

## News from the Careers Department



### Work Experience - “Window to the world”

I would like to thank everyone who helped me to salvage the work experience scheme this year following the demise of HCS Careers Ltd. When we heard the news in September, I still had 80 placements that needed to be checked and passed which potentially jeopardised the placements which had already been given the go-ahead. Thanks to the services of Sirrond Ltd who came to our rescue and the goodwill of parents taking responsibility for various placements, we were able to send 202 students out in to the workplace in the first week of November.

Needless to say most of the students appear to have enjoyed the week. It can be daunting to enter an unknown environment but our students always have a mature, positive and interested approach which employers appreciate. Feedback from the workplace was excellent with many employers wanting to host a student again next year which is great for the continuation of the scheme. Congratulations of all of Year 11 who were a credit to themselves and excellent ambassadors for the school.

As usual, we are reliant on the networking and contacts parents have to source some of the opportunities so if any of you are able to help with the provision of work experience placements, I'd be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me at the school or via email: [whiterc@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:whiterc@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)

### Careers Resources on the VLE

The new VLE (LIFE) is now up and running and although it is work in progress, there are a number of careers resources signposted to help students with decisions about their future. There is a designated page for each of the key stages together with a general 'Information and Resources' page and a dedicated 'Higher Education' page which I hope will be useful. We subscribe to four programmes which are listed on the home page; **Kudos** and **Careerscape** can help with Year 9 options and **Higher Ideas** can help Year 11 students work out good combinations of A Level subjects for specific HE courses or for keeping as many options open if they don't know what to study at undergraduate level yet. To access these resources, please log on to the VLE and click on “Careers” on the left-hand side of the screen.

### Youth Connexions (Hertfordshire)

Youth Connexions is a government agency offering information, advice and guidance (IAG) to young people aged 13-19. A Personal Adviser visits the school on a weekly basis providing our statutory requirement of independent and impartial IAG with priority given to Year 11 students who will be making decisions about their post-16 education. However, any student can have an appointment or attend a drop-in session on a Monday lunchtime in the SALC office if they would like any help.

### Early notice!

We will be celebrating National Careers Week again - **3-7 March 2014** - with a range of career talks being given by Old Owenians. They will be open to students in Years 9-13 and take place during lunchtimes that week – more information will follow in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**Mrs C Whiter,**  
**Careers Co-ordinator**

