



Woodlands Meed's Careers and Transition Fair was held on the 15th March 2022 at The Kings Church in Burgess Hill.

The event brought together local employers, day and transitional services and further education providers. All the exhibitors were passionate about recognising the potential of people with SEND in the world of work and the value of giving young people an opportunity to make a valued contribution to society. The Careers Fair provided our students with an opportunity to have meaningful and direct encounters with employers and transitional organisations.

Woodlands Meed
Careers & Transitions Fair
Tuesday 15th March 2022
Kings Church, Burgess Hill

KS3	10.00am - 11.00am
Mainstream SEND	11.30am - 12.30pm
WM Alumni	11.30am - 12.30pm
KS5	1.00pm - 3.00pm
KS4	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Parents/Carers	3.00pm - 5.00pm
Staff	3.45pm - 5.00pm

Proud to be part of woodlands meed

The Woodlands Meed students have a very broad range of special needs and disabilities. Many of the students find new and unfamiliar environments and people challenging and the SEND Careers and Transition Fair helped provide a highly supportive space to experience meaningful encounters with employers and transitional organisations to engage and inspire.

Woodlands Meed students from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 visited throughout the day, along with SEND students from other local School including St Pauls, Warden Park, Burgess Hill Academy and St Mary's School & 6th Form College in Bexhill. Parents and staff were invited to visit the event in the afternoon along with other



young people with SEND from different provisions locally to share the positive impact of this event beyond just those at Woodlands Meed.

At the event we had the following confirmed exhibitors: 7 employers, 9 support services; 10 Further education and training provisions and 4 day services. However, due to COVID on the day had the following number of exhibitors: 10 employees/employees from 4 business; 15 employees from 7 support organisations; 10



employees from 6 Further Education and training organisations.

We also made direct contact with Careers Leaders from local secondary schools inviting their SEND student/students with additional needs to attend. Two independent SEND/SEMH schools

from known networks also requested to attend with students. 43 SEND/SEMH students in total attended the event. They attended separately from the Woodland's Meed students in a dedicated time slot. Their attendance gave us the opportunity to further develop our relationships with local Careers Leaders and allow us to identify ways in which we can work together in the future. We also invited the Woodlands Meed alumni.

Although some of the expected exhibitors had to cancel at the last minute due to covid the event was a great success! It was wonderful to see the students interact so confidently at both employers and transitional stalls. Feedback from exhibitors highlighted how engaged the students were with one saying:

'the students were great, and many very curious, and it was great to inspire young minds!'



Our Enterprise Coordinator, Penny Daly also attended the event supporting networking. Both of the Woodlands Meed Careers governors also attended, Rose Griffith and Sandra Boyle. My future Starts Here, Woodlands Meed careers guidance advisors, were available on the day to provide the pupils with informal careers guidance and discuss the careers guidance interview process.

The feedback from those who attended described the event as a great success and incredibly valuable in giving young people a chance to gain a detailed insight into work possibilities and of the future opportunities available. The businesses who attended felt it also provided them with an insight into working with young people with SEND. One exhibitor commented, 'the students were great and many were very curious, it was great to be able to inspire young minds'

Student Feedback Summary Careers & Transitions Fair 2022

156 students across 3 key stages from Woodlands Meed attended the Careers and Transitions Fair. Two college classes were closed on this date due to Covid and therefore could not attend. 22 SEND students with EHCP's from local mainstream secondary schools also attended. 21 students from two independent SEND/SEMH provisions also attended. In total, 199 young people attended the 2022 Careers and Transitions Fair.

To promote maximum levels of engagement we ran a prize draw for all students attending. To enter the prize draw students were encouraged to collect stamps after visiting stands and completing any activities on offer.



Key Stage			
KS3	42	2	0
KS4	21	4	0
KS5	24	4	0
Local Mainstream SEND	22	3	0
TOTAL	109	13	0
Percentage	89%	11%	0%

Nb. Data taken from the Stamp/Feedback cards that the students completed on the day. Not every student completed a card, or gave feedback.



Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive with 89% rating their experience as good (green smiley face) and only 11% chose okay (amber smiley face) and no students rated the fair as bad (red unhappy face).

Individual feedback from student stamp/feedback cards has been collated and typed into a separate document.

'It was good and I got to see how many different options there were for me'

'Because it has given me ideas about what to do when I am older'

'I really liked coming here, it was very interesting'

'The people at the stands were very welcoming'

'It was really good to find out about my future'

'I enjoyed learning about interesting pathways'

'I learned quite a lot of information about different colleges and jobs'

'Because all of the stands have been eye-opening, inspiring, educational and fun'

Careers and transition fair – Employer Feedback

Feedback was received from 16 exhibitors who attended the fair.

100% of those who responded felt the event raised student's aspirations and that the event met their expectations.

The feedback received indicated that the event had been a success and the phased entry approached for different year groups worked well. Scheduling a lunch break also worked well for exhibitors as this is often forgotten.

It was noted that the students were all engaged with the event and curious about what each stall had to offer. It was also noted

that having student's attend from other schools made the event more diverse.

The main theme of the feedback given by exhibitors on how the event could be improved was better parking facilities. This is an issue that was raised following the previous fair held at the same venue. Unfortunately this is not an issue that can be resolved by the school. The Kings Church is the most suitable venue for this type of event in Burgess Hill and when emailing the exhibitors before the event notice was given of the limited parking available.



Employers were encourage to offer practical activitites for the students to participate in

Staff feedback

As part of Tuesday Night Training Teachers and Teaching Assistants were invited back to the Careers and transition without the student between 4pm and 5pm so they could network and develop their knowledge and understanding about the employers and employability and transition services.

23 staff completed an evaluation about the event.

100% of the staff found the experience useful or interesting

'It was good to engage with services that support families do that we know who we can sign post our families to.'



'The stamp card was really effective - The students gained a lot from the day'

'The opportunity to speak to the establishments that our students will progress onto was fantastic. I think it a powerful endorsement of the many qualities our students possess that cannot always be conveyed on paper.'

Staff suggestions to improve the careers and Transition fair included:

'Some suggested questions students could ask, perhaps symbolised questions or aided language boards could be put onto the tables so students could have support to ask questions.'

'Encourage more interactive stalls'

Parent and career Feedback

31 parents and carers also attended the Careers and Transition fair and eleven responded to the survey.

90% of the parents and carers communicated that they found the experience helpful

81% agreed that the Careers and Transition fair raised the pupil's aspirations

'Opened my eyes to what next steps there could be ahead'

