Wootton Academy Trust

What to Expect from your Career Guidance Appointment

During your time at Wootton Academy, you will be seen by our Independent Careers Guidance Professional. This is usually in Year 11 to coincide with post-16 decisions.

Our Careers Guidance Professional is Rebecca Jordan from Watch Your Career Bloom. Rebecca is a fully qualified Level 6 Practitioner who provides impartial advice and guidance.

The following information aims to give you a better idea of what to expect from your careers appointment so you can gain the most from the help offered.

What is the guidance appointment for?

- While at school you may need support with weighing up the pros and cons of post-16 options such as going to College/Sixth Form versus doing an Apprenticeship. You may also need help sifting through the vast (and ever changing) range of occupations available.
- While significant people in your life such as Teachers, Parents or Carers will be able to help with this to some extent, they may only know about the jobs they have held themselves and their knowledge may also be out of-date. Whatever you need to discuss with your Careers Adviser, there are some common features to career guidance which should apply in all cases.

What will it cover?

- Most importantly, your career guidance appointment is about you. This is your time, and no-one else should be setting the agenda about what should be discussed in your appointment. This does not mean that Rebecca will not challenge ideas and make suggestions regarding options that might be worth considering.
- Rebecca will ask you questions, but for the most part these will be open questions starting with 'why', 'where' or 'how'. After all, she needs to get to know you in order to get a sense of how best to support you and can only do this by asking questions that prompt you to share your qualifications, achievements, anxieties and just generally 'what makes you tick'. The benchmark of a successful career guidance appointment should be that you do the majority of the talking rather than the reverse!

What will I gain from it?

- Part of Rebecca's job is to make sure that you leave your appointment with an accurate understanding of your strengths, your areas for development and also the challenges you may face in pursing any of the options that you explore together. Rebecca may need to challenge any misconceptions or knowledge gaps you may have around certain occupations or different qualifications.
- Rebecca will also help you understand some of the practicalities you will need to consider, such as the typical qualifications needed for entry to certain occupations and the availability (and location) of particular jobs in the current labour market.
- Finally, you will come away with an action plan which details the action that you need to take to progress in the areas of self-development, career exploration and career management. This will be emailed to your school email address.

Don't worry if you are not sure where you see yourself in Year 11 or what job you want to do when you are older; Careers Advisers are trained to help students in exactly this situation and can usually help you get to the point where you have some ideas for further exploration at the very least.