

QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study:

The Deepings School, Peterborough/South Lincolnshire

The School

The Deepings School is a larger than average-sized, mixed 11-18 Comprehensive School (1540) serving a rural community in the town of Deeping St. James and its surrounding villages. The school sits at the heart of The Deepings, a vibrant, growing community in South Lincolnshire and is a member of a family of schools forming part of CfBT Schools' Trust.

The school first opened its doors in 1958. It was 'officially' opened the following year by the 6th Marquess of Exeter who presided over Burghley House and was then known as The Deepings Secondary Modern School with a total of 247 students on roll. In September 2017 the school had a year 7 intake of 261 students.

Most students are of White British heritage. The % of pupils with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and care (EHC) plan is lower than the national average at 1.5%. The proportion of students known to be eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years (FSM6) is well below average at 15%. Attainment on entry is more or less at the same level as the national average (28.0 for Year 11 2016/17).

The Deepings School is proud to be the community comprehensive school that takes most of the students in its catchment area and many from beyond.

The Deepings School has a 'culture of care' and positive relationships provide students with the confidence and independence they need to succeed both inside and outside school. They have high expectations of students during the seven years that the majority of them are part of the school family and have equally high expectations of parents/carers and members of staff.

Mission statement: *"To ensure that every child and young person becomes a confident learner, understanding the contribution they can make as global citizens and living lives that make a positive difference."*

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The Deepings School is very proud to be the first school in Lincolnshire to be awarded not only the Quality in Careers Standard (provided by Career Mark as the Licensed Awarding Body), but also the Career Mark Platinum Award for its long commitment to quality assured CEIAG.

The Quality in Careers Standard provides the school with recognition of the high quality of its careers education, information, advice and guidance provision for all students, providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to embark on a life after school. This could be in employment, on an apprenticeship or technical course, embrace a gap year, or continue study within further and higher education.

The additional Platinum Award from Career Mark rewards the longevity of commitment the school has demonstrated to best practice careers. This additional recognition by Career Mark

was introduced in September 2017 and was awarded to The Deepings School at their recent reaccreditation under the Quality in Careers Standard. Having shown a commitment to achieving external accreditation through the quality award for almost 2 decades, The Deepings School is delighted with this special recognition.

The Deepings School provides a comprehensive CEIAG programme to students in every year group and of all abilities, incorporating aspects of work-related learning, enterprise education, option choices and information surrounding RPA (raising of the participation age) and LMI (labour market information). This includes positive encounters with a range of employers through a combination of workplace visits, presentations in school and 'market place' careers fairs.

The school contracts with a professionally qualified independent careers adviser and has always facilitated providers' access to students to ensure the full range of post 16 and post 18 options are presented.

Students in their Sixth Form are very well supported as they make their applications to University, apply for Higher Level Apprenticeships or other non-University post 18 pathways, as are SEND students, supported by their internal additional needs team and external providers.

With the backing of the senior leadership team and governors, the programme continues to develop and embrace new resources, establishing innovative ways to ensure high quality.

The Careers programme and student entitlement is developed in consideration of the CDI (Career Development Institute) framework and the eight Gatsby benchmarks. Three key areas are:

- **Self Development** - through careers, employability and enterprise education
- **Careers Exploration** - learning about careers and the world of work
- **Career Management** - learning how to develop career management and employability skills (to include managing changes and transitions)

Measuring the impact

Monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the careers programme takes place regularly and the very low number of NEETs and positive transitions for students illustrate the impact the programme is making.

The school continues to offer a two-week block of work experience for all year 10 students and an additional week for year 12 students. As a result, students are successful in gaining apprenticeships and other career opportunities when they move on after school. Views are sought from all stakeholders and the programme evolves year on year to consider the needs of students and the local, national and global jobs market.

Every year the school has a high number of participants for the National Citizen Programme and it is one of their Champion Schools. This programme enables students to develop their skills further and provides opportunities for them to work within their community, having a direct positive impact.

Heads of subjects are continuing to expand their own departmental links with employers who regularly support teaching and learning in school. Potential careers and pathways are featured within school publications and at progress and options evenings.

CEIAG Quality

The Deepings School has held the originally-named Career Mark quality award and now the national Quality in Careers Standard accreditation for over 15 years. It has also received a certificate of excellent for its Careers Library and a County Council award for their effective systems and delivery of independent careers guidance.

The school also participates in an external audit in partnership with the local Skills Service and LEP.

The school has begun to use the Compass self-assessment tool and, as a result of the recent Quality in Careers assessment by the Career Mark team, the school is continuing to review its provision, in line with government statutory and recommended expectations concerning the Gatsby Benchmarks, and is further developing methods for students to record and evidence their careers and work-related learning.

These continued improvements will prepare the school for its next external assessment by the Career Mark team against the now revised national quality criteria for the Quality in Careers Standard encompassing the Gatsby Benchmarks.

CONTACT DETAILS: *Linda Taylor, Careers Leader, The Deepings School*
ltaylor@deepingschool.org.uk

Tel: 01778 342159

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