

ISSUE 2 • APRIL 2024

# TOWNLEY *Careers Newsletter*

FROM THE TOWNLEY CAREERS TEAM

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

### CAREERS AND FUTURES FAIR

Following a successful fair in July 2023, the 2024 fair was moved back to the spring term and run alongside the very first Townley Spirit Day. Tasked with dressing up as their dream career, there was a real buzz around the fair as each year group arrived in the hall leading to some interesting conversations about what everyone was wearing. We had a number of lawyers, surgeons, spies, an astronaut, fitness instructors, game designers, business owners, influencers, detectives, chefs, fashion designers and engineers to name but a few.



We were delighted to have alumni and parents manning the careers stalls sharing their career insights and employers delivering advice on qualification routes into their industry sectors. Universities, colleges and creative educators discussed study options on their futures stalls whilst students gathered information to be able to make future career choices.

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Exhibitors included the Royal Air Force, British Army, Metropolitan Police, scenes of crime officer and counter terrorism from the armed forces and emergency services. A law consultant explained the routes into the legal profession with a principal lawyer and barrister introduced students to the wig and gown usually worn in court.

Engineering careers were represented with roles, such as site reliability engineer, mechanical engineer, director of security engineering, structural engineer, and a software engineer. STEM employers BAE Systems, Arup, Morgan Stanley and the Nuclear Institute, as well as those in landscape architecture, cyber security and software engineering highlighted the variety in this profession.

The Bexley Medical group and Oxleas Foundation NHS Trust gave insights into being a GP and a clinical lead specialist in occupational therapy. A talent acquisition manager in hospitality, a human resources lead for counter terrorism, two finance directors and a corporate treasurer in student accommodation shows the scope of these career pathways across very different industries.

What did students enjoy about the Careers Fair?

- Asking questions and finding out more information
- I learnt more about other jobs and my views on different jobs were expanded.
- I was able to explore many different careers and learn a lot more about them
- Different areas to find information out about.
- Many different careers to explore
- Learning about the different job opportunities and the skills you needed.
- I really liked how the people explained what their jobs were about.



“I enjoyed being able to speak to different people about their perspectives of each career.”

STUDENT FEEDBACK

### CAREERS CAFE

For our very first Careers Café, we invited in alumni, parents and those working with Townley to share their career journeys as part of the school's celebrations of National Careers Week. Whilst International Women's Day activities were taking place in the school hall, a group of interested students from all year groups joined our visitors in C2 for a round-the-table discussion on careers.

Visitors were asked to prepare answers to the following questions to start the conversation.

- A brief description of your career since leaving school
- The job roles and industries and the skills and qualifications
- Current job role-qualifications, skills, a typical day/week, where you work...
- An overview of your company-what do they do
- Typical day
- Advice to your younger self (11-18)

Gaurav has worked with Townley for a number of years as our employer contact for the Careers and Enterprise company. He has been at HSBC for twenty years and recently was seconded to a project related to risk control. He gave us a great explanation of how to assess risk in a bank by comparing this to the controls in traffic lights.

David, one of our parents, and a member of our PTA, gave an insight into his role as an actor and how this enabled him to become a successful STEM Communicator. From this and developing his networks, he works as a Leadership Presence facilitator in a number of businesses helping to develop their employees.

Aimee, an alumna and regular supporter of careers events, works at Mott Macdonald as a civil engineering degree level apprentice. With her first choice being an apprenticeship, and university her back-up, Aimee wants to break down some of these stigmas associated with this route.

Townley students joined in the careers conversations with their own questions and were able to get a real insight into the day-to-day work of our visitors with some tips to help with their future career planning.

*“Take every opportunity to widen your knowledge and gain practical experience, by speaking to people, attending calls and meetings and by getting involved in diverse projects.”*

EMILY MOSS,  
GRADUATE



### CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS WORKSHOP

On March 5th, we welcomed one of our alumni back to tell us about her career journey since leaving Townley in 2019. She is now a fast stream civil servant and an avid member of the Civil Service Fast Stream Race Equality Network (FSREN). To educate and inform our students about careers in the civil service, Rishona offered to deliver and facilitate a workshop.

In Sixth Form, Rishona studied A-levels in Politics, History and English Literature and then went to the University of Bristol to study Law. Within 6 months of starting her law degree the pandemic hit and so all her lectures went from in-person to virtual. Despite this, Rishona really enjoyed the course content and graduated in 2022 successfully securing a place on the Civil Service's Fast Stream programme. This is the UK government's accelerated leadership programme for graduates who wish to build a career to the highest levels of the civil service.



Students who were interested in learning more about the civil service (and had a study period) applied for a place by answering: What do you know about careers in the civil service? The workshop included factors young people should consider when choosing a career, the role of a civil servant and how the civil service interacts with Parliament. Rishona explained how different government departments operate and the opportunities and different professions within the civil service. Answering questions, she was able to provide a real insight into her day-to-day experiences, and social interactions from working in a large department compared to smaller close-knit team and the now well-established hybrid way of working.

“I learnt a lot about what strengths employers look for in an applicant and how the dynamics of the civil service work”

“The interactive sections were informal and very effective”

“The information was shared in a way that made it memorable but still informative”

FEEDBACK FOR THE  
CIVIL SERVICE  
WORKSHOP FROM  
YEAR 12

### UPCOMING PROJECTS TO ENHANCE CAREERS AT TOWNLEY

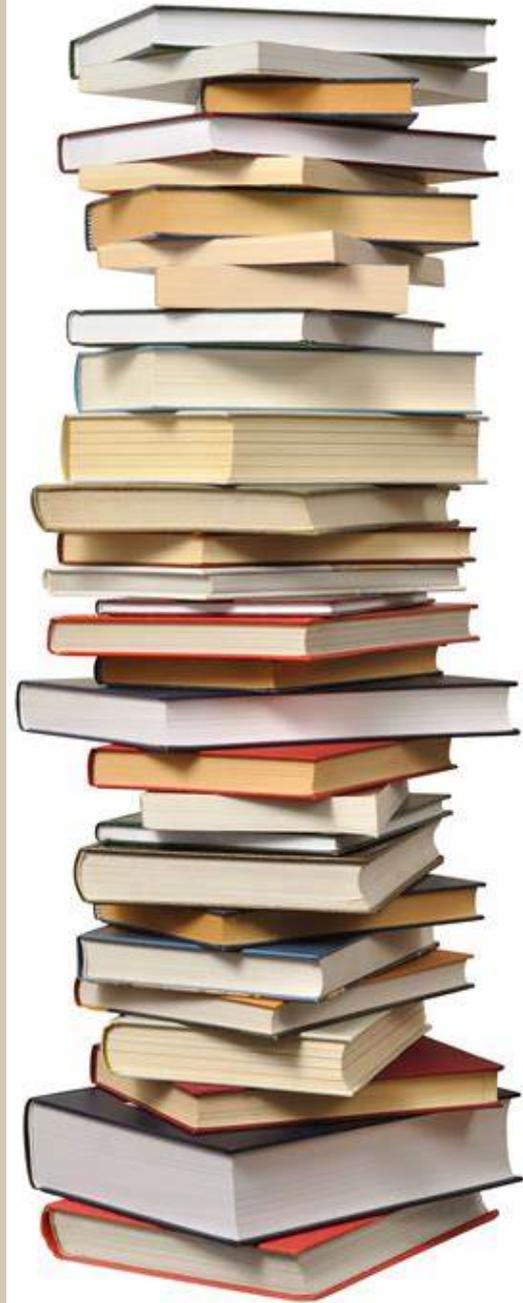
As part of our goal to integrate career-related support systems throughout the study body, our careers team are currently working on an exciting project which enables the school community to come together to support each other's career aspirations!

We recognise the path to reach our different career aspirations can come with a lot of challenges. A big challenge being equal access and opportunities. Whether it be academic challenges, university admission test support, work experience or apprenticeship information, we understand educating ourselves on these areas is vital in achieving our long-term career goals.

In order to tackle this, we aim to create a student-led system to widen the availability of academic and career focused resources for those in the school community in need of support to access these materials. This would include GCSE's, A-levels and university admission tests resources. Our school community creates a work environment that is knowledge rich, therefore we believe we can showcase this academic achievement by recycling and sharing our knowledge. Throughout the course of GCSE to A levels, students produce a variety of different revision materials (e.g. mind maps, flashcards, literature annotations etc.) and often purchase textbooks and revision guides. After exams finish these resources are often thrown away, therefore we aim to create a system in which students' hard work does not go to waste but instead is showcased, shared and recycled through a method of establishing Townley's student-led book bank.

We hope to enable student voice to be heard in which resources are in need, while also creating a work environment in which the upper school and lower school can support each other's academic journeys. Simultaneously we aim to create a long-term solution in enabling students who do not have access to resources outside school to feel supported by their own peers.

We hope our vision produces a long-term solution in widening access and supporting the school community to tackle each challenge one step at a time in order to reach each student's career aspirations!



Author's note: More info about the opening of Townley's Career Focused Book Bank will be shared with the arrival of the upcoming careers team!

### OBSCURE OCCUPATIONS

#### “I DON’T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO!”

Do you like cute animals and spending time in nature? If yes, you may be about to discover your dream career. Balancing our growing cities with the preexisting natural world and wildlife in a small island like England can be tough, meaning utmost care must be taken to ensure new buildings don't disturb preexisting habitats. If you're someone who has an interest in supporting the wildlife of England, then becoming a **dormouse ecologist** could be the perfect job for you. Dormouse ecologists survey sites to check for dormice to make sure they can be moved to a safe place before construction begins.

If dormice don't catch your fancy, you can be a surveyor for many other species too- such as pine martens or great crested newts. Being a dormouse ecologist, you may have to travel quite far, as new building sites can be in a variety of locations. Additionally, you'll need a European Protected Species license from Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. You'll need to be an ecologist too- this career can be accessed through university or training courses. Once you're qualified, you're all set! Get out there and support the beautiful wildlife in our country.



Author's note: April is a key month for green careers, as April 22nd is Earth Day.

Green careers are very wide, spanning every field, and as climate change progresses, green careers are the jobs of the future. If you haven't considered it before, have a look at the variety of green careers you can pursue- there's something for everyone!

Happy Earth Day and remember to enjoy the lovely natural world we're blessed to have in England.



### SIXTH FORM NEWS

#### MEDICAL SOCIETY

We interviewed leaders of Townley's Medical Society, Ann and Tola, to give insight into the lunchtime club that runs every Thursday.

**Q: What is Medical Society?**

A: The medic society gives students an opportunity to learn about and be supported with the medical school application process; connect with others on the same journey; explore current affairs and ethical issues; and hear from medical applicants themselves. All students who want to study Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary Science, or are interested in these, are welcomed.

**Q: How do you feel the students participating in Medical Society benefit from this club?**

A: Important skills such as leadership and public speaking skills are developed through engagement in debates, presentations and discussions in an open environment.

**Q: How do you think students are finding Medical Society?**

A: Students that participate in medical society find it to be a great opportunity to interact with other year groups.

#### MEDIC MENTOR

Medic Mentor are a national medical social enterprise who are dedicated to nurturing your journey into the medical field.

They host a free Get Into Medicine University Conference which covers all of the essential requirements for applying to medical school and provides invaluable tips on how to stand out from the crowd. The next conferences are on Sunday 14th April and Saturday 27th April

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for taking the time to read Townley's Careers Newsletter! We hope you found it useful!

If you have any feedback for us please email Mrs Williams at [wwilliams@townleygrammar.org.uk](mailto:wwilliams@townleygrammar.org.uk) or talk to one of the careers prefects - Mashal A, Diana C, Erin G, Arthiha N



“Think of your path to success in stages, you have just started the first stage”

SAAHIRAH AHMED,  
APPRENTICE