careers programme is published on your website with information aimed specifically at employers.
- Implement systems for employers to formally evaluate the careers programme.
- To track destination data for three years after the end of KS4.

As Careers Hub Lead, I am looking forward to continuing to work with Woodchurch High School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Beavers", followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small flourish.

Sally Beavers
Liverpool City Region, Careers Hub Lead

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			Woodchurch High School
	Descriptor	Enterprise Coordinator	Charlotte Lawrence
Benchmark 1	Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, parents, teachers and employers.	Spring term 2020	88%
		Autumn term 2019	88%
		Progress	0%
Benchmark 2	Every pupil, and their parents, should have access to good quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities. They will need the support of an informed adviser to make the best use of available information.	Spring term 2020	100%
		Autumn term 2019	100%
		Progress	0%
Benchmark 3	Pupils have different career guidance needs at different stages. Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each pupil. A school's careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.	Spring term 2020	90%
		Autumn term 2019	90%
		Progress	0%
Benchmark 4	All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. For example, STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths.	Spring term 2020	100%
		Autumn term 2019	100%
		Progress	0%

Benchmark 5	Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.	Spring term 2020	100%
		Autumn term 2019	100%
		Progress	0%
Benchmark 6	Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks.	Spring term 2020	100%
		Autumn term 2019	100%
		Progress	0%
Benchmark 7	All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace.	Spring term 2020	100%
		Autumn term 2019	100%
		Progress	0%
Benchmark 8	Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a careers adviser, who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made. They should be expected for all pupils but should be timed to meet their individual needs.	Spring term 2020	100%
		Autumn term 2019	100%
		Progress	0%
Total BMs achieved			6/8