



ALUMNI NEWS



Welcome to the very first edition of Alumni News, brought to you by the Careers Team at Prince William School.

Creating an Alumni database has been in the planning for some time now and we are really excited to be able to update you with all the Careers related activities that have been happening in school.

With information about past students, events and the upcoming Careers Programme from September 2023, we hope that you enjoy reading about what is happening and being a part of the Prince William Community.

The Careers Team

Welcome!

IN THIS EDITION:

**Careers Events,
Past & Future**

**Spotlight On:
Broadcast
Journalism**

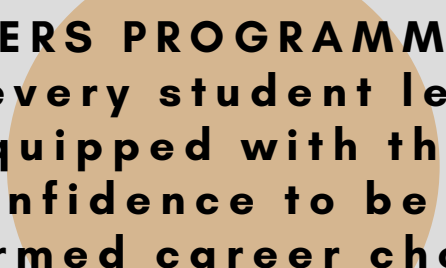
Did You Know?

Last academic year has seen a wealth of Careers Events happening at the school, the first being covered by our very own Alumni member, Tom Percival of BBC Radio Northampton. One cold and dark morning in October, Tom joined us live from the Sports Hall as we welcomed over 30 exhibitors through the doors for our school Careers Fair. As a direct result of the Careers Fair, 78% of students said that they felt more confident about the future. They said they felt less confused about options available, that it gave them ideas about what they could do with the skills and talents they have along with a better understanding of the routes they could take to employment.

We are holding Careers Fairs on 18th October & 6th December - could you be a part of this for this academic year and enthuse and inspire a generation?

Next was our very first Year 8 Careers Evening which welcomed over 120 parents into school, many of whom attended Prince William School. This event linked into the choices that students will be making regarding their GCSE Subject Options. Each information station focussed on skills that can be developed through an interest in a certain subject, linking into routes to employment and a task to complete. From yoga poses to coding, archiving to celebrity finding and spatial design to language hopscotch, students and parents were able to find out more about the possibilities available and the strengths of our students.

Would you like to participate in this event and have a station linked to your career?



**THE CAREERS PROGRAMME AT PWS:
Ensures every student leaves their
education equipped with the knowledge,
skills and confidence to be able to make
informed career choices**

Year 10 spent a day in the work place as part of our newly launched WOW Day. WOW stands for World of Work Day, whereby students went with either parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings or family friends, to experience a day in the life of employment. With students on placements with tradespeople, in the automotive and marine industry, pathology laboratories, primary schools, engineering organisations, dance schools and artist studios (to name a few!), feedback from students shows us that many skills were developed and confidence built as a result of completing this short placement.

Year 12 also had their chance to experience the world of work with a week long placement sourced with the aim to link into any career aspirations. Feedback from employers has been extremely positive with 100% of employers offering a reference as a direct result of the placement.

Could you or your company support a young person with work experience placements?

Further events included a Women In Construction event held at TUTS UK in Corby where students listened to presentations from key women within the industry about their roles and the companies they worked for culminating in the opportunity to operate some heavy plant machinery.

And finally, an archaeological dig at Chester House which included human remains, two recently discovered temples, grinding wheat to make bread and of course, our Year 12 students trying on the fancy dress armour and wielding a sword.

Early October sees the launch of the One Pound Challenge, thanks to a generous donation from Oundle & Stamford Mortgage Services. Each of our new Year 7's will be given a pound and invited to think like an entrepreneur and turn that pound into more pounds!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

BROADCAST JOURNALISM

We caught up with Tom Percival of BBC Northampton Breakfast Show to talk about life as a Broadcast Journalism, his inspirational work and find out more about his memories from Prince William School.

An integral part of BBC Northampton, Tom has worked in radio for over 18 years and the breakfast show for over a decade. Does he ever tire of the early morning starts? Read on to find out more....



BBC RADIO
Northampton

Tom, what's your favourite memory of your time at Prince William School?

Probably my Geography field trip to the Lake District, in 1999, during my A-levels. We had two fabulously passionate teachers; Mr Cooling and Mrs Stinchcombe. Mr Cooling loved the landscape and people of the North of England and Scotland, so it was like seeing a wild animal in their natural habitat! He drove the ageing school minibus up to Ambleside, where we spent a week in a youth hostel. I vividly recall a day in the glorious sunshine, swimming in a hilltop lake one lunchtime. It was a glorious week.

Did you have a favourite teacher?

We had a wonderful history teacher in my first year at PWS; her name was Mrs Bainbridge. She lit a fire in me for history which carried me through to a degree in the subject. I remember her for her enthusiasm, warmth, excitement for the subject and desire to share it with us. Ill health meant she began to have periods away from school and she passed away a few months later. She meant so much to so many people at the school; her loss felt grossly unfair. Teaching year 9 history can't be easy; not everyone will go on to choose it at GCSE, but she was amazing.

What made you decide to become a journalist?

A curiosity about the world and a desire to tell people's stories. Lots of us care deeply about the communities we live in and local radio, in particular, exists to serve these. If you love writing, performing, using language to inform, to entertain, then it can be an incredibly rewarding way to spend your life.

What do you like best about the job you do?

The thought that you (hopefully) help people to start their day in a good mood is pretty great. I'm also very lucky to work with talented, driven, funny people who've become close friends as well as colleagues.

SPOTLIGHT

And what is the worst bit?

The 5am alarm

What do you think makes a journalist good at their job?

Curiosity, open-mindedness and an ability to tell a story. Oh - and having a laugh at your own expense!

Other than a microphone and mobile phone, what else is a necessity in your bag?

Overnight oats. Not having to eat breakfast at home in the morning means an extra ten minutes in bed!

What is the one thing you wish you had known prior to starting in the industry?

That your tendency to become a resident expert on any subject you've learnt a snippet about will greatly annoy everyone else in your life (in my case, my wife)!

What advice do you have for anyone considering a career in journalism?

First; don't be put off when you're told it's hard to get into. It is, but there will always be space for talented, driven people in the BBC and elsewhere.

Second; start doing it now. Whether writing articles, making vlogs or podcasts, the more you do it the better you'll get.

Third; listen to, read, watch content from a range of sources - ESPECIALLY if you're applying for work experience with them.

And finally, tell us more about being an Inner Ring Member of the UK Roundabout Appreciation Society...

Ha! When Chowns Mill roundabout on the A45/A6 was redesigned, we tried to get a picture of it into the annual calendar of the UK Roundabout Appreciation Society (yes, it exists - and the President is actually a very funny man!). It didn't make it into the calendar, unfortunately, but I got an honorary membership anyway. One thing I learned from my time reporting on roundabouts; don't eat the tomatoes that grow in some verges. Trust me.

DID YOU KNOW?

Alumni share a special relationship and connection with their former school and are usually willing to share their knowledge and expertise with current students.

A talented group of alumni has an abundance of experience and skillset in a variety of industries which they can share in person or virtually with younger generations as well as their peers throughout their professional lives. Alumni can also help students stay motivated, mentor them and also be the most valuable supporter when they launch their careers.

For you as an alumni participating in school events, will have access to a broad and diverse network of opportunity. This could be particularly beneficial if you're looking to make a career change, transition into a new field, get a promotion, or if you're searching to hire a good candidate for your company.

Alumni networks are a great asset as they help cultivate meaningful relationships, fostering trust and a strong sense of belonging.

If you know anyone who has not yet signed up to the Prince William Alumni, please pass on the sign up form: <https://forms.office.com/e/xPzdKm9u4e>

If you have any questions or would like to be involved in any of our upcoming events, please contact Kate.Allen@pws.emat.uk

See you next issue!

The Careers Team