

## Deputy Head of Sixth Form's Speech

Good Evening

My Name is David Rutt and I am the Deputy Director of Hayesfield Mixed Sixth form. My main role is to organise the tutor programme, PSE and Work experience. In our tutor programme you will undertake preparatory work for and reflection on work experience and UCAS, build your general knowledge but also have access to a single member of staff with whom you will meet 1:1 to reflect on your academic progress and set supported targets for improvement. This also means that when you need detailed references for UCAS or job applications there is one member of staff who has that knowledge about you as an individual.

At Hayesfield we feel that Work Experience is an incredibly important part of your education and there is an opportunity for all of our year 12 students to carry out a placement. This placement enables you to develop professional workplace skills to support your future learning and employability. It can also clarify your own ambitions; certainly my own work experience in a helicopter factory confirmed that it was Science that was my future rather than manufacturing. When you move on from Sixth form you will be joining an incredibly competitive marketplace regarding employment opportunities, regardless of whether you attend University or take up a high quality apprenticeship, and developing these employability skills and contacts alongside your academic qualifications is vital.

Many students grasp the opportunities with both hands and have organised very successful placements. Over the last two years they have been, amongst others, to Parliament, Harper Collins publishers, Sky TV, BAe systems, RUH, the Zoologica Brasilia and a Thai Elephant Sanctuary! In some cases, successful work experience has led on to offers of future employment and/or higher apprenticeships. The sky really is the limit!