

## Careers education – Secondary - Schuldorf Bergstrasse

*(Please note that we are currently introducing the German state politics curriculum into our upper year groups. The careers development components of these courses are now beginning to impact on the content of student reflection in relation to the world of work.)*

### **Year 8:**

Block sessions are taken on set occasions during the school year to open our students' minds to the range of rapidly evolving careers sectors.

#### 1) Introduction to the world of work:

In these sessions students begin to understand about categorisation of work into career sectors. They also identify skills, competencies and aspects of personality and life style that may be perceived to be important in various aspects of employment.

Paired discussion and response to personal questionnaires enable the students to begin to identify their own strengths and intended areas of development with a view to investigating possible future career paths. We include interview simulations and group mind mapping activities, but there is also introduction to the materials of the Hessen state 'Berufpass' (careers guidance folder) at this stage.

#### 2) Careers taster day:

We are extremely grateful to representatives from a wide spectrum of employment sectors who have successfully planned and implemented a series of workshops that Y8 students visit on this day. We intend to extend and develop this structure and we are always open to parents and other leaders from employment sectors who would like to contribute in the near future to this event. So far we have either established active links or delivered workshops in cooperation with representatives from the following sectors and related companies:

- Chemical engineering
- Mechatronics
- Nursing
- Pharmaceuticals
- Tourism

- Flight industry
- Space industry
- Logistics and international trade

We would like to stress that students benefit considerably from the experience of working with adults from diverse sectors on problem solving, information exchange and simulation activities. If you are interested in joining this team for future events, please contact the SISS careers coordinator on [r.toogood@schulen.ladadi.de](mailto:r.toogood@schulen.ladadi.de)

3) BIZ (Berufsinformationszentrum) / employment agency visits:

Both Year 8 classes are taken by their class teachers to the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) in Darmstadt. They are introduced to a careers adviser who guides them through career search engines whilst explaining the structures offered in Germany for training course advice and application.

**Year 9:**

There is a two week **work experience placement** that happens in the second half of Year 9.

The experience is a compulsory component of the school curriculum and students are encouraged to seek placements that are of interest to them, one year in advance. There is also guidance given on how to write applications and CVs for this purpose in Germany.

Please note the following aspects of the experience:

- Students have to do an assessed reflection activity in response to their placement. This is now directly connected to the politics curriculum in Y9.
- All students are mentored and supervised by a named person in the company.
- There are many international companies in the region that communicate in English but we also encourage all students to improve their German in employment contexts if the opportunity arises.
- All placements have to be within our region (south of Frankfurt, north of Heidelberg and East of Mannheim in order to enable teacher visits to take place).

## Year 10

### 1) 'Firmen in der Schule' :

All SISS Y10 students are invited to attend this careers event that focuses on training opportunities at higher levels. We participate with Y10 students from the German Gymnasium in a series of presentations from significant high tech companies that introduce the students to employment opportunities and the option of 'Duales Studium' (block release University study courses).

### 2) Advice on study and training directions at post IGCSE:

Our Schuldorf representative from the Federal Employment Agency gives an annual talk to Secondary families on employment and course structures at 16+ in the region. He also has a regular consultation session to provide information and support to students who are applying for courses outside SISS.

Please contact Herr Heckmann on : [Thomas.Heckmann@arbeitsagentur.de](mailto:Thomas.Heckmann@arbeitsagentur.de) if you would like an appointment to discuss applications for apprenticeships or transfer to technical training colleges.