



CAREERS PROGRAMME STATEMENT

NOVEMBER 2024

PRESTON

COLLEGE

Careers Programme Statement



Preston College is committed to providing high quality Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) for all of its prospective and current students in preparing them to progress into sustainable education, training and employment. The changing landscape of education, funding and employer requirements, mean that a high standard of quality CEIAG is important in ensuring that students are supported through development to meet these demands. We believe that high quality careers guidance develops our students in raising aspirations and supporting them to reach their full potential. The College is committed to making our students the most employable that they can be, now and in the future.

In line with the statutory guidance, outlined in the Department for Education's Careers Strategy 2017, the College is committed to working towards the establishment and delivery of practice which reflects the eight Gatsby benchmarks, which are set out in the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's Good Career Guidance.

Careers Programme Aims

- Respond to the needs of each student as an individual
- Empower all students to plan and manage their own future
- Raise aspirations
- Promote equality and challenge stereotypes
- Support students to progress and monitor their destinations
- Provide opportunities for students to develop the skills and attributes employers are looking for
- Serve the needs of the local community to give everybody, irrespective of age or ability, the opportunity to become the most employable that they can be.

Programme: Careers Employability and Progression

The College's Recruitment, Careers and Progression teams are professionally qualified Careers Advisors who work independently of the curriculum to offer impartial CEIAG to all, both in a one-to-one setting and through group workshops. The College offers a fully accredited Matrix service, having achieved its re-accreditation in May 2022 with continued outstanding feedback. In addition, in October 2021, the College was accredited with the Quality in Careers Award standard, which assures the quality of the careers programme and experience for students at Preston College. The College is recognised for having achieved 100% over all eight Gatsby Benchmarks by the Lancashire Careers Hub. Our approach is to support students in identifying and selecting the correct course, understanding suitable and aspirational career pathways and having access to meaningful progression which ultimately promotes sustainable employment. The College team hold relevant CEIAG qualifications and provide a high quality 1:1 impartial service.

Careers activity is complemented by the provision of 'Health and Wellbeing' sessions for 16-18 and adult students on substantial programmes. These sessions support students in developing the skills necessary for progression planning, including research into sector based employment, understanding courses available and progression options which include Higher Education and Apprenticeships. Student opportunities are enhanced by the use of 'Career Coach', a specialist software package which enables students to enhance their sector knowledge, research employer requirements and prepare effectively for that crucial next step.

The College will continue to drive the promotion of the careers strategy by providing better information for parents and stakeholders, and ensuring it delivers a high quality careers offer which is embedded in the core values and behaviours of the College;

- Welcoming and inclusive
- Supportive and compassionate
- Aspirational for our students, ourselves and each other
- Act with integrity and transparency
- Be accountable

The implementation of the Gatsby benchmarks will ensure that all education establishments appropriately measure the quality and impact of their careers programme. The Gatsby benchmarks set out eight specific areas by which colleges and schools can measure how effectively they design their careers programme and what impact it has in relation to employer engagement and access to wider information for example.

The Eight Gatsby Benchmarks

- A stable careers programme
- Learning from career and labour market information
- Addressing the needs of each student
- Linking curriculum learning to careers
- Encounters with employers and employees
- Experiences of workplaces
- Encounters with further and higher education
- Personal guidance

The College utilises the Compass Careers Benchmark Tool which enables us to evaluate and track our provision against the eight Gatsby Benchmarks of Best Practice. To date we have achieved all of the Gatsby benchmarks with the wealth of opportunities that are on offer, and the range of services which we provide to our students across all provision types including 14-19, Adult, Apprenticeships and Higher Education, encompassing our SEND and high needs students and those from foster and care settings.



The Colleges Services include:

- A comprehensive CEIAG service for new, prospective, on programme and progressing students which is accessible face to face, by telephone, through careers events and online via the College website
- Drop in Service: available through the Careers Zone (Monday to Friday 10.00am - 3.00pm)
- Booking 1:1 Careers meetings via the College App
- Events: we organise bespoke sector spotlight events, careers and HE fairs alongside university visits for our students
- A range of employer encounters for all students, including industry placement, visits, guest lectures and project working
- Tutorial sessions from a menu of CEIAG topics (on job search, CV's, interviews, career choice, UCAS applications and more) at suitable points during the academic year
- To embed equality and diversity throughout, in line with College Equality & Diversity Policy. We offer learning which actively seeks to challenge stereotypical thinking and raise aspirations, such as Women and Girls into Engineering and STEM subjects
- Supporting curriculum by conducting mock interviews: helping students practice and prepare for an upcoming job or university interview
- One to one careers guidance interviews: an appointment with a Careers Adviser for more in-depth guidance tailored to an individual's needs, available to all students
- Noticeboards: updated with local job vacancy and other opportunities relevant to students
- A Careers library with hard copy resources for students to use for research
- The location of the Careers Zone on the main college 'high street' and is accessible for all students for drop in and to make appointments for help and support, from CV writing to UCAS application support
- Support the development of digital skills through the use of the College's Canvas platform and the embedded Careers Coach package
- Supporting students in recognising their own development of employment skills through our 'Employment Skills development programme'.



For 16-18 students, Adult and Higher Education programmes, employer encounters are a key component of the programme and industry placement is embedded into many programmes of study and T Level programmes, with students receiving specialist support from a dedicated team of Industry Placement and Careers Officers as well as industry insight from professional tutors. Students on these programmes can gain employability skills from a wide range of activities and they should be open to experiencing and participating in all those available to enrich their studies and enhance their progression opportunities.

Industry placements, dependant on the levels of programme, can range between 2 to 9 weeks and all placements are matched between employer and students to ensure the best possible experience and learning outcomes take place. Those students enrolled onto the T Level programmes will have significant industry placement provision, as core activity within their programme.

Impact

The Careers programme is assessed for its quality and positive impact on students through a number of methods:

- The destinations of students after leaving their courses. The College collects the destinations of students and reports this to the DfE and Ofsted. In addition, this informs the business planning cycle for curriculum
- The number of students accessing the services on offer
- Student feedback after one to one and tutorial sessions, supports the programme and the individual's development, through identified targets and actions.
- The College is proud to have been awarded Matrix accreditation. Matrix is the quality standard for organisations to assess and measure their advice and support services, and is a benchmark for effectiveness and high standards
- Regular self-evaluation using the compass Evaluation Tool to measure success against the Gatsby Benchmarks, working in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company
- Annual Appraisal and review process
- The recognition from acquiring the Quality in Careers Standard assures the quality of the careers provision delivered by the College
- Being recognised by the Lancashire Careers Hub in delivering against all eight Gatsby Benchmarks.

Statement

This Statement has been written with reference to:

- **Careers Guidance for Further Education & Sixth Form Colleges, February 2018**
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679639/Careers-Guidance.pdf
- **Careers Strategy: Making the most of everyone's skills and talents, December 2017**
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664319/Careers_strategy.pdf
- **The implementation of the Gatsby Benchmarks**
www.gatsby.org
- **The CEIAG Accreditation Standard for Colleges**
www.matrixstandard.org.uk
- **Quality in Careers Award**
www.qualityincareers.org.uk

Roles and responsibilities

- **The Governing Body** will monitor and hold to account the performance of the Careers Strategy
- **Link Governor** Chair, Quality & Standards Committee
- **Careers Leader** Debbie Ireland (Director of Curriculum - 14-19) direland@preston.ac.uk

Provision Leads

- **Recruitment & Progression Manager (14-19)** David Elliott delliott@preston.ac.uk
- **Recruitment & Progression Manager (Adult)** Claire Woods cwoods@preston.ac.uk
- **Employer Engagement Manager** Daniel Crumblehulme dcrumblehulme@preston.ac.uk
- **Director of Quality and Higher Education** Lyndsey Roe lroe@preston.ac.uk

Review

This document will be reviewed in September 2025 and updated accordingly.

PRESTON

COLLEGE

Preston College

St Vincent's Road
Preston
PR2 8UR

T 01772 225522

E info@preston.ac.uk

W www.preston.ac.uk

www.preston.ac.uk