

## Careers education at Dixons McMillan Academy

At Dixons McMillan Academy, our mission is that all students. Our values of integrity, resilience, and courtesy support this mission and our language, routines and structures constantly reinforce the metaphor of 'climbing the mountain'. Our drivers of 'mastery, autonomy and purpose' ensure all students are intrinsically motivated to achieve their full potential and to see the doors education can open. All our artefacts in school support this mission.

Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) is a strategic priority for the academy and is referenced as such in the academy improvement plan. Purpose is a key driver and therefore careers education underpins the entire curriculum. This strategic overview features several planned careers events, though many more are organised throughout the year. The academy uses the UNIFROG platform to collect information from students in order to provide tailored and specific careers-based opportunities along with our Careers advisor who attends the academy weekly.

**Careers lead:** Paul Murray (Vice Principal)

**Chair of Governors:** Anthony Devine

**Review date:** August 2026

### Principles

**Throughout their careers education, students at Dixons McMillan Academy will be:**

- undertaking various work-related experiences;
- reflecting upon and refining aspirations;
- increasing knowledge of education, training and career opportunities;
- developing a career plan in order to help achieve the academy's mission and fulfil potential.

Our uniting aim is to provide young people with the very best education possible so that they leave the academy highly employable and ready to lead happy and successful lives.

**The careers curriculum will address social disadvantage by providing all students with:**

- knowledge about university and suitable alternatives, including the logistics of finance and applications;
- knowledge of all levels of qualification beyond the academy, including apprenticeships, BTECs, T-levels and A-levels;
- a full range of workplace experiences;
- information from all sectors including those in the locality of Bradford – in the Leeds City Region and wider areas.

|    | Cycle 1  | Cycle 2   | Cycle 3   |
|----|--|---|---|
| Y7 | <p><b>PDS (GB3)</b></p> <p>All students are taught employability skills through our values and drivers and learning habits. This together with topics in their PDS curriculum such as stereotypes and relationships aim to support the in their careers education.</p> <p><b>Creative Careers (GB2, GB5)</b></p> <p>Students will carry research and take part in sessions focused on careers in a range of creative areas such as Music, Fashion and Textiles.</p> <p><b>Spotlight (GB3, GB4)</b></p> <p>Students will explore careers in the core subjects (English, Maths and Science) through focused sessions which go into detail on careers which link to these key areas of the curriculum.</p> <p><b>Cultural Studies (GB1, GB3)</b></p> <p>Through Cultural Studies, Students will be introduced to individuals who have taken career paths through 3 different routes once leaving Secondary Education.</p> | <p><b>Employer Encounters (GB5, GB4)</b></p> <p>Students will have face to face and virtual encounters with a range of local and national employers who will discuss different careers pathways with them.</p> <p><b>STEM Careers (GB4)</b></p> <p>For our employability day 2, Year 7 students take part in an activity to learn about a range of careers in the STEM industry.</p> <p><b>PDS (GB1, GB3)</b></p> <p>Financial decisions and money matters supports decision making skills and financial understanding in the future.</p> | <p><b>Careers across the Curriculum (GB2, GB4)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in a range of sessions which are linking the curriculum directly to the careers which the subjects can lead to. Several subjects have this directly included within their curriculum so will be within cycle 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p><b>PDS (GB5)</b></p> <p>Careers in finance and links with money to further support financial understanding and employability skills.</p>  |
| Y8 | <p><b>The Edit (GB5, GB6, GB4)</b></p> <p>Students take part in a national competition to gain and develop skills and knowledge of the media industry – links to English, DT and iMedia.</p> <p><b>Cultural Studies (GB1, GB3)</b></p> <p>Through Cultural Studies, Students will be introduced to individuals who have taken career paths through 3 different routes once leaving Secondary Education.</p>  | <p><b>Careers carousel (GB3, GB4, GB5, GB7)</b></p> <p>Students are supported through a carousel of options subjects to educate them on the transition to KS4 from KS3. Within the sessions there are strong links and experiences involving employers and educators.</p> <p><b>Queen's College Cambridge (GB2, GB3, GB6)</b></p> <p>Students meet and listen to a presentation on University Life from Queen's College Cambridge.</p>  | <p><b>Options evening (GB2, GB3, GB8)</b></p> <p>Students will engage with a range of subject leaders to discuss next steps in their learning and begin to decide which subjects might support them in achieving their career aspirations.</p> <p><b>Careers across the Curriculum (GB2, GB4)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in a range of sessions which are linking the curriculum directly to the careers which the subjects can lead to. Several subjects have this directly included within their curriculum so will be within cycle 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p><b>DELL Technologies (GB4)</b></p> <p>Students take part in a Social Enterprise workshop led by a representative of DELL Technologies.</p> <p><b>Amazon Programmer Presentation (GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5)</b></p> <p>Students are visited and listen to a presentation from an Amazon Computing specialist on Careers and Career paths in Computer Engineering.</p> |



|     | Cycle 1  | Cycle 2   | Cycle 3  |
|-----|--|---|--|
| Y9  | <p><b>Careers Fair (GB2, GB3, GB5, GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will have a chance to explore a range of careers and education pathways with engaging with multiple employers, higher education and further education insititutes. This will be followed up with sessions in advisories and conversations with senior members of staff.</p> <p><b>Trinity Kitchen (GB2, GB6, GB4)</b></p> <p>Students are exposed to a local hospitality and catering industry hub and are asked to plan and present a business concept to fit into the hub.</p> <p><b>Labour market information (GB2)</b></p> <p>Students explore the current market in the Leeds City Region through an assembly and presentation linked to Future Goals</p>   | <p><b>New College Presentation (GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will listen to a presentation from admissions staff at New College Bradford.</p> <p><b>Queen's College Cambridge (GB2, GB3, GB6)</b></p> <p>Students meet and listen to a presentation on University Life from Queen's College Cambridge.</p> <p><b>Skills Sessions (GB3)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in skill sessions focused on Assertiveness, Communication and Personal Budgeting.</p>   | <p><b>Employability and Careers in the Curriculum (GB4)</b></p> <p>Students rotate through the core subjects to understand how key skills developed in the subjects can support careers in the future linked to those subjects and beyond.</p> <p><b>Personal Branding (GB2, GB5)</b></p> <p>Students take part in online meeting with industry specialist on 'Personal Branding'.</p>   |
| Y10 | <p><b>Careers Fair (GB2, GB3, GB5, GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will have a chance to explore a range of careers and education pathways with engaging with multiple employers, higher education and further education institutes. This will be followed up with sessions in advisories and conversations with senior members of staff.</p> <p><b>Next Gen Careers Fair (GB2, GB3, GB5, GB7)</b></p> <p><i>Some Students will have a chance to explore a range of careers and education pathways with engaging with multiple employers, higher education and further education institutes. This will be at the Next Gen Careers Fair (Events North in Leeds)</i></p> <p><b>Cambridge University Tour (GB7)</b></p> <p><i>Some Students will visit a University as their first experience of a higher education institute.</i></p> | <p><b>Manchester Metropolitan University Key Note (GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in a 2 way Key Note from the STEM team at MMU.</p> <p><b>Skills Sessions (GB2, GB3, GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in skill sessions focused on Applications and Interview Skills, entrepreneurs and alternative pathways to employment.</p> <p><b>Queen's College Cambridge (GB2, GB3, GB6)</b></p> <p>Students meet and listen to a presentation on University Life from Queen's College Cambridge.</p> | <p><b>Virtual Work Experience (GB2, GB3, GB5, GB6)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in a 3 day virtual work experience programme. This will include multiple organisations, virtual tours and remote tasks from industry specialists.</p> <p><b>1-2-1 Careers Guidance (SEND)</b></p> <p>Qualified careers advisor meets with key students in Y10 before they transition to Y11 to support with additional personal guidance.</p> <p><b>DELL Technologies – Meet the Team (GB2, GB4, GB5)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in remote 'meet the team' session with key staff at DELL.</p> |



|     | Cycle 1   | Cycle 2  | Cycle 3 |
|-----|---|--|---------|
| Y11 | <p><b>Application support for academic and vocational routes (GB3, GB8)</b></p> <p>Students will work with advisors and senior leaders to create applications form a number of providers in order for them to be able to make informed choices about their future.</p> <p><b>Careers Fair (GB2, GB3, GB5, GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will have a chance to explore a range of careers and education pathways with engaging with multiple employers, higher education and further education institutes. This will be followed up with sessions in advisories and conversations with senior members of staff.</p> | <p><b>Transition Support (GB2)</b></p> <p>Tailored sessions for students who may have trepidation about leaving the academy to go to college. External providers will deliver sessions on how they will be supported at college.</p> <p><b>Application support for academic and vocational routes (GB3, GB8)</b></p> <p>Students will work with advisors and senior leaders to create applications form a number of providers in order for them to be able to make informed choices about their future.</p> <p><b>Mock interviews – employers and alumni (GB5, GB7, GB8)</b></p> <p>Employers from local businesses will attend and support students in completing mock interviews to support them in preparing for future employment.</p> <p><b>Manchester Metropolitan University Key Note (GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in a 2 way Key Note from the STEM team at MMU.</p> <p><b>Skills Sessions (GB2, GB3, GB7)</b></p> <p>Students will take part in skill sessions focused on Revision Planning, Financial Planning, CVs and Interviews.</p> <p><b>Queen’s College Cambridge (GB2, GB3, GB6)</b></p> <p>Students meet and listen to a presentation on University Life from Queen’s College Cambridge.</p> |         |

### The Gatsby Benchmarks – Key

The careers provision of Dixons McMillan Academy has been closely mapped to the eight Gatsby Benchmarks in order to ensure all students, on leaving education, can meet the demands of the fast-changing world of work.

- GB1: A stable careers programme
- GB2: Learning from career and labour market information
- GB3: Addressing the needs of each pupil
- GB4: Linking curriculum learning to careers
- GB5: Encounters with employers and employees
- GB6: Experiences of workplaces
- GB7: Encounters with further and higher education
- GB8: Personal guidance

