

Your guide to independent and impartial, quality careers services from **Connexions Sandwell**

your personal careers guidance specialists



"Personal guidance has an observable impact on young people's careers and progression, and young people continue to have a clear preference for face-to-face support. Guidance must be impartial and delivered by qualified practitioners, putting the needs of the individual first."

Careers Strategy, Department for Education



INTRODUCTION

Connexions Sandwell is passionate about making a difference to the lives of young people through high quality, impartial careers advice and guidance. We believe personal guidance better equips young people to make informed choices and prepares young people for the future, exploring appropriate pathways which will enable them to reach their full potential.

As an award winning provider of guidance services with a proven reputation for inspiring young people, our guidance and assessment packages can be tailor-made to suit your specific requirements.

WE WILL

- Promote aspirations and enable your students to leave school confident, motivated and with all the required knowledge to make informed decisions and positively progress.
- Work with your students to assess their abilities, interests and achievements and discuss them in the context of current and anticipated future opportunities.
- Maximise the number of your students progressing into education, employment or training by providing targeted support for students most at risk of non-participation.
- Deliver a high quality service, specific to both your needs and those of your students.

“The Statutory Guidance urges senior leaders to “invest in personal guidance provided by a qualified careers adviser” and thus “support all students to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence to fulfil their potential... Ofsted has updated its school inspection handbook to strengthen the focus on careers guidance ... and how well it benefits pupils in choosing and deciding on their next steps.”

WHY CHOOSE US?

Quality Services – Intent, Implication and Impact – Adding Value to your Careers Programme

- Our expert advisers are on the register of career professionals with the Careers Development Institute and we hold Matrix accreditation which demonstrates our high quality, independent and impartial service.
- Our advisers are experienced at delivering 1:1 guidance interviews and group sessions to a range of audiences, differentiating them to address individual needs, including those of SEN students.
- Our highly experienced advisers are professionally qualified to at least Level 6 in careers advice and guidance. They have specialisms, including FE, HE, LMI and are apprenticeship champions.
- Our expert advisers undertake continuous professional development and undergo monitoring and observations of their work to maintain high quality standards.
- We have advisers trained in Morrisby psychometric profiling which will enable students to identify how their strengths and interests can feed into a range of potentially suitable career ideas.
- Reviews are held ensuring that your contract is delivered to your requirements and students can give feedback on the service they have received.
- We can deliver a full programme of activities or a stand-alone package.
- All staff are DBS cleared and receive regular safeguarding training.
- We can provide a comprehensive destination service for your school, and are consistently high performing, in maximising the number of students who positively progress into education, training or employment.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

A bespoke service across the West Midlands, with a range of activities that can clearly match the Gatsby Benchmarks and support you to deliver a high quality careers programme.

Gatsby Benchmarks

1. A stable Careers Programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experience of workplace
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance



HOW DO I CHOOSE?

Pick what you need for your school, be that one day for identified students or a day a week for the whole cohort. This allows you to add value to what you already have and could include any range of activities. We work with you to design and deliver what you want, when you want it. If you're searching for an activity and can't see it below, please talk to us. Our activities can be delivered face-to-face or virtually, it's your choice.

EXAMPLE ACTIVITY

BENCHMARK

Individual careers guidance interviews with Years 7-13	8,4,3,2
Support package for Year 11 and Post 16 labour market entrants	8,4,3,2
Attendance at parents' events Years 7-13	8,4,3,2
GROUP WORK SESSIONS:	
Apprenticeships, employability skills and accessing the labour market	8,5,4,3,2
Labour Market Information, future trends and how opportunities may change	8,6,4,3,2
Career management skills, CV writing/building, application forms and interviews	8,4,3,2
Preparation for work experience	8,6,5,3,2
Higher Education - getting ready for university, UCAS and student finance	8,7,4,3,2
Option choices (Year 8/9, post 16/18)	8,4,3,2,1
Careers websites and social media	8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1
Morrisby psychometric profiling	8,4,3
Study skills, preparing and coping with exams	8,4,3
SCHOOL SERVICES:	
Destination data	4,3,1
Consultancy related to careers guidance and careers education	4,3,1
Preparation for collapsed timetable days	8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1
Inset training on IAG	8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1
Consultancy support for the Quality in Careers Standard – national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance	8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY ABOUT US



"Ofsted inspectors will take account of the quality of independent careers guidance and of students' destinations in making judgement on the leadership and management of the school, and if applicable, a separate judgement on the sixth form."

Ofsted

Specialist School & Sixth Form - "Working with the Connexions team was a pleasure from the outset. Our students were given clear, comprehensive and impartial advice on their next steps including bespoke information on 6th form courses, university places and the various routes into apprenticeships and traineeships. Our students were treated with respect and their career goals and ideals were listened to and used to help formulate a comprehensive action plan with clear actions." - **James Bateman, Director of Vocational Specialisms, Quality and Partnerships, Walsall Studio School**

Young Person - "Very helpful, friendly Connexions staff, they had a good understanding of careers, not judgemental and helped me progress."

School - "As part of their role the Sandwell Connexions advisers have been instrumental in helping to raise achievement at WGA. Their work has enabled students to realise their potential and also given them a greater focus to achieve." - **James Topham, Headteacher - Wood Green Academy**

Formal Accreditation - "Feedback from partners was exemplary and many stated the service is vital to their organisation and to the young people of Sandwell." **Matrix Assessment Report**

WHAT NEXT?

We are able to work with you to tailor a bespoke service based on our daily rate and would welcome a conversation with you.

Other benefits of choosing Connexions Sandwell include free access to careers software e.g. Kudos and e-Clips, and participation in the council's work experience programme. Inputting onto Compass+ is also available by negotiation.

For more information contact:

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