



## Careers Week

*“Oh the places you’ll go! There is fun to be done!”*

*There are points to be scored. There are games to be won!”*

Deciding a path towards the future can be a daunting prospect for students. So with the final deadline for both IGCSE and IB options choices looming, the first week back after half-term break focused on inspiring and informing students on how to embark on the myriad pathways through life they can take as individuals.

The fun and informative Careers Week kicked off for Year 9 students on Tuesday with our first-ever Futures Day. After an awe-inspiring performance by Ms Tanjala of Dr Seuss’ ‘Oh the Places You’ll Go’, the students spent the day alternatively lying on big colourful cushions watching thought-provoking clips, writing reflections in their journal and working on team presentations, as well as listening to Ms Bell’s practical tips on how to survive life’s vicissitudes. The aim of the day was to instill a stronger sense of self in the students so that they can learn to make choices that will benefit them in the short and long run.



The next morning was spent with Mr Chris Whitehead, a representative from Futurewise, whose instructive presentation on choosing IGCSE options was somewhat eclipsed by the fantastically fun ‘Chocolate Challenge.’ Working in teams, Year 9 students had to conceptualise a chocolate product, design the wrapper and create a marketing strategy. The students accepted the challenge and ran with it – producing 8 uniquely different products. A panel of class mums judged **which team** to be the winner.

Over the next three days, Mr Whitehead also guided a number of students through a psychometric test to identify their strengths as well as suitable subject choices and possible careers. All who participated found it helpful and enlightening, as it facilitated more informed IGCSE and IB option choices.

The long-awaited, brilliantly-advertised Careers Fair finished off the week on Friday. Wilco van Herpen, an IZ TV presenter was our witty host for the day, guiding the students through a full day of events and challenges all focused on what life has in store after BISI. Three student-journalists from the school newspaper, BISI VOICE, as well as parents and teachers documented the day with their cameras.

To start, 20 invited speakers presented stories of their lives and careers to curious students from Years 9-13. The theme of the day was ‘Varied Career Paths’ – such an important concept in today’s world

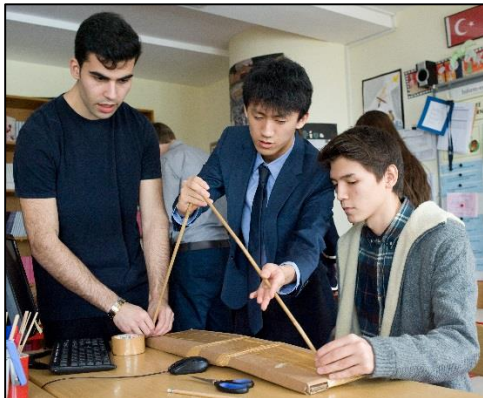


where job security is a thing of the past and technology and geopolitical dynamics change the nature of the job market every year.



We heard life stories and work-tips from a wide range of fascinating speakers, ranging from: a lawyer, surgeon, psychologist, business entrepreneur, IT expert, journalist and actor, musician, artist, banker, hotelier, architect, a colonel in the British army, a sportsman and a fabric designer. Students and speakers were then given a chance to network over a cup of coffee in the Blue Gym, after which all the students returned to the Theatre to receive instructions on the team-work element of the day.

They spent the next couple of hours in teams designing and building models of the third bridge over the Bosphorus and presenting their concept in the Theatre. All 8 teams performed brilliantly, exhibiting completely different models and worked hard to convince our panel of experts that theirs was the winning project. Each bridge was road-tested by a small remote-controlled car, to much hilarity! Team 'Greatness' was judged the winner, with teams 'B' and 'H' as the runners-up.



On a more sober, but more thought-provoking note, Ashutosh Bhaduria, a BISI Voice journalist then conducted an insightful interview with Carmelo Konmaz, a recent BISI alumnus who is studying History and Politics at LSE in the UK. We heard what it is like to leave home, what to pack, how the IB Diploma compares to a university work-load, and gained tons of other useful insights into what awaits our current students as they move on after Secondary.

Finally, Mr van Herpen and Mr Bradley drew the day in the Theatre to a close, while Mrs Gencalp from YapiKredi Bank held an after-school workshop for students on how to be successful in interviews – whether for jobs or university places.

Thanks to all who made the day a great success, especially the PTA Committee (Judith Kuiper, Stefania Lepore, Sally Thurlow), as well as all the students who participated in the day with such enthusiasm.

Dr Kathleen Hawthorne  
**University and Careers Counselor**

