



March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Geography Option : Virtual Work Experience Opportunity

As your child has chosen Geography as one of their GCSE options, we would like to invite them to take part in an exciting virtual work experience opportunity this term. **Sustain My Future** is a programme run by My Future My Choice (<http://www.myfuturemychoice.co.uk/about>) and has already proved to boost students' well-being through a greater sense of purpose as well raise awareness and understanding of sustainability goals.

Why are we doing this?

Normally the students would have the opportunity to engage with employers at the Careers Fair, weekly talks or even in the work place during school trips. Research has shown that these interactions boost their confidence, helps them to see opportunities in life they may have not already thought of, and form aspirations for their future. Due to current restrictions, these events have not been possible and so we are keen to offer what we can in a COVID safe environment.

The Programme

The sessions will be run virtually by a trained business volunteer with a specialism in sustainability, and will help students to consider possible solutions for the future of the planet. As well as increasing their awareness of the UN Goals for Sustainable Development (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>), this will be a chance for students to explore innovations, business ideas and jobs which will be important in the future.

Working in a team with 10-12 other students, your child will take part in three 50-minute sessions in school, during the school day. The sessions will be over a period of 3 days (Monday to Wednesday) during **either** the week commencing Monday 22 March or the week commencing Monday 29 March. Next week we will be letting your child know which team they are in and the days/times of their sessions. They will also be reminded in school and the teacher of the lesson they will miss will be aware of their absence.

During the sessions the teams will work together to establish which of the UN Goals they want to address, and then create, select and refine ideas for future solutions (business ideas). Each team will create a 2-minute 'elevator pitch' which we will showcase at a virtual event at **5.00 pm** on either **Wednesday 24 March** or **Wednesday 31 March** (depending on which week your child is taking part). This event, which you are welcome to attend, will enable the students to receive feedback on their idea/pitch from the business coaches. My Future My Choice will then select a 'team of the week' who will win a VIP trip (when possible) to one of the companies' workplaces.

.../cont

A Backwell School staff member will be present at each session and the usual school COVID procedures will be in place.

Please note that this is an optional activity. If you would prefer your child not to take part, please email Charlotte Ball at cball@backwellschool.net. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you are happy for your child to take part.

Yours sincerely

Rose Haywood
Assistant Headteacher, Careers Leader