

The Gatsby Benchmarks

Discover how we use the national Gatsby Benchmarks to shape a high-quality, ambitious Careers Programme for all students. These benchmarks help us link learning to real-world opportunities, provide access to employers and universities, and ensure every young person receives the guidance they need to plan confidently for their future.

Trips & Visits

Read about the exciting range of careers trips, university experiences, and employer encounters our students have enjoyed this term. These visits are a key part of helping students understand different pathways, explore new industries, and gain hands-on insight into life beyond school. We also share information on upcoming opportunities across all year groups.

Your Feedback Matters!

Your voice plays a vital role in shaping our Careers Programme. Whether it's suggestions for future opportunities, offers to support an event, or ideas for improving this newsletter, your feedback helps us create richer, more relevant experiences for our students. Working together ensures we provide the very best guidance and inspiration for every young person at TQA.

Message from the Careers lead:

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy and positive start to the year, with careers education now firmly embedded within the school curriculum at The Quest Academy. This means that

students across all year groups are regularly engaging with careers learning through their lessons, tutor time, assemblies, and a growing programme of trips and employer encounters.

Our aim is to ensure that every student can clearly see the connection between what they learn in the classroom and the opportunities available in the world beyond school. So far this term, students have taken part in a wide range of meaningful experiences, including the Sky Up studio visit, Home Office assembly, John Ruskin College pathways session, Year 10 Work Experience, university visits, Science Museum workshops, and employer talks from organisations such as London Zoo, the NHS, and UCL. These activities are helping students build aspirations, develop key employability skills, and explore a broad range of future pathways. Looking ahead, we have a number of exciting events lined up, such as the London Lifesavers first aid workshops, the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Event, more STEM and university enrichment activities, and work experience opportunities across several year groups.

We will continue to update you as new events and partnerships are confirmed. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging students to make the most of these experiences. It is inspiring to see them growing in confidence and ambition as they deepen their understanding of their future options.



Mr J Henry
Assistant Principal

Y11 Students visit Sky Studios



On Friday 5 September, a group of Year 11 students took part in an inspiring visit to Sky Up Academy Studios in Osterley. The trip, linked to our Careers Curriculum theme "Our Futures", gave students a unique opportunity to explore the creative industries and the wide variety of careers available within them. Sky Up Academy Studios provides students aged 8 - 18 with hands-on media production experiences. Working in state-of-the-art studios, our students stepped into professional roles such as presenters, producers, editors, and camera operators.



With the support of Sky staff, they collaborated to plan, record, and edit their own mini productions, seeing first-hand how creativity, teamwork, and communication skills play a vital role in the workplace. The experience connects directly to The Quest Academy's Careers Curriculum, which supports students to link their classroom learning to future pathways. By engaging with real-world contexts and industries, our students were able to develop valuable transferable skills, raise their aspirations, and build confidence about the choices ahead of them.

Teachers and staff highlighted how the visit not only supported students' understanding of creative and digital careers but also reinforced the importance of resilience and collaboration; qualities that will help them succeed both in school and beyond. The day left students feeling motivated and excited about their futures, and The Quest Academy looks forward to building on this experience through further opportunities in the Careers Curriculum this year. A massive thank you to Ms Raees and Ms Fancett for leading the visit.

A Roaring Start: London Zoo Inspires Year 7



Our Year 7 students recently took part in an engaging and informative virtual assembly delivered by the London Zoo careers team.

The session introduced students to the wide variety of roles that keep the zoo running each day, including

animal keepers, veterinarians, conservation officers, researchers, and education specialists. Students were fascinated to learn how each role contributes to animal welfare, global conservation projects, and scientific understanding. The assembly also highlighted the essential skills needed in these fields, such as teamwork, problem-solving, communication, resilience, and a strong interest in science.

This experience encouraged students to think more broadly about their own aspirations and showed them how their learning today can open doors to exciting opportunities in wildlife conservation, environmental science, and the wider STEM landscape.

The Home Office talk to our Year 9 Students!



This week, we were delighted to welcome representatives from the Home Office to The Quest Academy, where they delivered engaging careers-focused sessions to our Year 9 and Sixth Form students.

The sessions gave our students valuable insights into the wide range of careers available within the Home Office, from frontline roles to specialist positions that support national security, immigration, and public safety. Students had the opportunity to hear first-hand about the skills, qualifications, and pathways needed to pursue a career in this vital government department.

The event also highlighted the importance of transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, and resilience; qualities that are essential not only within the Home Office but in any future career.

Our students asked thoughtful and challenging questions, demonstrating real curiosity about how they might contribute to keeping the country safe and supporting communities in the future. We are grateful to the Home Office team for taking the time to inspire and inform our students, and we look forward to welcoming them back to The Quest Academy again soon.

Quest 6 Students explore their future at Kensington Olympia



Quest 6 recently had the exciting opportunity to attend What Career? What University? Live at Kensington Olympia - one of the UK's largest events dedicated to post-18 choices and future career pathways.

The trip offered students a valuable chance to explore the full range of options available after Sixth Form, including university degrees, apprenticeships, gap year programmes, employer pathways, and emerging career sectors. Students met representatives from universities across the country, apprenticeship providers, and industry professionals, giving them a unique insight into today's rapidly evolving education and employment landscape. During the event, students were able to ask questions about entry requirements, student life, course structures, and the skills required by different industries.

This helped them deepen their understanding of what universities and employers are looking for and supported them in making informed decisions about their next steps. The day is designed to help young people compare courses, apprenticeships, and career options, and gain insight into the skills and qualifications valued by employers. Throughout the visit, students demonstrated maturity, curiosity, and a genuine eagerness to plan for their futures. Whether they were exploring STEM degrees, creative industries, business routes, or higher-level apprenticeships, the event helped clarify their ambitions and highlight new opportunities they may not have previously considered.

The trip forms part of Quest 6's commitment to providing high-quality careers education and guidance, ensuring every student is fully supported as they prepare for life beyond school. With several more events, university visits, and workshops planned for the academic year, students will continue to receive the guidance and experiences they need to make confident, well-informed choices about their future.

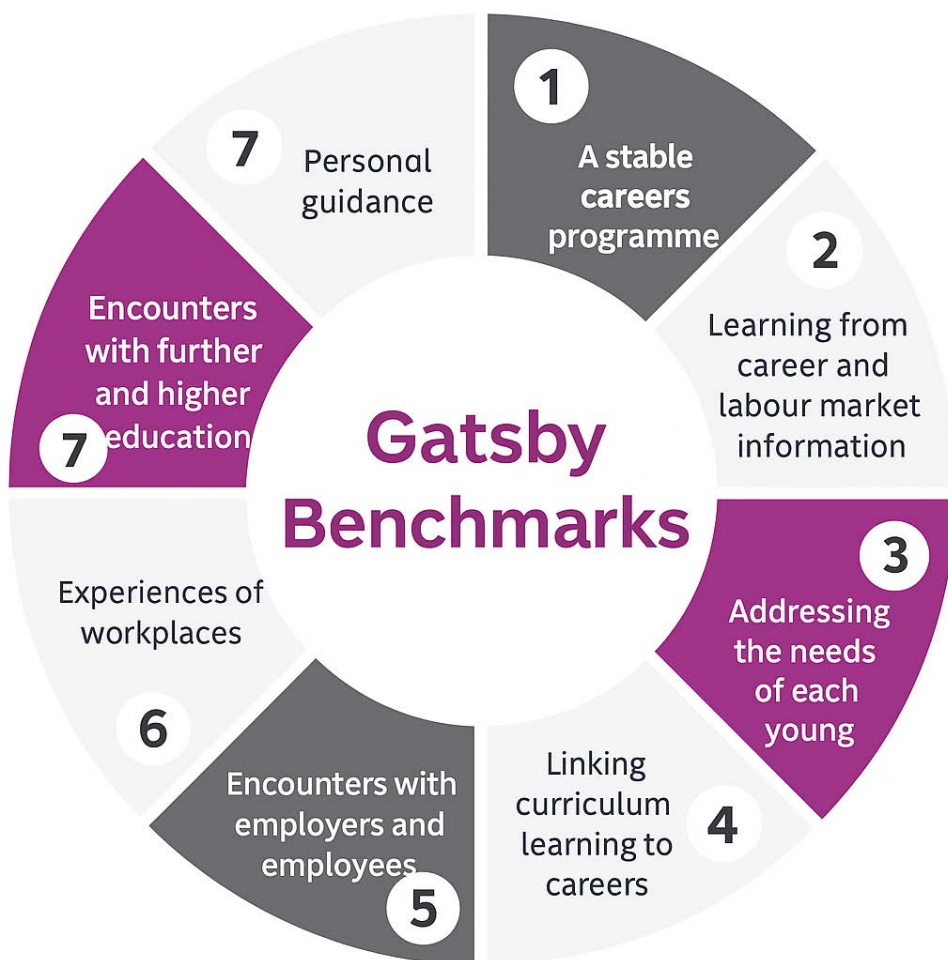
Unlocking Opportunities at Goldsmiths!



A group of our students recently visited Goldsmiths, University of London for an inspiring day exploring university life and future pathways. They took part in interactive taster sessions led by lecturers, gaining a real feel for a range of subjects. Students also attended a careers and pathways talk, helping them understand how different degrees connect to future professions. The visit concluded with a guided campus tour, giving students a valuable insight into what university study could look like in the future.

What are The Gatsby Benchmarks?

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of eight guidelines that define what good careers education looks like in schools and colleges. They were developed by the Gatsby Foundation following extensive research into the world's best careers systems.



Why do Gatsby Benchmarks matter?

The Gatsby Benchmarks help ensure that every student receives high-quality careers education. They guide our careers programme so that students gain the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to make informed choices about their future. This means every child benefits - no matter what year group they are in or what their goals may be.

Did you Know?

1. The Gatsby Benchmarks are used by every UK secondary school to guide careers education.
2. Students should have multiple "meaningful encounters" with employers before they leave school.
3. Young people who meet all eight benchmarks are significantly more likely to move into education, employment, or training after Year 11 and Year 13.

What this means for your child?

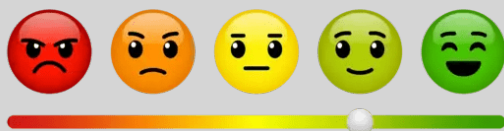
Your child will have regular opportunities to discover new careers, meet inspiring role models, experience workplace settings, and understand how their learning connects to future opportunities. This helps them build confidence, motivation, and a clearer sense of direction.

All things Careers ...

Can you help Shape our Careers Programme at TQA?



We are always looking to strengthen our Careers Programme, and we would love to hear from parents and carers who may be able to support us. If you work in a sector that could offer insight, can provide a workplace visit, deliver a short talk, or simply have suggestions for future careers content in this newsletter, please do get in touch.



Coming up at The Quest Academy ...

1. UCL Ambassador Visit
2. KS5 Business visit to Roehampton University
3. KS4 Trip to The Science Museum
4. KS3 Trip to The National History Museum
5. KS4 Shakespeare Event
6. NHS Ambassador Visit
7. Bank of England Assembly
8. KS3 London Lifesavers
9. University Search event at The Emirates Stadium
10. KS3 Work Experience
11. Careers in the Curriculum - My Quest Journey
12. The Big Yellow Bus
13. The Army Assembly
14. Careers Fair - Croydon Commitment

