



Students report on Careers Week events

Packed programme guides thoughts for the future

National Careers Week

A virtual Careers Fair, online talks from former students, current staff and local MP ensured there was something for everyone in a packed programme of activity for #NCW2021 - or National Careers Week to give it its full title.

The week began with students and staff asked to make pledges. For the young people this encouraged them to believe in a positive future career. Teaching staff too wrote down their commitment to support students as they seek advice and make decisions.



On into the many sessions booked, students enjoyed a huge choice; careers in technology from Koderly, a software development company based in Oldham, a live Q&A with Masterchef winner and former student Simon Wood, and insights into working life of fire-fighters, the police and the NHS, delivered by another former student, Sam Reece, who after a successful career in nursing moved to lecture in the subject at the University of Bolton.

The Virtual Careers Fair was a national event, introducing students to a great choice of employers and illustrating just how broad the options for future employment is. The idea that many jobs that our students might take up in the future are in sectors and using technology that doesn't exist yet helped to inspire and inform.



As the week went by even more activity opened up. Children's author Anthony Ormond led an event encouraging young writers to develop their skills. Language specialist Emma Cheetham shared how useful learning a second language can be. Martin from Kier, the company who maintain the Radclyffe School building, spoke about his experience and expertise in Electrical Engineering.

Questions to Oldham MP Jim McMahon provided a highlight as the week came to an end. Students in all year groups were challenged around how prepared they are for the future and for work - even if that seems a long way off.



Finally, congratulations to Aliza And Evie who acted as our roving reporters in school, recording interviews and presenting very professionally to provide valuable information to the whole school.

Students' reactions to a successful week

Simon Wood, Chef and Restaurant owner

I really enjoyed this session. I liked how Simon talked about how he got to where he is now. I already have my Health & Food Hygiene - I would love a job at his restaurant!

Kimberly, Y10

I enjoyed learning about...Simon's catering career. I'm looking forward to visiting his restaurants in the future and this has really inspired me to go home and have a go at cooking myself, even if it is just an omelette!

Helena, Y9

Anthony Ormond, author

It was interesting to speak to a debut author, and about how he fits in being a lawyer with his writing job. He was very descriptive about what he did and how he made the book.

Anon

I thought that it was very empowering and enjoyable because I love reading and he took time to explain everything in detail, which was amazing.

Jack, Y8

Samantha Reece, Nurse and University lecturer

I enjoyed hearing about Sam's career pathway and what was even more inspiring is that she started at The Radclyffe School.

Sam has achieved so much already and it has really inspired me to focus on my lessons.

Helena, Y9

Sam's talk was really inspiring. Not only did she go to the same school as us, she has gone on to achieve a Masters degree.

It was clear through Sam's story she has got there with hard work and commitment.

Aliyah, Y9

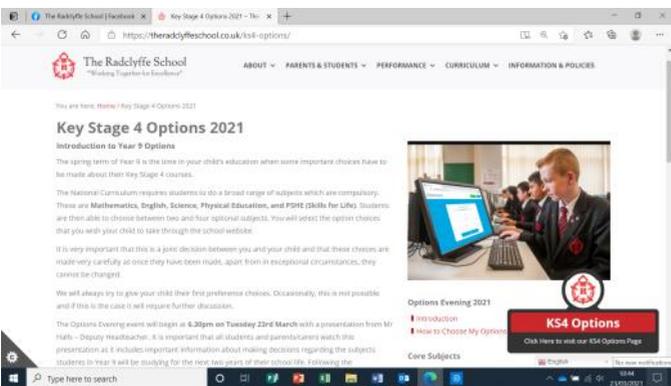
Time to choose subjects for Key Stage 4

Options Evening Online 2021

Alongside so many activities in school during the past year, the latest to move to an online offering is the job for students in Year 9 to choose the subjects they want to study at Key Stage 4.

So on March 23rd information went live on the website for each of 23 subjects, together with details of the five compulsory subjects taken by all students - English Language & Literature, Maths, Core Science, PE and Skills for Life. Students then choose four other subjects.

Teachers from all faculties had pre-recorded presentations on their subjects. They were then available via live video drop in and email, to discuss with students and parents the detail of courses, and where the qualifications might lead.



For Year 9 students, there is still time to decide the subjects you may wish to study. All the detail for each subject, how to decide and the steps to follow can be found [on the school website](#).

You can also find details here of the

distinction between vocational and GCSE subjects, and the opportunity to obtain the 'English Baccalaureate', a combination of academic subjects useful if students are aiming for A level study and university.

We have introduced several new subject options this year - the D&T faculty is offering Engineering from the Northern Council on Further Education, as well as the BTEC qualification in Health & Social Care.

The deadline to complete and return the Options Form online is

Monday 19th April.

Simple tests keep students, staff and families safe

Test & Trace kits

How is testing at home going? Over recent weeks students in all year groups have got used to administering the simple swab test to check for the presence of Covid-19.

In fact since the start of the year we have run the service in school. The dance studio was transformed into a six-bay testing area. Using the simple 'lateral flow test' kits enable a result in just 30 minutes. Staff in school as well as vulnerable and key worker children were able to take the tests. Since the reopening of schools more than 1000 students were initially tested three times over eight days.

The rigorous testing identified a small number of positive cases, so those students were able to self-isolate and contain the spread of the virus in school. We are very grateful for the co-operation of students and parents to keep everyone safe as we reopen to all year groups.

Students have collected their home testing kits over recent days, giving a supply for several weeks. Please continue to ensure these tests are done twice a week during the holiday and beyond. Information is included in the test kits about how to carry them out and process the test accurately, and in the event of a positive test, how to report this and what action you must take.



Your online guide for Parents and Students

Throughout the lockdown we have provided a single accessible location for helpful information, from mental health support to making the most of learning from home. There will be times when students need to self-isolate at home, but continue learning. All the guidance you need is still accessible on the school website.

Could your child walk or cycle?

Summer travel to school

As we look forward to the summer term, and hopefully to better weather, it is time to consider how your child travels to and from school. We would encourage students whenever possible to walk or cycle.

If you usually drop off or collect your child from school, please allow them to walk. Even if it is just a short distance, this greatly helps to cut congestion around Hunt Lane at the start and end of the school day.

During the pandemic we have all got used to the value of exercising, so you might even consider walking with your child - though we know that later in their school life, children will appreciate their independence in getting themselves to and from the school gate. There is also a huge environmental benefit to leaving the car at home.



If your child is a confident cyclist, they might also wish to come to school by bike. We have space for over 100 bikes, which can be stored securely through the day. We would of course encourage them to wear a helmet and cycle safely, particularly on busier roads. Some of the major routes around Chadderton benefit from safe cycle lanes to make the journey simple.

Courtesy for our neighbours

Car Care

In recent months as students have learnt at home, Hunt Lane has had much less traffic. Since we have reopened, it is once again important to be considerate to our neighbours. If it is necessary for you to drop off or collect your child, please ensure the your vehicle is not blocking access for residents.

Please ensure that if you are parked for any time you switch off your engine. Exhaust fumes from stationary cars can cause serious breathing difficulties, and we have a number of students who are asthmatic. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

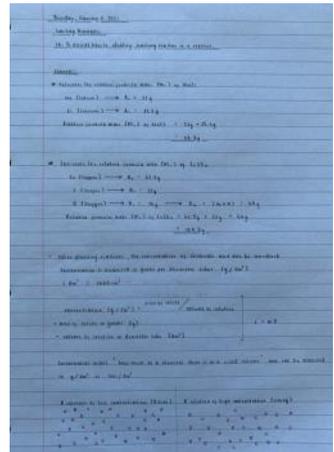
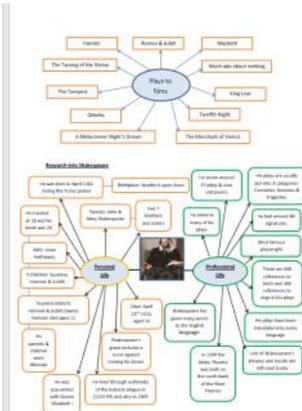
Celebrating lockdown learning

PROUD work shows off students' excellence

The standard of home learning produced by so many students during the recent lockdown has greatly impressed teachers in every faculty. It was a pleasure to celebrate student's commitment, with a weekly reward for each year group of their PROUD work.

A big thank you too to parents and carers for all the support you have been able to give your children's learning at home. We appreciate the pressures, particularly where children are in different years.

If there was any advantage from home learning in lockdown perhaps it is in strengthening students' digital skills, in capturing images of their work, sending it back to their teachers by email - everyday skills that young people can expect to use often in life. Well done to everyone for showing how well you were able to master this.



A small selection here of the work completed in the last term. It was important to celebrate winners but the quality was consistently high.

Towards the end of term we 'reopened' the Book of Excellence', with students from all years honoured for their excellent work and perseverance during the lockdown. A short, socially-distanced ceremony alongside the Book, which stands proudly in the Street in school is having to replace our usual celebration lunch for the time being.

Show your support for education through Fairtrade

Kilombero rice on sale

One way we have been able to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight this year is with the arrival of a further 90 bags of fairly-traded rice from Malawi.

The 1kg bags are available at just £3 each from Year 9 Year Manager Mrs Imeson. Buying the rice helps to fund the cost of education for the families of the rice-growers - 90 bags will fund a student for a whole year. The rice is produced by smallholders, who use traditional methods of cultivation, which protect the environment.

We support the project as part of our commitment as a Fairtrade school. Before Covid-19 we had achieved the first two levels of a three-stage recognition programme - we were a 'Fair Aware' and 'Fair Active' school, working towards the 'Fair Achiever' status.



Mrs Imeson explained, "Due to the pandemic we will have to begin again, but this is something we are committed to doing. When the lifting of restrictions allows, we will be able to relaunch our Fairtrade activities in school, to deliver on our commitment."



Every Minute Counts



Each morning (8.30am)

students should make their way directly to the welcome and well-being session, taking the quickest way and without stopping on the street.



At Lunch and Break:

If students are outside, they should move on the whistle and make their way directly to classrooms, at this point the toilets are out of use. The expectation is that all students are outside their classrooms when the bell sounds.

Students on the street should move when asked first time and use the quickest route to their lesson, once again being outside the classroom when the bell sounds.



Lesson Changeover:

Students who are remaining in the same class stay seated.

Students moving classrooms should make their way **directly** to the next lesson.

Every late will be recorded, and parents will be informed on the day.

Students star in online performance

MiSST concert

Even another lockdown was unable to prevent our Year 7 musicians from performing, some for the very first time. The latest milestone in the Music in Secondary Schools Trust programme gave the young people a taste of playing live, though in a socially-distanced fashion.

The concert was broadcast live via YouTube where viewers could log in to watch online. Head of Music Mr Corrigan said, "The half hour show was a celebration of the hard work students have put in and the opportunities they gain through our partnership with MiSST."

Students collaborated to perform 'Mambo No5', a piece they had been practicing for several weeks at home. For the recording, some students were at home and others able to play at school. An Outstanding technical effort brought the full concert together to be enjoyed by parents and a wider online audience.

If you were not able to watch the performance live it is still available on YouTube - search for MiSST or follow the link here

[MiSST Lockdown Concert](#)

News in brief

Tutoring support for students is making a vital difference for some of our students. We are working with specialist provider MyTutor and putting our students in touch with tutors from several top UK universities.

Lessons take place in an easy-to-use online learning space, using interactive technology, shared resources and past papers. Watch out for further reports in future editions on how this is helping students



Teacher Q&A

Mrs Fletcher, MFL

What inspired you to get into teaching?

I care about the future of our younger generation and I believe that education is the key to success. I am Oldham born and bred and it's nice to reinvest my skills and experience into my local community. Finally, I am and always have been, passionate about learning languages as was my own father. I used to work at Oldham Council's Education team overseeing primary and secondary school places each year, and in special needs, schools exclusions and appeals. I wanted to see "the other side" and see exactly what real life was like in a local school and impart my knowledge and hopefully inspire pupils to study languages.



What is your teaching background and experience?

Over the last 11 years, I have worked within two different secondary schools – one in Rochdale and then The Radclyffe School.

What subject do you teach?

I teach French and Spanish

What do you like most about your job?

There are so many things I love about my job. Seeing students achieve and enjoy learning languages has to be the most important. I'm proud to be part of an amazing school that is staffed by the most dedicated and professional individuals who genuinely care about the holistic outcomes of our students. As a teacher, work is demanding but everyone works as a team supporting each other in both in good times and bad.

If you hadn't gone into teaching what else would you have done?

Something within the field of food preparation!

What was the last book you read?

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

What achievement are you most proud of?

Within teaching – one of my former students who achieved a Grade 9 in her Spanish from the Radclyffe School achieving a place at Oxford University to study medicine this September.

What piece of advice would you give to a student in Year 11?

Education now is an investment in your future. A very small part of your life which will affect your whole life.

First steps to welcome our new Year 7 students

Transition 2021

Amongst all the preparations for students returning to school, a quiet annual event in the life of the school could be easily missed. Early March sees the announcement for pupils in Year 6 of which school they will be moving up to. So once again we are preparing to welcome our new Year 7 cohort for this coming September.

We are delighted that the experience we offer at The Radclyffe School is of such a high quality we are oversubscribed and with a substantial waiting list.

Back in July last year, the restrictions of Covid-19 meant that we were unable to welcome pupils in for their Induction Day, and could not meet parents and carers at our New Parents Evening. In their place however we were able to offer a detailed virtual introduction to the school, using an online tool called Padlet. We are putting this together again this year with even more content, but with the added hope that towards the end of the summer term the relaxing of restrictions may allow us to host some form of event in the school building.

Induction Day should provide a valuable introduction for the new year group ahead of their formal start in September. During the day they gain an understanding of how the school operates, the style of lessons and what is expected of them.

Our Transition Ambassadors have proved a valuable addition to the Student Leadership Team. These two students, Dhanyal Hussain and Marjana Sultana, are able to offer support to the new students from a student's perspective, sharing their own experiences and offering advice.



Memories are made of this

Three years ago



Former students of The Radclyffe School, both recent leavers and others who left many years ago, returned to the school to share their experience with current students. Whether it was their knowledge of college or of the world of work, the event was a very helpful experience. It was also an eye opener for some of the alumni who had left the school before the new building was constructed.

Five years ago

Students have worked with artist Barry Spence to create a special reading bench to celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 3rd March). The bench, bearing characters in the style of artist Quentin Blake, will provide a dedicated reading place in school. Unveiling the bench was a highlight of a packed week of activities, as students expanded their love of reading.



Seven years ago

Visits to the Jaguar Land Rover plant at Halewood, Merseyside and to Liverpool John Moores University are helping to inspire one group of students to achieve their potential. Our Mind the Gaps programme seeks to motivate students to achieve their full potential. The current group are Year 10 boys, and the activities they have been involved in are having a positive effect on performance and their attitude to learning.

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