

Shrewsbury School
Futures Department



Ready for a
**World of
Futures**

Ready for a World of Futures

The Futures Department is situated centrally within Shrewsbury School, next door to the Quod building and opposite the Moser Library. Recently refurbished, it contains a wide range of information, including university prospectuses, careers guides and the latest labour market information.

Additionally, it offers a quiet space for pupils to research ideas and access video interview software to practise for any forthcoming recruitment processes. Pupils and parents are welcome to make appointments with either Mr Wain (Head of Futures), Mr Percival (Head of Higher Education) or Mr Boyes (Futures Advisor).

The school intranet is regularly updated with relevant information, as is the Department's Twitter page, @shrewsfutures.

Throughout the three school terms there are a range of opportunities for parents to get involved in the delivery of futures related activities. During the last academic year many parents kindly volunteered their time to support various events. This brochure provides details of some of these. Any additional offers of support would be warmly welcomed.



Mr Wain (Head of Futures)



Mr Percival (Head of Higher Education)



Richard Boyes (Futures Advisor)



Karen Scimia (Futures Co-ordinator)



Charlotte Hopkins (Futures Fellow)

Quality in Careers Standard



Shrewsbury successfully achieved the national Quality in Careers Standard using the Career Mark approach.

As England's dedicated national quality award, the Quality in Careers Standard - through external assessment - uniquely accredits the four components of the CEIAG: Careers Education, Careers Information, Careers Advice and Careers Guidance.

Shrewsbury was delighted to be awarded this accreditation, made possible by support from the OS Community, the parent body and friends of Shrewsbury School who have supported a huge variety of initiatives during recent academic years.

Careers Presentations

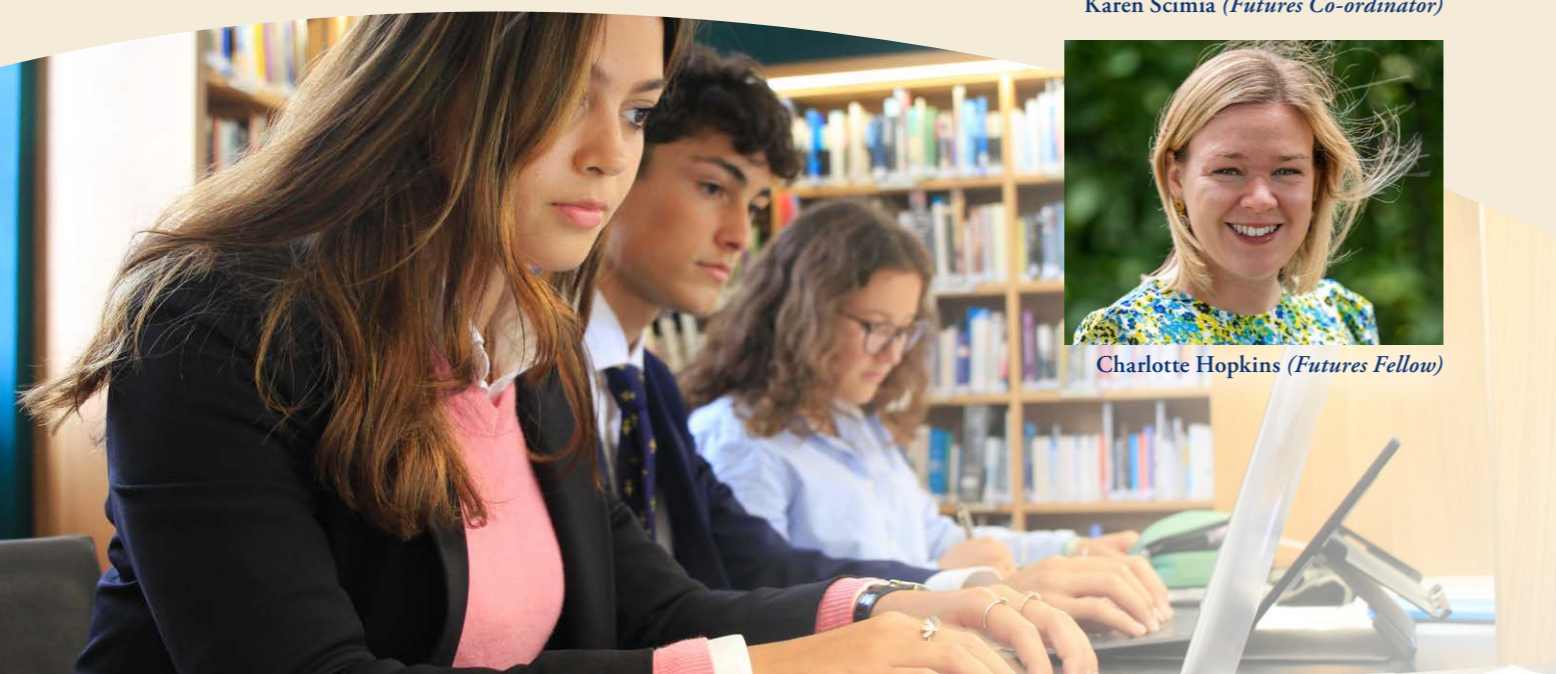
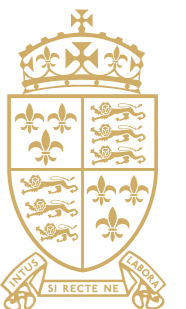
Throughout the academic year pupils are provided with opportunities to find out more about the careers of former pupils and parents, from a huge range of professions.

Following the enforced school closures in 2020 and 2021 the majority of these talks switched to online (Microsoft Teams / Zoom) but with some normality now restored, the vast majority of talks this academic year are anticipated to be in person.

Based on pupil feedback, pupils enjoy a format where it is more dialogue rather than presentation based, with most of the talks taking the form of a 'hosted discussion', where pupils can find out about their opportunities through asking questions and discussing ideas.

'The Futures Department is providing an energetic and modern approach to careers advice with a matrix of events, resources and profiling that seeks to enable pupils to understand themselves and the opportunities open to them. It was a pleasure to be able to take part the 'Hidden Careers' talks and the mock interviews. It's great to know that my own children also have this opportunity at Shrewsbury. I look forward to taking part again next year'.

Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan, Current Parent



Mock Recruitment Activities

The way in which organisations recruit for graduate and school leaver programmes has seen significant change in the past five years. Long gone are the days of a standard interview, with this now preceded by aptitude tests, video assessments, group and in-tray activities. To help

prepare pupils for these challenges, the school hosts a mock assessment centre morning in March, welcoming over sixty professionals to help facilitate competency-based interviews, team challenges and workshops on communication. Any interest in supporting this event would be appreciated.

‘Shrewsbury School is to be commended for the quality and range of its Futures Programme, which provides insight and practical guidance to pupils about the world of work beyond school and university. I had the pleasure of supporting two Futures Programme initiatives over the last year: acting as an interviewer during the competency based Mock Interviews for Lower Sixth pupils. As an Old Salopian and current parent, it’s immensely rewarding to re-connect with the School in this way. Current pupils face a world that is changing ever more rapidly and competition continues to intensify. Anything we can do to help prepare them for this is time well spent. Aside from the satisfactions of “giving something back”, it has been a privilege to interact with some very bright, engaged and engaging young people’.

Will Kenyon, Current Parent



Work Experience and Work Briefs

The value of a good work experience placement is obvious and due to the restrictions on pupil availability during term times the expectation is that pupils will participate in this during their holiday periods.

Many of our parents offer to utilise their contacts to help facilitate this and the school offers a forum where opportunities for other pupils can be advertised and promoted.

Our Futures Advisor (Mr Boyes) takes a lead on the organisation of this provision and would be delighted to hear about any support you were able to offer to provide our pupils with a better insight into the world of work.



‘It was a pleasure to host a Shrewsbury School student on placement at my office in Westminster. The young person I hosted had a real interest in Parliament and the work of an MP and was given a valuable insight into government and politics during his work experience. As a parent and as a former Shrewsbury School student, I know that a placement can be hugely rewarding and a great opportunity for students to learn more about their chosen career path’.

Simon Baynes MP, Former Parent

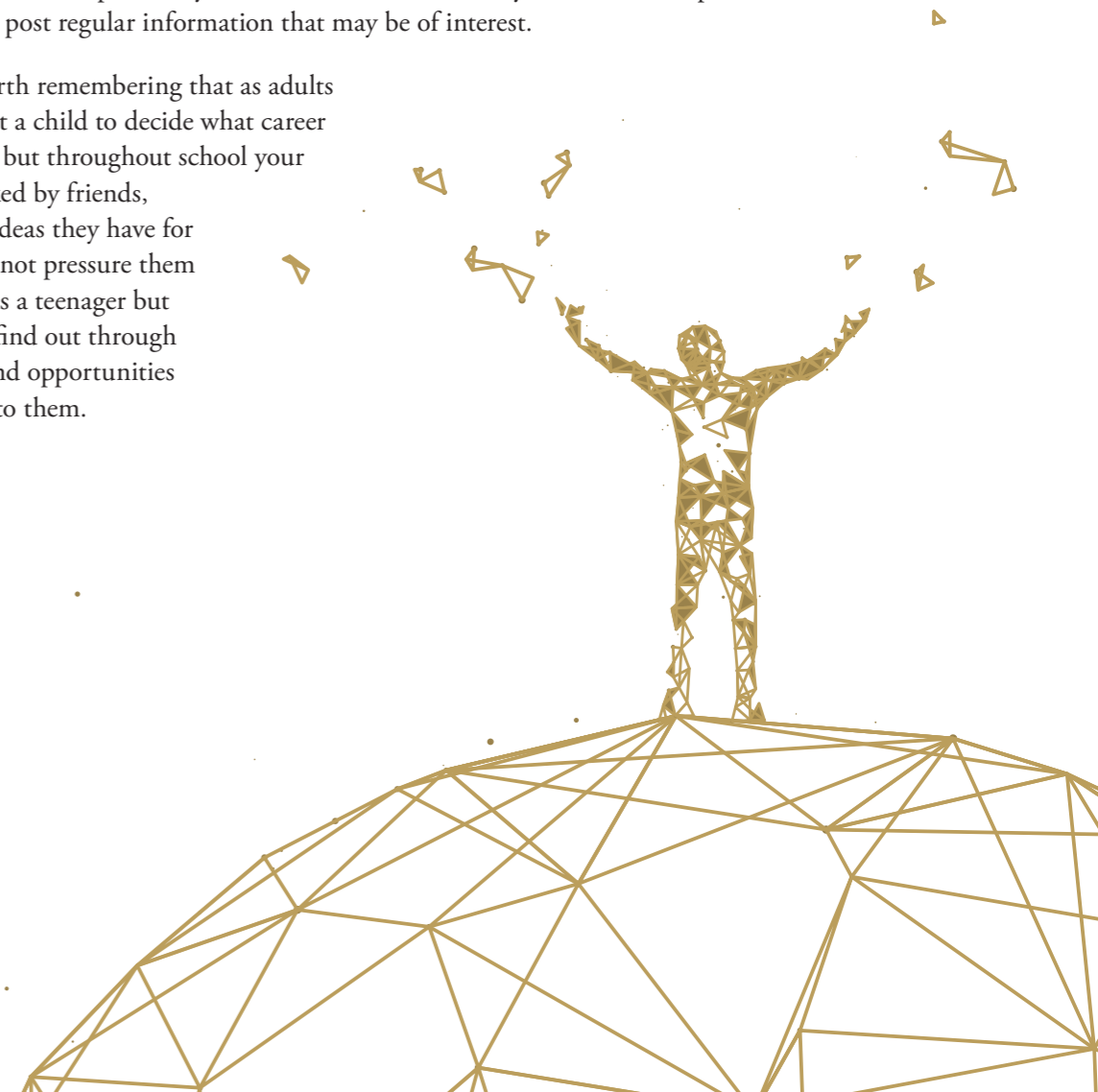


Advice for parents

- ✦ Please encourage your son / daughter to participate in as many of the Futures opportunities as possible. Throughout the academic year there will be a range of events for them to engage in, some of which are optional. The more pupils engage in these activities, the more likely they are to make sensible, well-informed choices.
- ✦ To support your son / daughter's decision making, a number of events are made available to parents in addition to the significant resources on the school intranet pages. Parents can also access Unifrog, which is the main online resource utilised for post school planning, and is very user friendly.
- ✦ Making choices about subjects are some of the biggest decisions your son / daughter will have to make during their time at Shrewsbury School, with this being critical at both Third Form and Fifth Form, for GCSE and Advanced Level options. The advice for both of these selections is actually very similar. Pupils should be encouraged to go for subjects they enjoy, they do well at, and have a link to any future interests. Following these simple principles will typically lead to motivated pupils who are more likely to achieve grades that match their academic potential.
- ✦ The world of work is changing. The job market looks very different now to how it did ten years ago and will undoubtedly look very different in ten years' time. In the UK alone, there are nearly 600 different career occupations. With this in mind, it is really important that pupils are encouraged to have an open and inquisitive mind when it comes to careers research, so they are able to adapt to these changes and demands.
- ✦ Typically, the majority of our leavers progress to university. In the UK there are over 50,000 undergraduate courses to choose from. Please encourage your son / daughter to utilise the Futures Department for support with planning for Higher Education.



- ✦ Linked to the above point, there are growing alternatives to Higher Education, with a large number of organisations offering excellent school leaver programmes / degree apprenticeship opportunities. These are paid placements, often linked to a university degree course and enable students to gain a recognised degree without the debt that Higher Education can bring. Please contact the department to find out more about these possibilities.
- ✦ An aspect of careers planning that hasn't changed is the huge importance work experience still has in supporting planning and raising awareness. 'The world outside is not waiting for Salopians' is a quote from a former pupil who found himself unemployed for six months following graduation from a Russell Group University, which he had not supplemented with any type of work experience alongside or prior to starting. Pupils from the Fourth Form are encouraged to obtain placements during the holiday period and continue to do so throughout their time at school, and we request parental support with this. More experiences generally lead to more knowledge, increased networks and more opportunities.
- ✦ On a fortnightly basis the Futures Department releases a bulletin (included within the weekly school newsletter) which promotes some of the activities mentioned and shares relevant information for all year groups. Please take the time to read this with your son / daughter and identify any updates which are of interest to them.
- ✦ We are active on social media, specifically Twitter @shrewsfutures. If you use Twitter, please follow our account, where we post regular information that may be of interest.
- ✦ Finally, it is always worth remembering that as adults we are unlikely to want a child to decide what career path they should take, but throughout school your child is likely to be asked by friends, family and staff what ideas they have for their future. Please do not pressure them to decide their career as a teenager but inspire them to try to find out through following the advice and opportunities that will be presented to them.





WINNER
Independent School
of the Year 2020

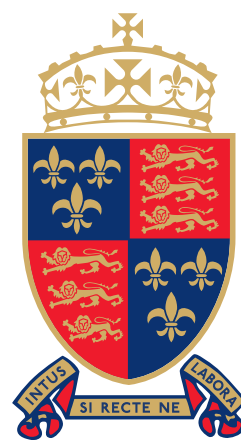
WINNER
Community Outreach
Award 2020



FINALIST
Careers Award
2022 and 2023

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Shrewsbury
School