

Williamwood Parent Council

Flying Start - Adding Value to Careers, Training & Work Experience

One of the ideas for a potential project which we discussed at the beginning of the year centred on how we might be able to tap into the knowledge, experience and skills of Williamwood parents and thereby create a resource to help further the opportunities and ambitions of Williamwood pupils.

Subsequent discussion suggested that we look specifically at enhancing the provision of support and advice around careers choices, training opportunities and work experience.

Therefore I have provided some information below on how we might develop this project further and I ask the Parent Council to endorse this project.

i) Where do pupils go?

The latest data (from the Skills Development Scotland School Leaver Destination Report 2009-2010 - link below) states that within East Renfrewshire Council, of all 1,318 school leavers, 76.9% went into Higher & Further Education. The four universities in Glasgow account for approximately half of this number.

There are some interesting statistics in terms of courses chosen and choice of course information by gender.

Not surprisingly the 'professional' degree courses feature highly in the choices. Selection for these courses - law, medicine, dentistry - now involves national aptitude or admissions tests (see links below).

Less than 20% of leavers go directly into employment or training.

ii) What support could we provide?

Given that school leavers seem to be successful in securing positive destinations, what additional help could be provided? Are they successful in securing their first choices at the first attempt or could this be improved?

What more can be done to help support pupils in an increasingly competitive environment at further education and beyond? (See Agcas link).

Can we help establish or nurture better business links? (See the school website today - Jacobs Engineering & the West Point Bridge Design contest).

What about opportunities for starting your own business? (Scottish Enterprise Business Gateway)

Could we source a pool of work experience opportunities to benefit those pupils who prefer to pursue a work-related career rather than enter further education?

iii) Next Steps

In order to answer these questions we need to be aware of what advice and support is currently provided by the school and where the Parent Council might be able to add value across these areas.

I suggest we invite the appropriate staff members with responsibility for these areas of pupil support to attend the next Parent Council meeting. Depending on the information provided at that stage we can decide what action needs to be taken to develop this project.

Links

Skills Development Scotland

<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/our-story/key-publications/school-leaver-destination-return-and-skills-intervention-activity-report.aspx>

(click on East Renfrewshire Council)

UK Clinical Aptitude Test - Medicine & Dentistry

<http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/>

(Briefing guides for schools & parents are also available on this site.)

National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT)

<http://www.lnat.ac.uk/>

UCAS (Universities & Colleges Admissions Service)

<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/choosingcourses/admissions/>

UCAS Information for Parents

<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/parents/>

AGCAS (Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services)
<http://www.agcas.org.uk/articles/454-Latest-labour-market-statistics-AGCAS-view>

Scottish Enterprise Business Gateway
<http://www.yourbusinessgateway.co.uk/about/>

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