

## CAREERS EVENTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2017 – 2018

### PARMITER'S ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE 2017 – 2018

#### Team Impact



The dragons apprentice enterprise challenge went on from October 2017 until March 2018. In these five months two teams tried to raise as much money as possible for their charities. My team, Team Impact, were raising money for Watford Community Sports and Education trust, a charity focused on improving lives and enhancing local communities through sport. Throughout the Challenge our team raised money in a series of ways including bag packing for donations at Morrisons, running a regular tuck shop at break times and bringing a henna stall to Christmas fairs. Our main event was a horse race evening that, on its own raised £1000 profit. This event

took a great deal of planning and work but we felt it all paid off in the end. Dragons apprentice required a lot more commitment than any of us were expecting. But this led us to learn valuable skills in organisation, time management and teamwork. Everyone from the team brought different assets which we used to work as a unit. Overall with the help of staff, parents and friends Team Impact raised £3,700 for our charity.

#### Team Dynamic

My Dragon's Apprentice team were raising money for Charlie's Gift, a local charity who provide grants for children with all sorts of different difficulties, such as disability, bereavement and poverty. I didn't really know what to expect when starting the challenge, but I really learnt a lot from leading a team of 8 others. We brainstormed for hours trying to think of ways to raise money, and learnt that it takes a lot of work to be able to turn a £100 into a lot



more. In the end we raised £3400 through our weekly hot chocolate sales, running a stand at the Christmas craft fair, collecting at the school pantomime and, most importantly, our main event of a 'Bangers and Bingo' night, which raised almost £2000 alone. The planning that these events required was huge, but the challenge taught everyone in the team so many important skills including time management and teamwork, and I think that we would all agree that it was a great experience.

## Women in Economics Day at Caius College Cambridge

Cambridge University Economics Professor Victoria Bateman once again led a fascinating day for our Year 13 girls interested in Economics. Professor Bateman is passionate about economics and met the girls personally to talk about their potential as Economics students. The programme included many inspiring speakers. Dr Victoria Bateman (Director of Studies, Fellow and College Lecturer in Economics) discussed Brexit and the Economic challenges we are facing today. Carolyn CBI (Confederation of British Industry) discussed the impact of Brexit on the British Economy. Jenna Young, a fashion entrepreneur who has developed her own fashion label, 'This Is The Uniform' and whose work regularly features in Vogue thought provoking, and they discussed the challenges and opportunities facing British fashion today. Our students found the day enlightening and came away thinking about the impact of Economics in everyday life and the advantages of studying this subject at degree level.



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## Year 11 Careers' Day 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Year 11 students took part in a careers day and were able to choose four talks of interest to them during their lessons before visiting the Universities Fair held in the main hall. The choice of talks were Why Medicine and other Science Degrees, Employability, The Car Engineering (with a Formula 1 car bought in for the occasion), University, The Sports Industry, Marketing, Computing. The students a chance to look at choices following school and gain future ideas and plans, as well as giving them valuable tips for applications. It was followed up by a second CV and interview in the term for students who had missed out. The students valuable skills from the talks and took away plenty of information to help with decision making.



Industry and Going to day gave the advice on CVs and future workshop later gained

## Universities Fair 2017

The Universities Fair was held at Parmiter's in September to allow students to speak to representatives from over 40 universities about courses, student life, finance and the different styles and locations of universities. It was open to students from Year 10 to 13 and to sixth formers from other local schools. We were delighted to see some ex Parmiterians come back as ambassadors for their universities and give insight on their own journey from Parmiter's to university.





## Science and Languages Day

144 Year 9 students from Parmiter's and seven other schools took part in a language and science/engineering challenge in November. Before the challenge started students were given a fun and interactive talk by Paul Hughes, ex-interpreter for the RAF and now CEO of pH Interim Ltd, followed by an introduction to the challenges of low-earth orbit by the Head of Teaching and Learning from the National Space Centre.

The teams competed for prizes in a challenge to design a space hotel for a European consortium to compete with the Russians. The teams had to work in a foreign language with continental materials suppliers and make a presentation to the European investors in French, German or Spanish. This was an opportunity for the students to put their science and languages into context in a fun environment, improving their employability skills along the way.

The day ended with a language taster in Russian and throughout the day Business Language Champions and STEM ambassadors as well as some of our sixth form linguists were on hand to advise the students and help with engineering and language issues.



## Visit from Oaklands and West Herts Colleges

In January two local further education colleges, Oaklands and West Herts came in to speak to our Year 11 students as they started to prepare for their post 16 options. The colleges offer a wide range of vocational courses which were explained and many of our students were interested in this alternative choice to sixth form.

## Law Talk



A talk discussing the different careers options within the legal profession was given by Rik Palmer from the University of Law on 16<sup>th</sup> January. It was well attended by students in Years 10 – 12 and covered the benefits of working in law and the skills to be gained from it. It continued to explore the difference between a solicitor and a barrister, the routes into law and the discussion ended with a fun debate with one team competing against another, one claiming that a Jaffa Cake was a cake and the other arguing that it was a biscuit.

## Professor Leon Freris Lecture

Professor Leon Freris was the head of the Power Systems section in the department of Electrical Engineering at Imperial College and set up CREST, the Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology. He gave a very insightful talk on wind energy and renewable energy. He spoke on the subject of climate change and the technologies available to mitigate it. Students in Year 11 were shown slides indicating the challenges faced to prevent the effect of climate change and the need for all of us to take personal measures to prevent further damage to the planet. Before the lecture the professor discussed his work over lunch with the sixth form sustain team and shared ideas with them to improve sustainability at Parmiter's. He also met with enthusiastic Year 7 students who are already showing a keen interest in protecting their environment.



## SKANSKA Talk

A talk from SKANSKA UK was held for girls in Years 9 to 11 who were interested in careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering or/and Maths. This was an interactive discussion which encouraged the girls to look at their self-identity and be able to see themselves working happily and successfully in science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM)'. A follow up session was delivered to the boys and girls in these years which looked at specific job roles in STEM. From the contact with Skanska two of our Year 10 girls went on to do their work experience there and here is an account from Jo Farr:

*Last week we had work experience and all of Year 10 went to a collection of different companies, ranging from local to international, in fields from the arts to construction. I went to Skanska, a Swedish construction company that and two girls taking computer science who attend Parmiter's School went here. It was an incredibly informative experience, helping me realise with more clarity what my future career aspirations are, which now seem far more achievable and tangible after spending a week learning about IT, a field that interests me.*

## Year 10 Army Day and work experience

Year 10 students got stuck in with the Army Outreach Team last Thursday which went ahead in spite of the weather. This fun and interactive day enabled students to work in mixed group and gain a taste of Army team building and problem solving with a wide range of hands-on activities. It was full of challenging tasks which developed their mental and physical attributes. The team building, communication and leadership skills learnt will help with their forthcoming work experience week and beyond.

Following this ten students took the opportunity of a week's work experience one night at Woolwich barracks before spending the rest of the week at Crowborough camp in Kent. Their report of the students showed how well they participated in the week:

*The Students took part in a physically and mentally arduous work experience week with the British Army. During their time with us the students were fully tested with particular focus on communication skills, ability to work as a team, problem solving, robustness both physical and mental and were keen to improve their own leadership skills. The students were great to get along with and the staff were greatly impressed with their positive attitudes, willingness to listen and learn and execute the missions they were set. They showed great self-motivation and did not need pushing at all. A credit to the School.*



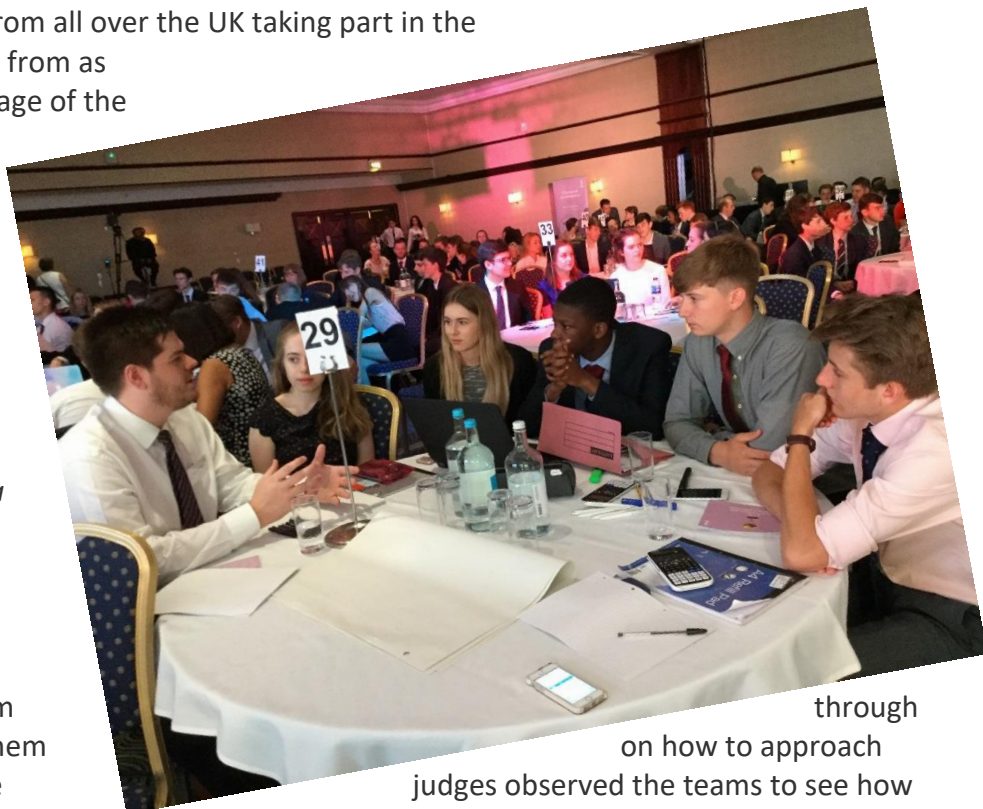
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## BASE National Business and Accounting Competition

BASE is a national business and accounting competition organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants for students aged 16 to 19. The students are in teams of up to six and given an example of a business problem that a company may have to deal with. The teams are then given two hours to prepare a four-minute presentation of their recommendations and solutions to the problem. They then present this to the judges who act as the board of directors for that company.

The competition is aimed to recreate the environment of the real business world, teaching the participants invaluable business skills that they are unlikely to learn in the classroom.

There were a number of schools from all over the UK taking part in the competition this year with schools from as far away as Aberdeen. The first stage of the challenge was to present their findings to the business problem via video link to judges. Over 400 teams around the country entered this initial heat and our team of five students were chosen to go forward to the final. The team consisted of *Sacha Roberts, Ben Eaton, Katherine Tubbs, Robert Croxford and Joshua Ogbemor*. The final was held in Birmingham with 47 other teams from schools around the country competing.



A mentor helped to guide our team their task, assisting and advising them their scenarios and problems. The they were working together and

through on how to approach judges observed the teams to see how approaching the situation they had been given.

The students came up with innovative solutions for the business challenge and worked really well as a team, pulling on the strengths of each individual and delivering an inspired presentation to three judges, the Head of Business Development at ICAEW, Audit Assistant Manager at BDO and the Director of PwC.

Our team did not win at the final but it was a great experience for them. They were able to talk to representatives of top accountancy firms and were proud to be part of such a fantastic event. One of our team has been accepted for an accountancy degree through PwC and others are interested in business or economics. This achievement will be an impressive addition to their personal statements and give them skills to take forward in their future careers.

## WORK EXPERIENCE 2018

All of Year 10 took part in work experience. Many of them produced CVs and wrote letters requesting placements at companies which they were interested in finding out more about and some were given contacts by myself or other teachers at school, others via friends and family. The aim is for students to find out about jobs, learn employment skills, network and show evidence of having done work experience to future employers. Teachers visited some of the work placements and we were impressed with the professionalism of the students in their work placements. The feedback reports from employers were excellent and the students' own diaries showed an array of interesting activities and challenging responsibilities they undertook. We thank all employers who have given our students such a great opportunity this year. Here are some pictures and reports from some of the Year 10 students:





My Work Experience week was extremely eventful having gone to two places, I thoroughly enjoyed my week. For the Monday, Thursday and Friday I went to UCL Department of Economics to meet with Professors and see what they were working towards which at the time happened to be a Press release that would be in the Telegraph the next day. As well as that I had a go at doing a Data Analysis Coding Programme to get a rough idea what Uni students studying Economics would do. On the Tuesday and Wednesday, I went to the Department of Health shadowing a civil servant who was in charge of Children's mental health. During these two days I got to visit the House of Commons and chat with different types of Civil Servants



about their jobs. For both placements I had to dress fairly smartly and wake up quite early as they were both in London. Overall I got a good impression of what working in the adult world is like and have learnt a lot about working as a Civil Servant and being an Economics Professor. Asu Cetin

### Imagination Technologies

My work experience was specifically to do with Graphics software, the project I was given was very fun and enjoyable. I learnt new skills in many aspects of coding and gained confidence when communicating with my team. I would definitely love to visit there again." – Anuska Shah

I went to Garden fields (a primary school) for a week to help with the PE teacher there. It was a great week and I learned many new skills such as increasing confidence, organisational skills and independence. I really enjoyed the week and would recommend it to other students. Samuel Beasley

My work experience placement was with Scurr Architects in Harpenden. They design buildings for McDonald's, Premier Inn, Bupa etc. so I was able to see how an architecture company functions and what the office environment is like. I was given a project to complete during the one-week period using the same designing programmes that the architects and design technicians use, such as AutoCAD and Google SketchUp. I think it was a beneficial, enjoyable experience as I got the chance to learn about the journey to get into that profession. I was able to make a couple of contacts who said I was welcome to return if ever I chose to pursue a career in architecture so I would recommend Scurr Architects to anyone who has an interest in architecture. Erika Lam

## Parmiter's Medical Conference 2018

The third medical conference to take place at Parmiter's School brought students from several local schools together to hear about a career in medicine. Topics covered application to medical school, interview skills, life as a junior doctor, practical skills, resilience and ethics. The students left with a better understanding of medicine and the path to becoming a doctor. We are grateful to the doctors who managed the day's discussions and sessions, including an old parmitterian who is now a junior doctor and shared all her experiences. This year eight Year 13 students from Parmiter's gained places to study medicine and had been helped by attending this conference in previous years.



## WORK SHADOWING

Year 8 students were able to gain an insight into the workplace for two days on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July. They produced some very interested diaries which showed how much they had learnt and gained from this experience. They arranged their own placements with support of family, friends, relatives and schools and went to a huge variety of places including Mars Wrigley Confectionary, Hendon Police Headquarters, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Free Hospital, Russian Ballet Studios, the BBC, Historic England, the Science Museum, Shell UK. We are grateful to all the employers who offered placements. Here are some comments from the students' booklets about what they learned:



Key steps to become a teacher, one being to have control over a child/the class  
how to communicate with 'difficult' individuals, even if they are rude to you.  
How to Photoshop, InDesign and SketchUp to create our own themed room.  
The different ways to become a lawyer from most degrees.  
The key skills you need, such as communication, and now know what work feels like.  
Different methods of managing data and how the job of recruitment works.

STEM related careers and how to get there as well as their day to day work

I was surprised to find out AWS is the way Amazon makes most of its money and not the ordering service.

The 3 main types of accountancy.

To be a good salesman

New knowledge and understanding of animals and veterinary jobs

Some valuable skills you need to have to be in a work place.

How to be organised, how to act around new people, systems used in the company and all about the architecture in the buildings around as well as their structural engineering.

That nothing is better at preparing you for work as going there yourself and asking people who do what I might want to do in the future how everything is organised.

The 5 P's of Marketing which has proved extremely useful and allowed me to get a decent introduction to the world of business.

The effects of some diseases or illnesses and what medication they have to take

The methods of identifying a plant and how the data collected is recorded and sent off to the wildlife trust.

How to carry out an MOT

The experience makes me want to join the police even more than before.

How pensions work and what an actuary does

## **SUMMER SCHOOL 2018**

Years 6 – 10 are taking part in a variety of summer school activities which will be fun and inspiring and give the Year 6 students a chance to get to know the school, teachers and make new friends who will be starting with them at Parmiter's. Amongst the activities are World Cup of Sport, D&T Textiles, D&T Workshop Project, Life in Space, Play in a Day and Teambuilding and Creative Challenges.

### ***Other career opportunities during the year:***

## **MORRISBY TEST**

32 students in Years 11 & 12 took the Morrisby Profile test during the course of the year, which students can sign up voluntarily. Morrisby allows students to develop confidence about their future plans. They become more self aware and they can research education pathways and careers to suit their interests and strengths. Students can tailor suggested careers to suit their personality, talents and/or aptitudes. They can quote Morrisby on their CVs and gain much confidence and pride from its recognition of their strengths and personality. Morrisby online also encourages discussion at home as parents can share access to their daughter/son's results and support them through option choices at 14,16 and 18.

Taster Days at Universities, STEM days, volunteering opportunities and visits to hospitals and other organisations were offered throughout the year to students from Years 9 upwards. These opportunities are emailed by me to parents and put on the school e-bulletin for announcement in registration time.

## **Sixth Form**

Some Year 12 students have also been on work experience placements to various companies including Leonardo, BSI, Imagination Technologies, SWARCO, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Watford Hospital, St Albans Film Festival, Speech and Language Trust, KPMG, Transport for London, and many other locations. This has helped with their career decisions following 6<sup>th</sup> form and fulfills the required work experience for some university applications.

Year 13 were offered mock interviews as practice for their university and/or apprenticeship interviews and we are grateful to external professionals who conduct these, which are so beneficial.

As well as talks from external speakers we are receiving more notifications for apprenticeship opportunities which many students at Parmiter's are realising the value of and applying for as an alternative to university. These are in law, real estate, accountancy, engineering, business and computing.