

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy and successful Autumn term delivering our Personal Development Programme. So far this academic year, students from Year 7 to Year 11 have taken part in over 20 different events. I hope you had the opportunity to read some of the positive feedback shared by our students in our newsletters.

Our programme continues to evolve, with new opportunities being introduced throughout the year. Below, you will find details of the planned activities for the Spring Term, along with some helpful links at the end of this letter.

The World of Work – Year 10 Work Experience

Following on from our letter sent in the Autumn term, we would like to encourage you to support your son or daughter in securing a work experience placement. Work experience is an invaluable opportunity for students to develop essential life skills and gain insight into the expectations of the workplace.

We strongly encourage Year 10 students to arrange placements through family members, friends, or local contacts during the school holidays. Students should aim to complete 3–5 days of work experience during one of the following periods:

- Easter Holidays: 30 March – 10 April
- May Half Term: 25 – 29 May
- Summer Holidays: 20 – 24 July

Please note that work experience placements **cannot** take place **during term time**. We recognise that securing placements can be challenging, and we appreciate your continued support in helping students explore suitable opportunities.

In addition, as part of our commitment to developing students' awareness of the world of work, Year 7 students will take part in a one-day work shadowing experience during the Summer Term. Further details will be shared in due course.

Business and Community Involvement

We are always keen to strengthen links with local businesses and professionals to enhance our careers programme. Opportunities include mock interviews, short career talks, and participation in our careers carousel morning.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information, please contact me at info@dlsbasildon.org.

Planned Activities – Spring Term

Year 7

- Unifrog Session 3: What is a career?
- Unifrog Session 4: What is an entrepreneur?
- Local Labour Market Workshop

Year 8

- Unifrog Session 3: Challenges and rewards of work
- Unifrog Session 4: Creating the life you want – vision board
- Unconscious Bias Workshop
- NHS Workshops
- Enterprise Challenge

Year 9

- Unifrog Session 3: Decision-making – choosing KS4 options
- Unifrog Session 4: Taking control of your career journey
- Essex University Mentoring
- Future Thinking Group
- The Brilliant Club
- Industry Taster Sessions
- Small-group Connexions workshops
- "Future Forward" - Drama presentation

Year 10

- Unifrog Session 3: What type of career is best for me?
- Unifrog Session 4: Preparing for work experience
- Mr Beezy motivational session
- Year 10 Work experience

Year 11

- Unifrog Session 3: Choosing your post-16 pathway
- Unifrog Session 4: Researching volunteering and paid work
- Apprenticeship Hub Assembly
- Mr Beezy motivational session
- One-to-one Connexions interviews

Supporting Your Child's Future

Many parents ask how they can best support their child in planning for life after school. Regular, open conversations about interests, strengths, and aspirations are a great starting point.

You may find the [Talking Futures](#) website helpful, as it provides useful conversation starters for parents and carers.

You may also wish to explore the [Local Labour Market](#) website to gain insight into local job trends and employment opportunities.

Further information can also be found via the [Unifrog](#) website and your [Parental Unifrog Account](#)

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing further updates as the year progresses