



## Oundle School

### Independent Schools Careers Organisation

As you are probably aware, you and virtually all other pupils in the 5<sup>th</sup> Form are enrolled into the ISCO (Independent Schools Careers Organisation) Careers Guidance Scheme. This is part of a coherent programme which will help you with AS, A2 and University choices, will provide the opportunity to go on relevant Expanding Horizons Days to help you define your longer term career objectives, will focus your mind on relevant work experience and will help you through the UCAS system and beyond. It will continue to support you through University and after graduation, offering careers advice and assistance at every stage, until you are 23 years old. You should aim to use it to the full! Under the ISCO Futurewise scheme, which is largely web-based, a great deal of help will be available to you on-line as you prepare for university and for the world of work.

### ISCO Morrisby Questionnaires

You will receive a questionnaire via your Hsm/ Careers Rep. Please complete it carefully and without consulting anyone else and return it to your Rep. Your Hsm may require you to fill it in during tutorial time or during a prescribed time slot. It should take about half an hour to complete and provides background information for Morrisby to analyse your responses in the Morrisby Profile. The report which you will receive from Morrisby at the ISCO seminar (see below) is based on both your questionnaire and your ISCO Morrisby Profile.

### ISCO Morrisby Profiles

ISCO Morrisby Profiles are a form of psychometric profiling designed to identify your interests and aptitudes (your strengths). You will spend the afternoon of **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September** completing the profiles, which will be sent to ISCO for analysis. They are carefully designed to be hard to manipulate and to identify aptitudes that are not tested in academic exams. You will need to arrive at the Great Hall in time to take your seat and begin at 2pm sharp. You will finish before 5.30pm. ***This may impact on your normal travel arrangements, so be sure to make any necessary changes and inform your parents.*** The test takes absolute priority over ALL other commitments and it is **your responsibility** to inform sports coaches and rearrange music lessons.

### Reports

You will then receive a professionally written **report** and a general **feedback session** called an **ISCO seminar** on **8<sup>th</sup> October**. You will also receive an on-line **Workbook**, which covers:

- interpreting your report,
- Sixth Form choices (AS and A2 subjects),
- applying for Higher Education and
- planning a gap year.

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You will be invited to an IT room with members of your House to complete the section on interpreting your report and Sixth Form choices (you will be asked to make your options just after Christmas, so it is important that you are clear about the implications of your choices). You will come back to the Department to complete the remaining sections at relevant stages over the next three years.

## ISCO Interviews

This will be your opportunity to discuss your report and your follow-up research with an external interviewer. It will also be for many of you the first time you have been interviewed by someone outside the School.

- If you are clear about your future career intentions, then ask for guidance as to further research, relevant Work Experience and related areas of work (always have a Plan B!). Try to think laterally and to preserve your options. Tap into the expertise of your interviewer.
- If, entirely reasonably, you are very unsure about your career plans, use the interview to explore options which fit with your profile, as explained in the report. It is particularly useful to find out about Work Experience and Expanding Horizons Courses which might help you to decide by giving you an insight into different areas of the world of work. Go to your interview with an open mind but with carefully planned questions.

In either event, **be prepared!** Your interviewer will have a copy of your report and you should be familiar with it too. Consider personal presentation and how to come across well to a person you do not know. Think of relevant questions, such as:

- do I need particular A levels to study or pursue a career in X?
- how can I enhance my prospects of obtaining a place on a good course to study Y? (relevant Work Experience, CCF or Community Action placements etc)
- which Expanding Horizons Courses should I look out for?

## What next?

### 1. Work experience (during holidays or post GCSE or both!)

- speak to Mrs Stubbings: [hstubbings@oundleschool.org.uk](mailto:hstubbings@oundleschool.org.uk) . The earlier you get organised, the more likely you are to find a valuable and worthwhile placement.
- speak to your personal contacts – have you a family member or friend who can help you to organise a good placement?

### 2. Research

- do the research you identified in your Workbook and research suggested at interview. Try to think laterally and to look beyond a narrow field to related areas of work.

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- Go to the **Careers Library** – there are books and information on all sorts of careers and courses (open Mon – Fri: 9am – 12noon, 2pm –5pm and during surgeries as advertised in Houses). You need to bear this information in mind when making AS choices later this year (January). If you need help, drop in at a **Careers Surgery** (as advertised outside the Careers Dept and on House notice boards). **You do not need to make final decisions now but you should get into the habit of thinking in an informed way about what you might like to do and how your present choices affect this.**
- Use the Internet. You will have a lot of website addresses to get you started, including [www.isco.org.uk](http://www.isco.org.uk)

### 3. Expanding Horizons Courses

- These are courses about a wide range of possible careers and about gap year issues. They are available to you next year and the year after, with priority and at a reduced rate. Keep a lookout for information and apply early for places to avoid disappointment.

### 4. Discussion

- Talk about your report, your interview and your ideas with your Tutor, your family and the Careers Department Advisers. This will help you to clarify your own feelings and your plans as they evolve.

Above all, remember that this is the beginning of an on-going process, which will take you through the next seven years of your life. You are unlikely to follow the same career with the same employer for the whole of your working life, so you need to broaden your understanding and your vision of your own future. There is a great deal of support and help on offer as you do so!

CRG

September 2007

*The Careers Department is in Old Dryden, first blue door on the right after you have entered the complex.*

*Mrs Stubbings is here every weekday morning (Mon – Fri from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) and Mrs Oakes is here every weekday afternoon (Mon – Fri from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m) and will help you to find your way around.*

*Visit the Careers Department link on the external website for useful links [www.oundleschool.org.uk](http://www.oundleschool.org.uk). You can also email us on [crg@oundleschool.org.uk](mailto:crg@oundleschool.org.uk) (Mrs Gent) or [sck@oundleschool.org.uk](mailto:sck@oundleschool.org.uk) (Mr Kent).*