



## FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL SLOANE SQUARE

# SIXTH FORM CAREERS INFORMATION

*'The only way to do great work is to love what you do' Steve Jobs*



### THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT

The Careers Department at Francis Holland is thriving, vibrant and progressive. We are continuously building a dynamic interface between our school and the world of work. The Department aims to provide access to relevant and up-to-date information, a wide range of speakers from a variety of industries and professions and sustained personal guidance so the pupils have an informed framework within which to make confident career choices. Girls are urged to recognise the importance of academic endeavour and transferable skills and to realise the adaptability that an open minded approach to lifelong learning can bring. Through a planned programme of Careers Education, Information and Guidance, the Careers Department aims to help every girl to develop skills and abilities which will enable her to realise her full potential and fulfil an effective role in the adult world.

## WHAT WE OFFER IN THE SIXTH FORM?

During the Lower Sixth year, the Careers Department aims:

- to ensure each pupil has a 1-1 meeting with Ms Elliott, the Head of Careers, to discuss goals, aspirations and higher education plans;
- to build upon work done in Year 11, particularly with reference to A Level choices, higher education, work experience and possible career paths;
- to help pupils adapt to the change from Year 11 to Sixth Form, and prepare them for the transition to the world of higher education and work;
- to develop further the girls' self-awareness, particularly as it relates to making the choices necessary at this stage in their school career, and in recognising ways in which they can make the best of themselves;
- to give information and guidance about higher education, training and employment;
- to support and guide students through the Oxbridge preparation process, ensuring girls intending to apply to Oxbridge are preparing throughout the Sixth Form;
- to widen the pupils' experience of the world outside school, through outside speakers, and work experience placements;
- to provide support and guidance for the preparation of any additional tests for university entrance, providing specialist subject tutoring where necessary;
- to provide guidance and information about applying to US Universities and to provide in-house preparation sessions for SAT and ACT tests;
- to provide information, guidance and support for applications to European or other worldwide universities.

In January of the Lower Sixth, every girl has the opportunity to take part in an external, impartial careers testing and interview process provided by Cambridge Occupational Analysts Ltd. (COA). The Centigrade Careers Guidance Programme has been used by the school for many years now. We feel that it forms a sound basis for constructive discussion of Degree and University choice and the implications for possible career paths.

## DURING THE UPPER SIXTH YEAR, THE CAREER DEPARTMENT AIMS:

- to ensure each girl has a 1-1 meeting with Ms Elliott, the Head of Careers to discuss the application process, personal statements and higher education plans;
- to build upon work done in Year 12;
- to help students make the best choice of course for higher education or training, or advise on the best alternative course of action, and to co-operate with form tutors throughout the application process;
- to provide interview and additional test preparation;
- to provide guidance on the world of work, apprenticeships and industry for girls not wishing to go to university;
- to prepare girls for independent living, either at university, during a gap year, or in employment.
- to educate pupils about student finance.

## US APPLICATIONS

A number of Francis Holland Sixth Formers apply to American or overseas universities. Our experience here reflects the national increase in British students choosing to study in the States. America is now the most popular overseas destination for British undergraduates. The application procedure for US universities is quite different from the British UCAS system and the process needs to be started early: it takes time to gather the information, make the choice or choices of courses and institutions, and prepare the actual application.

At Francis Holland students we offer a US University information evening in November for Years 10 upwards. And run an 8 week SAT preparation course in school for LVI students from January to April to prepare girls to sit the tests at the end of LVI. Girls are supported and guided through the Common Application process by the Head of Careers.