



# Be inspired

Careers and Alumni Newsletter

## Welcome to our first Careers and Alumni newsletter for NSSFC

There are many developments taking place in Careers Education nationally and this newsletter will keep you informed of what's happening in Northallerton School and Sixth Form College to build on the good practice already in place at the school.

Also each half term we will bring you real stories from ex-students of the school, telling you about their career path since leaving school. We hope these stories will inspire our young people to strive for their best.

## Alumni Focus

### We are delighted to be able to share an account from ex-student Adam Pearson



'Since leaving Northallerton College (as it was called!) in 2007, my career has evolved gradually. Upon finishing my GCSEs I decided to pursue my interest in sport. This led me to Darlington College, where I completed a BTEC National Certificate in Sport, Development, Coaching and Fitness. I particularly enjoyed learning about human physiology and the mechanisms that work to keep us alive and functioning. This in turn steered me to the University of Sunderland where I undertook a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Sport and Exercise Sciences. I enjoyed my time studying in Sunderland greatly. During the summer holidays, I travelled to the USA to work at an outdoor education centre and children's summer camp. Working in the US was a fantastic experience! I made some great friends, had a brilliant time travelling, and enjoyed working with the children. This encouraged me to seek work experience in schools. I volunteered in a primary and secondary school

before securing a job as a teaching assistant. I subsequently completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and qualified as a primary school teacher. Whilst I enjoyed teaching and gained many valuable experiences, I was keen to pursue my scientific interests. This took me to King's College London where I studied Human and Applied Physiology and earned a Master of Science (MSc) degree. Which brings us to today... I currently work at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. I am part of a research team using cutting-edge techniques to investigate mechanisms of kidney disease. I hope to earn a doctoral degree (PhD) in the next couple of years and continue onto a career in biomedical research. Whilst pursuing the career path which I have outlined above, I have worked in a supermarket, restaurant, warehouse, factory and shop. Each of these jobs provided valuable experiences of their own and allowed me to save money to pursue my hobbies and interests.'

If you are an ex-student of the school and would like to be part of our school Alumni group and inspire our young people, please contact Mrs Harris (Careers Lead) by calling 01609 773340 or email to [harris.b@northallertonschool.org.uk](mailto:harris.b@northallertonschool.org.uk).

# Careers Update: keeping you informed....

## The National Picture - The Gatsby benchmarks – what are they?

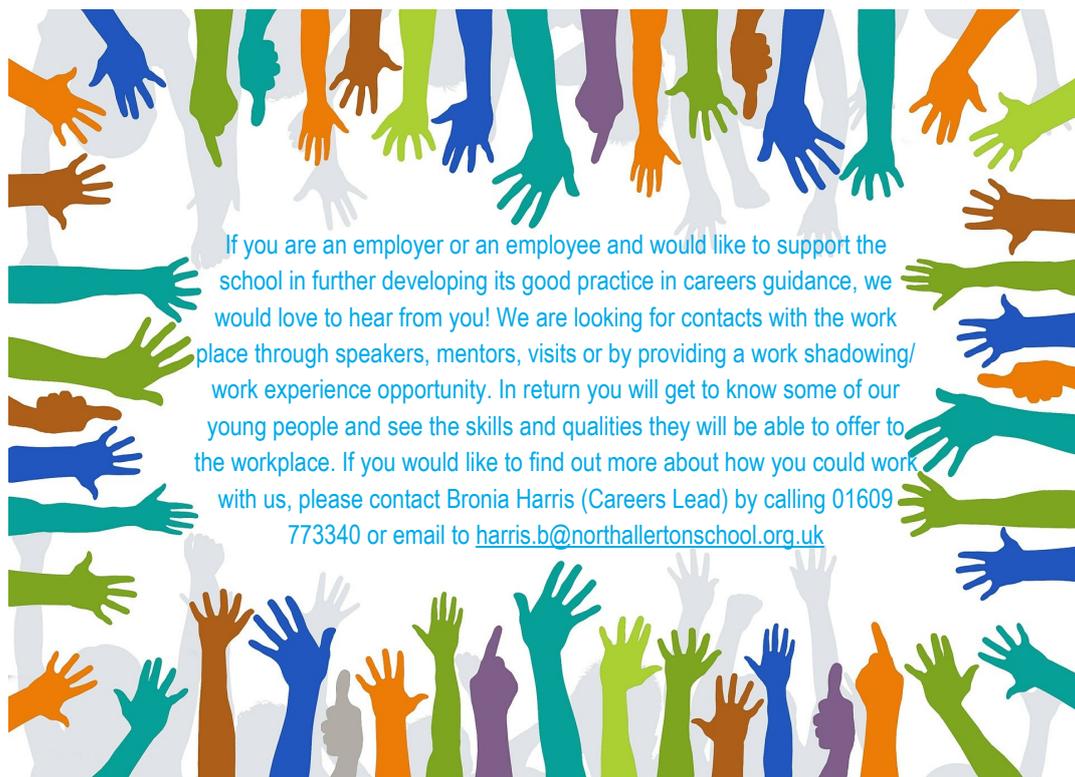
In 2017 the government set out a new strategy for careers based around the 8 Gatsby benchmarks. These provide a framework for all schools to follow and are critical in inspiring and equipping young people for the fast-changing world of work. These are the 8 benchmarks:

1. **An embedded careers programme** – the school has dedicated time for the programme to be delivered to all year groups at various points during the school year.
2. **Learning about current labour market information** – the current local data can be found on our website under ‘careers’
3. **Addressing the needs of each student** – students have different career guidance needs at different times and our programme aims to cater for these needs in a variety of ways.
4. **Linking lesson time in subjects to careers** – some subjects, like the vocational courses loan themselves to link with ‘real’ scenarios and to the workplace and do this well. This is an area we are exploring to develop further particularly in relation to the more traditional academic subjects.
5. **Encounters with employers and employees** – we have good links with local employers but are always looking for new opportunities to work with employers so students can learn first-hand about the skills that are valued in the workplace.
6. **Experiences of workplaces** – the aim is that every young person should have experience of a workplace through visits, work shadowing or work experience. Currently all of our Y12 students go on work placement but we would love to send all of our Y10 students on placement too, if local businesses can support us with this.
7. **Encounters with Further and Higher Education** – from Y10 onwards students have a number of experiences regarding opportunities after their GCSEs.
8. **Personal Guidance** – every student in the school has access to a careers interview with a professional careers advisor. These usually take place from Y9 onwards, with repeat interviews arranged as requested.



Employability skills are really important for our students to develop. **Skill focus** in this edition is **LISTENING**. Let's encourage students to develop this skill both in school and at home.

## Can You Help?



If you are an employer or an employee and would like to support the school in further developing its good practice in careers guidance, we would love to hear from you! We are looking for contacts with the work place through speakers, mentors, visits or by providing a work shadowing/ work experience opportunity. In return you will get to know some of our young people and see the skills and qualities they will be able to offer to the workplace. If you would like to find out more about how you could work with us, please contact Bronia Harris (Careers Lead) by calling 01609 773340 or email to [harris.b@northallertonschool.org.uk](mailto:harris.b@northallertonschool.org.uk)

## Key Dates:

**December 6 2018**

**6pm - 7.30pm - Join in:  
Northallerton School  
Business Engagement**

Northallerton School & Sixth Form College is now looking to the future with confidence. As part of this improving picture the school are organising an [event for community stakeholders](#) and are keen to engage with local businesses.

**January 15 2019**

**Deadline for University  
applications**