

Summary and Judgement

Without question, Horizon Community College (HCC) provides an excellent standard of careers education, information, advice and guidance to its learners and there is much to celebrate and be proud of.

Since the last assessment there has been some restructuring of senior staff including a new Careers Lead. Christine Malson, Associate vice-principal has taken on the remit for careers in addition to other responsibilities including overseeing the personal development of every learner in the college. This has ensured that careers sits firmly at the heart of the college as evidenced by its featuring prominently in the College Vision, '*School ready, Work ready, Life ready*'. Christine has been a '*fresh pair of eyes*' and consequently has identified existing good practice whilst at the same time, pulling careers into the whole school provision and ensuring its integration as part of a continuing drive forward. Identifying and utilising potential opportunities has helped to speed up this process and the use of the '*Big picture*' to promote linked careers during each lesson serves to maintain a consistently high profile within the curriculum.

The careers programme follows a spiral curriculum model that spans all year groups with clearly defined aims and outcomes for each year. It would be useful to identify the impact this has and continues to have for learners and consideration should be given to auditing the programme against the CDI framework (See Recommendation 1).

Of particular note is the achievement of 100% of Y10 learners benefiting from individual work experience. The careers team is justifiably proud of this. Learners were encouraged to take responsibility for identifying their own placements and the whole initiative has seen Gatsby Benchmark 2 (GB2) increase on Compass + from 80% to 100% and GB6 increase from 25% to 100%.

There is clear commitment and support from Governors and SLT, with appropriate resources and funding enabling the success of the careers team. The employment of two full time level 6 qualified careers guidance practitioners in addition to a P16 enrichment coordinator who all have clearly defined roles ensures careers maintains a high visibility throughout the college.

Robust monitoring and early intervention of learners at risk of becoming NEET has resulted in anticipated NEET numbers for the current Y11 cohort of <1% which is considerably below the most recent figures for Barnsley of 5.2%.

Careers features prominently on the college website, which is exemplary and includes links to the '*Big Picture*' for every subject. Feedback from learners following careers intervention is undertaken by utilising QR codes, This has proved to be a highly successful method for collating data and consideration should be given to rolling out similar initiatives to elicit responses from parents, providers and staff. (See Recommendation 2).

Excellent links with local providers and businesses have been developed and visitors regularly attend the careers café to informally engage with learners, promote their line of business and answer questions. As the college continues to move forward, an annual

completion of the Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) on Compass + by all learners would also inform further development of the careers programme. (See Recommendation 3).

Horizon Community College retains the Quality in Careers Standard fully incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks. The assessor awards Horizon Community College the Quality in Careers Standard provided by the Licensed Awarding Body, Complete-Careers Career Mark, using the Career Mark approach.

This is an excellent achievement and recognises the quality and breadth of your careers provision. You are “making good progress” towards meeting the Benchmarks and the accreditation criteria, as detailed in this report. We will review your progress towards the Benchmarks, and the career-related learning outcomes for learners which the national Quality in Careers Standard requires, through annual reviews.