

Arnold-Gymnasium, Pestalozzistraße 10, D-96465 Neustadt bei Coburg

English Information

MODUS21 „Schüler orientieren sich“

Pupils orientate themselves

11th graders enter into the MODUS 21 project phase

In 2003 the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs chose the Arnold-Gymnasium to take part in their model project MODUS 21. The aim of the project is to show schools new ways of taking on more responsibility and help to develop the grammar schools in Bavaria. At the very centre of or work is the transition from grammar school to university and the world of work respectively. At the beginning of the school year 2004/2005 our students in the 11th grade start to take part in a compulsory phase of orientation for the first time, in which they are to get into close contact with businesses, institutions and universities over a period of three years. The primary aim for them is to establish early whether they want to study or take on a job after they have left school.

Ability and Aptitude Tests

At the beginning of the 11th grade the students are asked to fill in a preliminary questionnaire. This analysis, which is based on scientific tests compiled by the job centre, is meant show the students' inclinations and abilities as well as possibly endorsing the wishes they might already have concerning their future jobs or studies.

Orientation and Application

It is at this point when the students are to take up the initiative themselves. The pupils gather information about work experience and how to make contact to local universities. They can use individual data bases provided bay the Arnold-Gymnasium.

By the beginning of the Easter holidays the participants are to apply for academic work experience and "host university courses" respectively in fields which correspond to their aptitude, abilities and wishes. This is preceded by a seminar "How to apply correctly" in which representatives of the companies we have teamed up with make our students familiar with the basic knowledge of how to write a successful application.

Phase of Practical Training

Up until half-term sixth-formers in year 12 take a ten-day work experience programme or a taster course in further education. The external partners decide upon the timing and duration of these periods. However, students are expected to use their holidays and examination-free weeks.

The institution in charge assesses the orientation phase and how successful it has been. The findings made during this time could contribute to the social sciences. They also enable the students to take a critical look at the opportunities in the professional world and in further education.

Presentation and Certification

At the end of year 12 the sixth-formers present their individual experiences of the projects at a special careers and further education conference. This regional conference gives younger students, and their parents, the opportunity to obtain detailed information concerning the world of work and further education. Schools, therefore, prove to be important contributors to the local economy and further education institutions in the area. Furthermore, the project offers businesses and further education institutions that participate in it the opportunity to present themselves to coming generations of sixth form school leavers. In addition to the A-level certificate sixth-formers receive after successfully completing their examinations they are also awarded a certificate testifying to the experiences and successes achieved during this phase of orientation.

The success and evaluation of this project will not only be a great opportunity for the sixth form leavers at the Arnold-Gymnasium but by integrating the successful experiences into the sixth form curriculum of the recently introduced G8 – the shortening of grammar school education by one year – the huge gap between grammar school and further education which has existed up to now should become bridgeable.

Paul Jenkinson

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