



# Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

Dear Parent / Carer,

The 8th Student Career Compass event is being held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 at Natwest Head Office in London. This event is held both online and in person, supporting students to make informed career choices. We have attended this event both in person and online and will confirm that going in person is an excellent experience for students.

We are promoting this event in a few ways.

1. For students who are confident to travel into and out of London independently, they need to register for a place, by clicking this link; <https://thestudentcareercompass.co.uk/> and selecting 'in person'. They can then make their own way after school on 16th October, to and from this event.
2. For students who would like to attend online, they also need to register for a place, by clicking this link; <https://thestudentcareercompass.co.uk/> and selecting 'online'. We please ask if they take a place online that they actually attend, the places for this are competitive, with students and graduates attending globally. Please don't apply unless you intend to attend virtually.
3. For students who would like to travel in and out of London with staff, they will need to register for a place, by clicking this link; <https://thestudentcareercompass.co.uk/> selecting 'in person' and also complete the Parent Pay form, to confirm they are **travelling to and from London with staff**. We will be leaving school at 2.20pm and walking to the train station and returning by approximately 10.00pm to Bedford train station. Students will need to be collected from Bedford train station, we will keep students informed about our expected time of arrival once we have caught the return train.

We strongly recommend any students interested in degree apprenticeships, attend this event. There will be a session on interviewing skills and then two companies will be offering live mock interviews.

Throughout the evening, students are invited to participate in sessions run by some of the UK's largest and well-known organisations. Spanning a range of sectors, participating this year are the BBC, CBRE, Deloitte, FDM Group, Kier Group, NatWest Group (including NatWest Markets, the Investment bank), Rathbones Group and Trowers & Hamllins LLP.

Student Career Compass are very excited by the breadth of organisations that they have participating this year, and they will share with students detailed insights into:

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- A day in the life of a particular role and industry
- What career trajectories look like
- The journey of recent graduates and apprentices
- What direct entry routes are available
- What they look for in a candidate and how to make a strong application

Those attending in person will benefit additionally from the market stalls that each organisation will be hosting and be able to have more personal one-to-one conversations with both their recruiting teams and their current graduates and apprentices. Students will also have the option to bring their CV in and have it assessed and critiqued by industry experts in our CV Clinic. This has proven to be a very popular service.

The Student Career Compass website: [thestudentcareercompass.co.uk](https://thestudentcareercompass.co.uk) details the timings of all the sessions and holds the registration link on the Upcoming Events tab. For those selecting to participate online, their confirmation email will contain the zoom webinar link for the event.

The feedback from previous events has been phenomenal and many students have described the event as life changing for them.

There is a swift turnaround for this, so we are asking for all students to register by 4th October, for in person or online. Once students have confirmation of a place in person (please know that places are limited so they need to book one swiftly for the in-person event), they can then sign up through Parent Pay to join school staff travelling to and from the venue.

The only cost to this is the price of the train fare, which students will need to pay for at the train station. We recommend booking in advance, but equally, once we arrive at Bedford train station students can pay at the ticket office or use the automatic machines. Depending upon the number going, this may delay us getting to London, so we may need to update you further on this before the event.

Kind regards



Cathy Eckett  
Deputy Headteacher