

Do you know about Central Bedfordshire Council Youth Support Service?

At Vandyke, we pride ourselves on the quality of information advice and guidance that is available to our students. Year upon year at least 80% of our Year 13 students make the transition to Universities of their choice. Last year we had entrants to Cambridge and Oxford as well as many other Russell group universities. Students started higher-level apprenticeships with companies such as Santander, Connells, Vauxhall, Ernst Young, Be Aerospace and Volkswagen.

Out of 257 students in Year 11 last year, 16 moved onto good quality apprenticeships, 88 took up college places at level 1 and above 155 moved into sixth forms. We believe that either this is the result of good quality careers provision from our own-trained staff or by the intervention of 4YP, an independent careers provision that we buy into support our students. This is backed up by regular events within school by local colleges, apprenticeship providers and Central Bedfordshire Youth Support Service.

Central Bedfordshire Council Youth Support Service is here to help and works to ensure the needs, wishes of young people are heard, represented, and that they are empowered to achieve personal, social and economic success.

A snapshot at the end of January 2017 showed that 93.4 per cent of 16 and 17 year olds in Central Bedfordshire were in education, employment or training. This is higher than the regional and national averages and in Central Bedfordshire this has been increasing year on year since the government raised the participation age to 18 in 2013.

A Facebook page was recently launched to provide an impartial one-stop shop for up-to-date, useful and reliable information on education, employment and training opportunities.

This is to support young people to continue in education or training after they turn 16 and provide assistance to parents, carers, schools and businesses.

Content includes relevant careers information and opportunities, for example work experience, training and courses, traineeships, apprenticeships, events, motivational quotes and advice, youth clubs, youth work activities and related success stories.

Additionally, the Youth Support Service manages the day-to-day co-ordination and delivery of the 'Youth Offer' for young people aged 13-19 in Central Bedfordshire. We also support those leaving care up to the age of 21 and those with disabilities up to 25.

Some key areas of the service:

- ✓ To track all 16-18 year olds in order to support them into education, employment and training.
- ✓ To encourage young people to engage in youth participation activities, giving them a voice in the community e.g. Youth Parliament, youth clubs and volunteering.
- ✓ To support schools to develop their approach to careers education, information, advice and guidance.
- ✓ Commissioning youth work, volunteering opportunities and re-engagement activities.
- ✓ To deliver high quality, impartial Information, advice and guidance to young people whom are NEET and/or have complex needs.

If you'd like to get in touch:

- Website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/youthsupport
- Twitter @CBYouthVoice
- Email Youth.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
- Please visit the NEW Facebook page www.facebook.com/cbcyouthsupport and share the page to help us reach and inspire young people or parents, carers, services who support them.

Some useful Careers Education websites:

National Careers Service www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
Barclays Life Skills www.barclayslifeskills.com
4YP (help and support) www.4ypuk.com
Career Pilot www.careerpilot.org.uk
All About School Leavers www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk
Not going to Uni www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
Careers Box www.tv.careersbox.co.uk
Central Bedfordshire Youth Support Service
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/youth-support/careers
Central Bedfordshire Economic Insight www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/business/economic/overview.aspx

National websites for more information on Apprenticeships:

Find an apprenticeship www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
Amazing Apprenticeships www.amazingapprenticeships.com
Get In Go Far www.getingofar.gov.uk
Apprenticeship Guide www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council Apprenticeships: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs/other/apprenticeships.aspx

The Central Bedfordshire Academy of Social Work & Early Intervention: www.theacademy-inspiringfutures.co.uk