

MENTORING, CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Reach Further, Reach Higher



Future Connections

Connecting with professionals outside of Luckley House School encourages pupils to open their minds to new ideas and experiences – supporting pupils to develop both socially and intellectually.

Exposure to different careers begins in Year 7 and over the course of pupils' Luckley education, practical activities provide guidance that helps inform their next steps.

Luckley operates a formal mentoring programme, facilitated through the Development Office and through a dedicated 'Mentoring Prefect', who is elected each year. Work experience through Luckley's community network of professionals provides a bridge for students to organise time in a specialised environment, reflecting the student's interests. Additionally, careers advice is offered at Luckley's Careers Fair (open to Year 9 – 13), and by our Careers Advisor who runs individual sessions with pupils from Year 10 onward.

Interests, qualifications and achievements are stored in Unifrog, an online platform used in Life Skills that allows each pupil to develop their own portfolio within their private account, and with access to digital tools that can help build a curriculum vitae, for example.

Within an increasingly competitive working environment, broad experience helps to shape confident and capable characters, inspired to lead and serve. New connections can stimulate enthusiasm, advise future decisions as well as provide opportunities to network. We aim to ensure that pupils explore their interests and talents and move towards their longer-term ambitions and dreams.

Mentoring

External providers visit throughout the year, running lectures, workshops and inspirational talks that often open the hearts and minds of Luckley's pupils. Workshops have proven to offer valuable practical advice from a subject specialist – supporting the development of new skills, while bettering communication and teamwork.



Luckley offers mentoring to all Year 12 students, formally inviting each to pair with a Luckley alumnus either studying or working in a field relevant to a student's aspirations. Year 12 students can request a mentor at the beginning of the spring term, following an initial introduction to the mentoring programme. Luckley's Development Office facilitates an alumnus match, with all mentoring sessions agreed by both mentor and mentee. Assigned mentors have been known to stay in touch with their mentees, keen to support their journey into higher education or the workforce; while promoting their industry and expertise. On request, mentoring is open to Year 11 and 13 students who feel that one-to-one advice from a field expert would be useful.

What Students Say



Ella D, Year 12

Interested in Publishing

“My mentoring sessions with Laura have been brilliant! They are making a great impact on my learning and she is super helpful, with both career mentoring and pastoral support. Laura has been amazing at connecting me with people in the publishing industry, specific to the area of work I wish to follow in future. I have met with the ex-CEO of Bauer Media, previously the MD of News International and have more conversations in the coming weeks – with the Creative Director at Harper Collins, the ex-CMO of The Economist and the CFO at Hello! Magazine. Also, some of the on-going mentoring sessions have fallen during exam time, which means I am learning to juggle different priorities.”

Mentor: Laura Buckenham, class of 1996
Copy and Language Director, Brand Gym



Oriana U, Year 12

Interested in Psychological Therapy

“It was a good experience speaking to both Sarah and Gabi. It helped me to understand the different therapies and approaches used in rehabilitating individuals. While Sarah specialises in treating brain injury, I was more interested in play therapy, inspired by Gabi’s passion for supporting young people with anxiety and trauma. Gabi and I have since spoken again, with a view to keeping in touch.”

Mentor: Gabi Herrett, class of 2010
Play Therapist, Canvas Play Therapy

Mentor: Sarah Gibbon, class of 1999
Speech & Language Therapist, Arbor Neurorehabilitation Services

Peer to Peer Mentoring

Luckley's Sixth Form Mentoring Prefects run peer to peer mentoring for all pupils. It is a student-led initiative that reaches beyond academic support and helps peers who could benefit from a wider support group. One-to-one peer support aims to provide guidance from those with shared experiences, enabling a pupil to connect with a suitable senior student. Peer support assists pupils in building confidence, managing rigorous homework and extra-curricular schedules while strengthening relationships and community throughout the school. A group of mentors is available to attend academic clinics and work through any specific subjects.

“A mentor is not someone who walks ahead of you to show you how they did it. A mentor walks alongside you to show you what you can do.”



Student-Led Groups

At Luckley, we are eager for students to explore shared interests with their peers, and develop the confidence to set up and run their own working groups – often aided by teachers. Student-led learning complements classroom education and helps connect academic learning with real-life application. It also fosters responsible and passionate citizens. For example, a group of Luckley students currently runs a school medical society for those considering a career in medicine, dentistry and veterinary. Students share ideas and advice and build an external network to help gain additional mentoring and work experience as well as organise visiting lecturers.

Work Experience

Luckley students are encouraged to proactively network in their local communities and beyond, to secure independent work experience in their chosen field of study – some obtaining ambitious placements during the holidays. Charitable work is also practised, supporting student applications and personal statements.



Relevant work experience for students is supported by Luckley's strong network of professional alumni, and growing community of local and parent businesses. Final arrangements are agreed between students, their parents and host businesses. Work experience ranges from half a day to an entire week, and has proven to support student development in building confidence and new skills. Successful placements can lead to future work and offer access to a professional network, useful for a student's longer-term ambitions.

Volunteering

Voluntary work is widely practised, reflecting Luckley's deep rooted ethos, 'to love and to serve'. Voluntary work is undertaken by staff and pupils alike, with a dedicated RAG week raising money for a chosen charity. Traditionally, teachers and pupils have run their own individual fundraising initiatives for a variety of causes, including supporting the education of children in third world countries, for example. Lectures promoting specific charitable work encourage students to get involved and act; exposing them to real world issues and often aiding their university or apprenticeship applications.



What Students Say



Amelia S, Year 12

Interested in Medicine

“Spending time in clinic with Jess was amazing, thank you. Jess was obviously lovely and the rest of the team were super welcoming too. I got to see and learn so much, which will be applicable to all medical settings. I also learned a lot about cervical cancer, high risk HPV, etc. Thank you again for organising this really valuable experience!”

Host: Jessica Heppner, Gynae Clinic
Heatherwood Hospital



Lisa S, Year 12

Interested in Animal Behaviour

“The week I spent in Devon at Melken Jacobs was an invaluable experience. I learned many new practical skills as well as developing interpersonal skills and relationships that will prove to be valuable in building a future career. The experience was insightful, not only in learning how farms operate and caring for livestock, but also clarifying my aspirations for the future. I will cherish the memories from this rewarding experience. Many thanks to all involved.”

Host: Lisa Hutchins, Owner
Melken Jacobs & The Woolly Wagon

Experiencing Law and Politics

Legal and Political work experience, like other professional services, and healthcare, can be limited due to client confidentiality. Students are often sign posted to company schemes, such as Pinsent Masons' legal summer work experience programme although competition is fierce and only a small percentage are offered a place. As we continue to strengthen Luckley's professional network, we are able to offer students experience that would otherwise be very difficult to obtain. For those committed to exploring a specific career path, such as Law or Politics, Luckley's connections provide a bridge to the real world, even after leaving Luckley.



Michael Freebury, class of 2022

Deputy Head Student, Michael Freebury, undertook work in the office of a Conservative Peer, during a six-week placement over the summer holiday period. The research work he undertook, focusing on family and relationships, prison reform, ways in which men and boys are overlooked in policy as well as disabilities, covered topics of societal importance and offered relevant experience for his University of Southampton Law course work.

James B, Year 12

James was grateful to spend time at East London's Employment Tribunals – an independent judicial body with responsibility for workplace justice. He was invited to observe a series of live cases of unfair dismissal, attended by the serving judge, where both the claimant and respondent had their own representatives; not commonplace in employment legal proceedings. Over lunch, James was able to participate in conversation and listen to the judges' views on best practice. Each day judges made time for discussion and provided cases for James to read, review and comment on. The experience offered a taste of a day in the life of a barrister and judge.

Careers

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Careers Fair

Careers is a whole community effort, with Luckley's Careers Fair continuing to develop as more alumni, parents and local partners engage and get involved in promoting specific careers. Our careers fair is an experience open to Year 9 – 13 students.

Careers Advice

From Year 10 onward, Luckley's dedicated careers advisor provides individual and unbiased advice on exploring career options and pursuing a specific field. The advisor helps identify needed skills and creates a development plan that moves pupils towards their goals.

Take A Child To Work

Pupils are made aware of the importance and value of exposure to working environments and gaining work experience. Annually, Year 8 – 10 pupils are permitted to spend a full day away from school, with a parent, carer or family friend, accompanying a trusted adult to work and getting a feel for the world of work.



Life Skills Career Guidance

From Year 7, Life Skills forms a crucial element of the curriculum, with the inclusion of careers guidance taught throughout each year group and aligned to the Gatsby Benchmarks. A stable careers programme, informed by professionals across a range of industries, and delivered by Luckley's dedicated Life Skills teachers, serves to provide personal guidance to each pupil. Exposure to workplace experiences as well as encounters with further and higher education, support pupils' readiness and GCSE results.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Careers platform introduction	What career success looks like for you	What makes a good employee; Skills and competencies	Personality profiling; working to your strengths	Introducing Apprenticeships, the university debate, A Level choice	Year plan; goal setting for post 18	Applications
Identifying soft and transferable skills	Preparing for meeting an employer; terminology	Leadership; attributes of a good leader	Placement research	Interview preparation; numeracy/ budgeting	Work experience; relevant to interests	Finalising personal statement
Linking own interests to careers	Interview preparation	How to self-promote; what is needed	Guide to contacting employers	Embracing change	Year plan / becoming a scholar	Interview guidance and practice
Recording career activity	Bingo: activities / competencies	Subjects and where these may lead	Guide to developing a cover letter and CV	Workplace rights and responsibilities	Apprenticeships; best fit	
Career treasure hunt; your dream job	GCSE choices: understanding subjects and careers	Identify interests that make you unique	Team player; what makes an excellent one		University application process	
Interview preparation		Building competency and teamwork	Escape Room; problem solving, teamwork, communication		Work experience; researching possible placements	
		Self-love and kindness			Discovering MOOCs; massive open online courses	
					Personal statement; development, puzzle	

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards



Luckley is a partner organisation for The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards programme, which is run by a dedicated teacher. The programme helps pupils develop confidence, independence and resilience through a scheduled programme of activities and expeditions, of which volunteering plays a part. In the past twelve-month period, Luckley pupils volunteered a total of 936 hours, with the social value of these hours equating to almost £5000. Each award; whether bronze, silver or gold, is tailored to a pupil's interests and goals. Varying award levels provide a sense of achievement for pupils, lifelong practical skills and additional experience that employers look for.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Luckley's partnership with the CCF serves as useful insight into the role of the armed forces – giving pupils an understanding of military values, activities and influence in a world with changing priorities and circumstances. Being part of the CCF helps pupils develop leadership and problem-solving skills, while building resilience, independence and the ability to work in a team.



The CCF at Luckley is a growing community run by a certified instructor. All pupils are part of the Army branch of the CCF and take part in weekly parade nights. Training ranges from fieldcraft, first aid, shooting and military skills, such as drill. Additional training is offered some weekends and during school holidays to develop and embed training. Also offered is residential adventurous training in Snowdonia, the chance to compete in the annual Rifles Cadet Cup, visits to the National Army Museum and Royal Hospital Chelsea as well as battlefield tours. As pupils progress they will also have the opportunity to engage with the wider Cadet Forces and gain nationally and internationally recognised accreditations in courses as varied as kayak instruction, military music and leadership. As a Cadet Expansion Program school, Luckley works closely with other independent schools, which provides cadets with the opportunity to meet others from beyond Luckley and engage in joint training.

The Future

Over the course of the last couple of years there has been a marked increase in the number of students requesting opportunities to learn about and experience a field of interest. In future, we aim to give students the freedom to match themselves directly with a mentor, as well as have access to a bank of work experience.



Both mentoring and work experience are areas that will continue to develop over time; through promoting the value of such enrichment activities to Luckley's parents, pupils, alumni and local communities. The hope is to grow Luckley's professional network and involve more local and parent businesses in supporting Luckley pupils. Luckley's Head of Careers, working in collaboration with Head of Sixth Form and the Development Office, aim to increasingly tap into a broader network of Luckley's community as well as learn from student feedback.



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