

May – Update of events at Rivers Academy

Vince Cable – 21/04/2022

Sir Vince Cable came to Rivers Academy to talk to our Post 16 students about his career in politics. The talk covered his political career and gave an overview of how he got in to politics and how his journey and career panned out. The talk also included some encouraging words on how the students could get involved in a life and career in politics if it were something that interested them, and even if they did not want the career, then there are still local issues to get involved with to make positive change. Following the talk there was an excellent Q&A session, where Sir Vince Cable was extremely open and honest about his thoughts. It was really interesting to see what questions the students had for him and how he would go about answering them.

We would like to thank Sir Vince Cable for this talk and thanks also to Speakers for Schools for recruiting this speaker and giving us the opportunity to host him.

SEGRO Workshop – April

All of our Year 12 students enjoyed a two hour workshop with members from SEGRO where they looked at different careers options for students, learnt about SEGRO and the work they do along with the career opportunities and different paths offered by SEGRO. They also looked at careers in general and got students to consider their skills and interests, and then consider what career would suit them.

We were joined by three members of staff from SEGRO who worked with the students on tasks and then held a Q&A, giving students the opportunity to learn about their careers and experiences.

The overall feedback from our students was very positive; the workshop helped them to be a bit more focused and informed on how their hobbies and skills could lead them to different careers. They also liked the open nature of the SEGRO staff and their willingness to share personal details and experiences to give a true reflection of everyday life within their job role.

Visit – 12/05/2022

Following the workshop, ten Year 12 students went on a trip to see SEGRO in action. They visited a site currently being developed and then went to an existing site that is in full operation. The first part of the trip took us to the old Nestle factory in Hayes, which SEGRO are developing to bring another four premises to their portfolio, one of which will be leased by Netflix. It was interesting for students to see some of the work that goes in before the sites are in operation and we hope to revisit in a few months to see the final completion.

The second part of the trip took us to Heathrow where we learnt that 80% of the cargo coming in to the airport will go through the site we were visiting, hence SEGRO need to make sure the whole estate runs smoothly and to record and report any issues. This could be anything from a crash between vehicles or to illegal immigrants appearing out of the back of a lorry. Students looked around the site, went in to the security room and then finished by doing a task in what was the old control room for Heathrow airport, back in the day when it only had one runway. Being so close to the runway and seeing the planes land and take off was a lovely ending to the day for our students.

Mentoring – Summer term and beyond

To conclude the programme we are undertaking with SEGRO, 5 of our students will each be mentored by a member of staff from SEGRO. This will enable them to ask questions about their own development and ideas for their future.

Aim Higher – Uni Connect

Year 9 and 10 sign up session - Early May

During late April and early May we have had a number of students sign up for the Uni Connect programme, run by Aimhigher. This programme will help students make an informed choice about whether to study at university or not, gives them opportunities to speak to and meet university students, to visit campuses (either virtually or in person) and provides them with much more guidance and advice about what it is like to study at university. The programme also explores some of the key decisions students need to make along their academic journey.

Year 9 – Buddies session – 13/05/2022

This session saw three current university undergraduates (buddies) meet online with students from Year 9. The buddies each gave some detail about themselves and their university life. They talked about things like balancing the workload, socializing, living out or commuting, eating and living on a budget. All of the buddies gave very clear answers and all of our students found it a really useful session saying they liked hearing from people nearer their age group. They found the Q&A format really good and again extremely useful.

Grant Thornton – Year 7 Entrepreneur Day 25/05/2022

All of our Year 7 students were off timetable for the day and learnt about entrepreneurship from our experts from Grant Thornton. This school programme saw a range of volunteers come in to school to work with our Year 7s. The early part of the day imparted knowledge on them and got them to consider some of the key business decisions that must be made when developing a business idea. The latter part of the day focused on the students presenting, all groups pitched their idea in a bid to be the winning team. One team from each class won and were all given the privilege of running their business for a period of two weeks following half term.