



How does Cheshire College – South & West meet the Gatsby Benchmarks?

Cheshire College – South & West is committed to delivering a stable careers programme that meets the needs of all learners. Our programme is designed to raise aspirations, expand horizons and ensure learners leave college with a strong understanding of the local and national labour markets. The Gatsby Benchmarks are recognised nationally as a holistic framework to support the delivery of careers education and guidance.

Here is how we match ourselves against the 8 key benchmarks:

1	A STABLE CAREERS PROGRAMME	Learners have opportunities to access information, advice and guidance, and career related activities prior to and during their programme of study. Activity is planned on a whole college approach, along with curriculum specific activities. For the full programme click here.
2	LEARNING FROM CAREER AND LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION	As a college, we are committed to ensuring our provision meets local and national need, and we are kept abreast of the changing labour market. We have strong links with local and national companies and ensure staff maintain currency in their teaching and industrial practice. We have strong links with the local LEP (Cheshire and Warrington), and also utilise other resources on labour market information such as "Career Coach".
3	ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT	Students have regular contact with Personal Development Tutors, and students are encouraged and supported to consider their next steps beyond college through regular 1-1 and group activities. Careers advisers are on hand to provide advice and guidance to students.
4	LINKING CURRICULUM LEARNING TO CAREERS	Careers Advisers and Personal Development Tutors have close links with teaching staff and departments. Many career related activities that take place in college are driven by subject areas, linking learning to career progression.
5	ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES	Our Higher Education and Employers Fair includes talks from over 100 companies from a wide range of industries. Throughout the year learners are able to attend talks from leading businesses and employers promoting School Leaver Programmes and opportunities outside of College.
6	EXPERIENCES OF WORKPLACES	All learners attend a minimum of 24 hours external work experience placement as part of their Study Programme. Learners are encouraged to self-source their own placement (although support is available for those who require it).
7	ENCOUNTERS WITH FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION	The College has extensive relationships with Universities who are regularly at the Campus. Universities and colleges attend in College for students to ask questions and gather information; from regular stands in the Students Hub. Futures week, and two dedicated programmes aimed at those who are preparing for university and those aspiring to Oxford and Cambridge or competitive programmes.
8	PERSONAL GUIDANCE	All learners have the opportunity to book an interview with a careers adviser in college. All students have regular contact with their Personal Development Tutors who use key resources to explore progression options beyond college.