

CDI Student Conference 5th April: experience working in a 6th form college

John Morrison

Head of Careers/Careers Leader at Aquinas College

M.A. in Guidance & Professional Studies

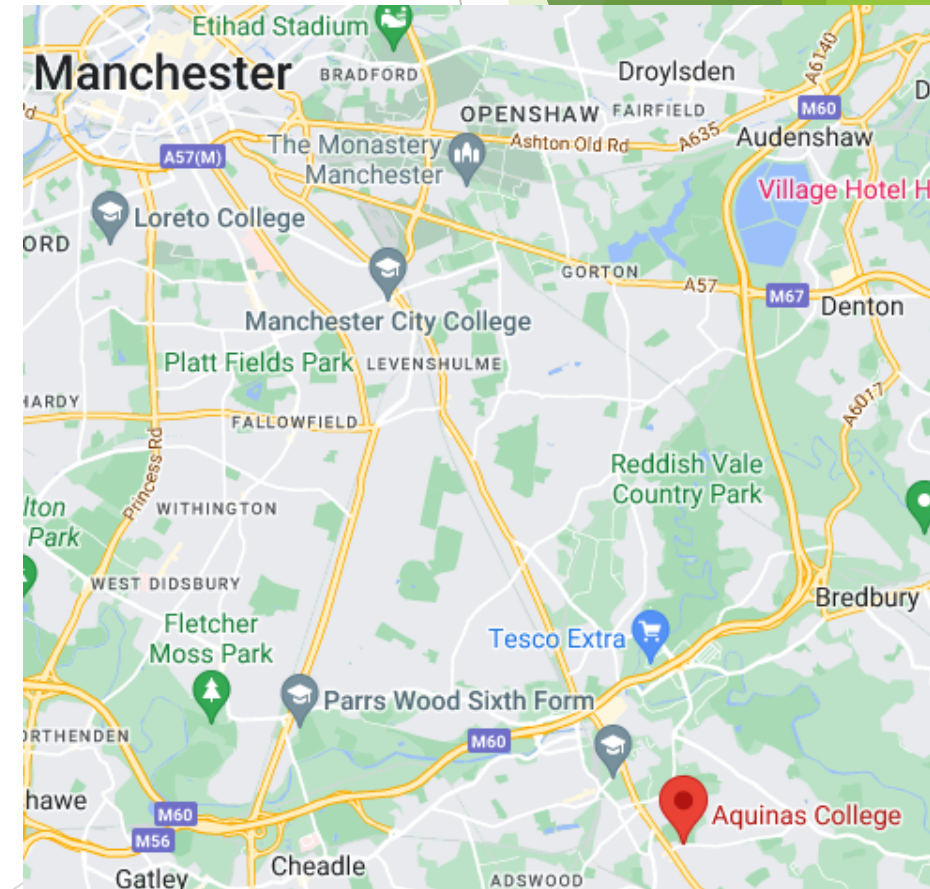
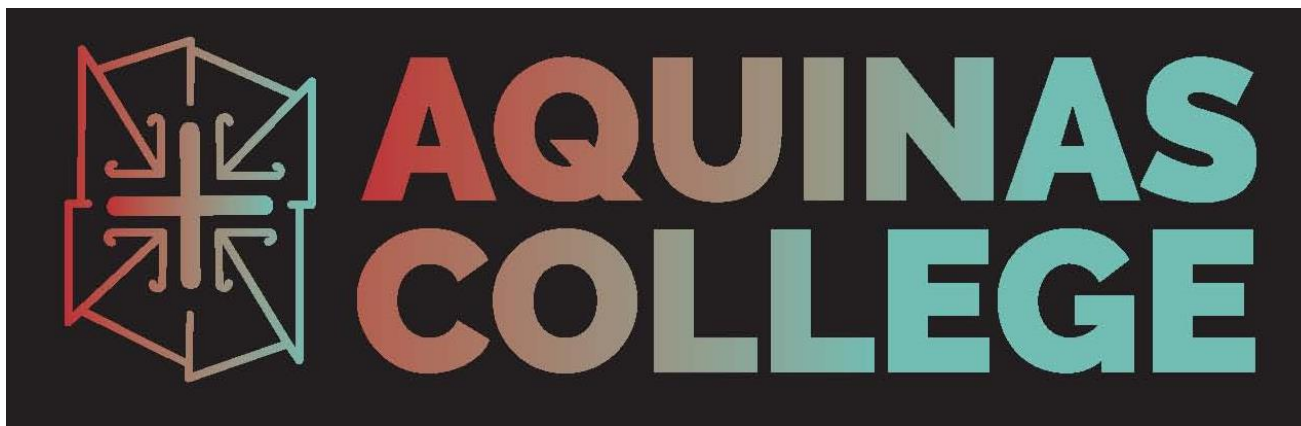
Registered Career Development Professional (RCDP)



A little bit about me

- ▶ Post Grad Diploma in Guidance & Professional Studies - Huddersfield University
- ▶ 2013/2014 - Masters in Guidance & Professional Studies
- ▶ 2020/21 - Completed the Accredited Careers Leader Programme - Derby University





The image shows the exterior of Aquinas College, featuring a large red brick wall with the college's name and logo. Below the main image is a collage of smaller photos showing various campus scenes, including a library, a dining hall, a hallway, and an outdoor courtyard.

aquinas
COLLEGE



Aquinas College & our students

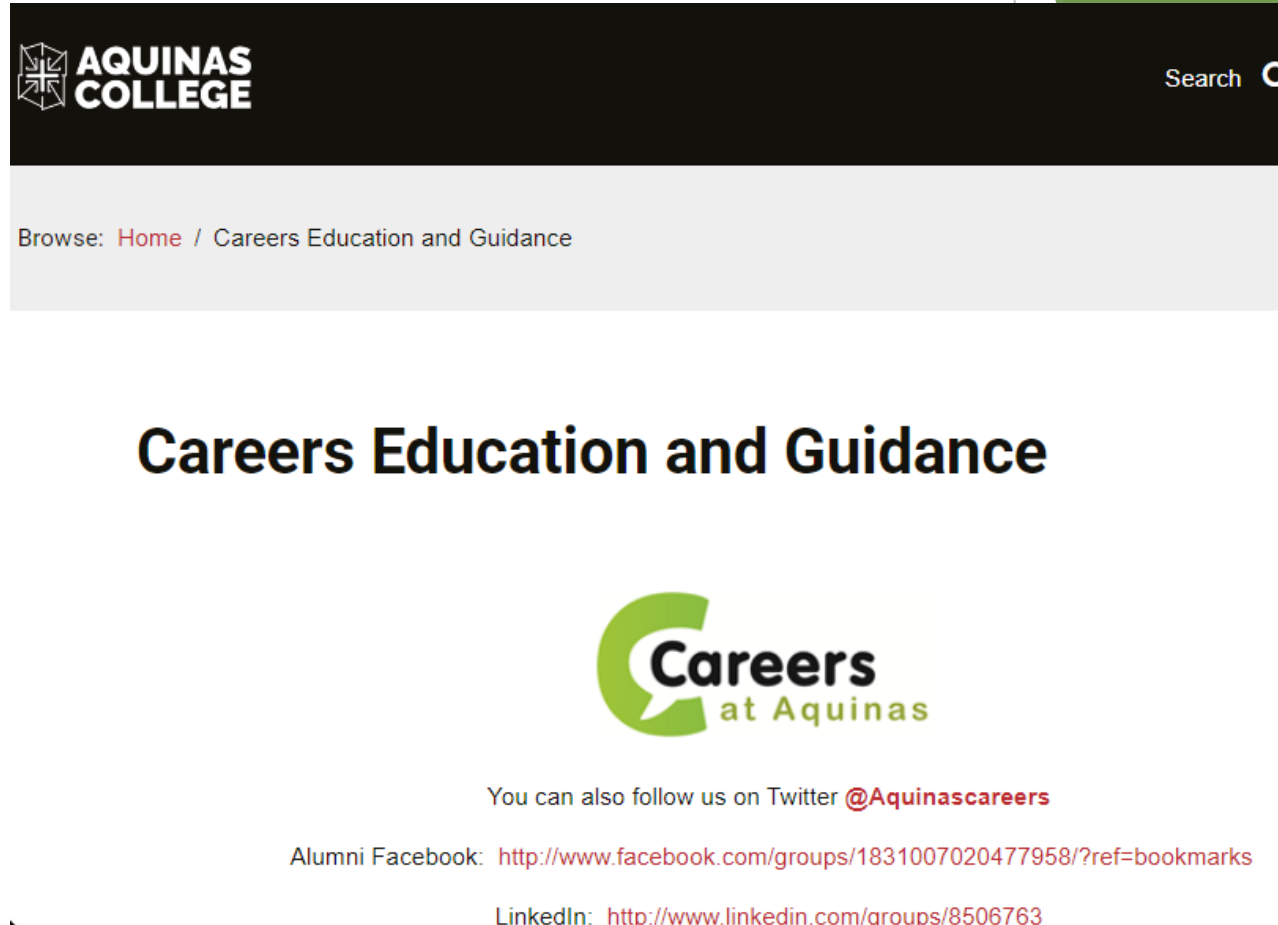
16-18 year olds/Year 12 & 13

Diverse student population

Academic courses with some vocational

Careers provision at Aquinas College

- ▶ Manage and oversee the Careers Programme.
- ▶ Mapping with the Gatsby Benchmarks, CDI Framework & Essential Skills Builder
- ▶ 1-1 career appointments

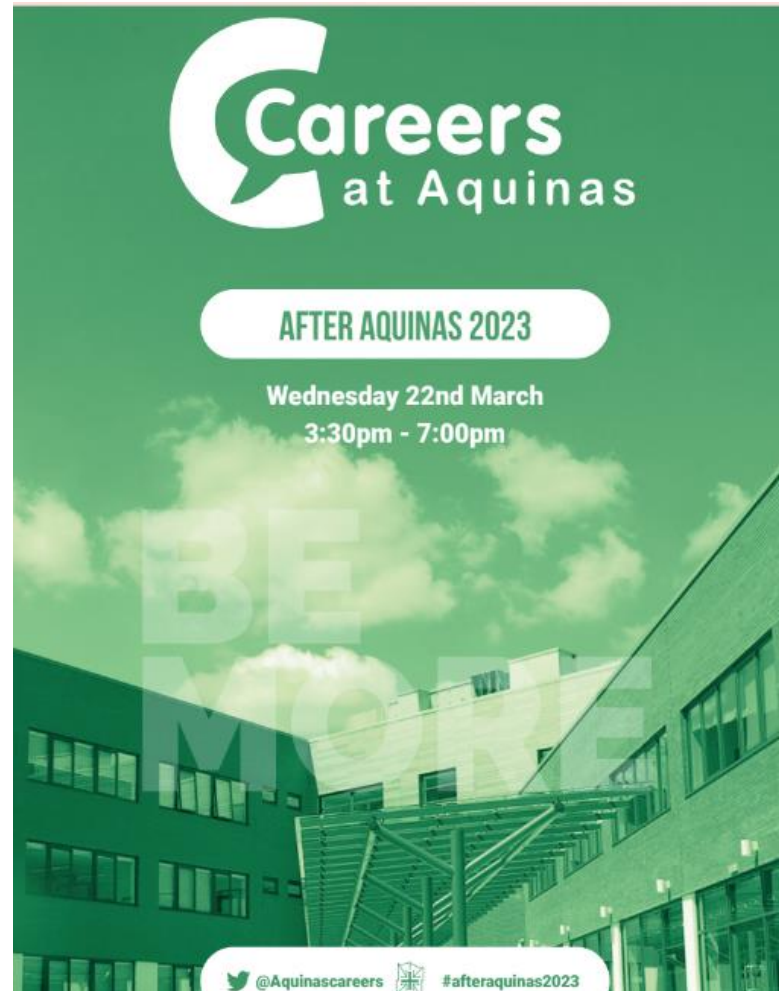


The screenshot shows the Aquinas College website header with the logo and a search bar. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: "Browse: Home / Careers Education and Guidance". The main heading is "Careers Education and Guidance". Below this is the "Careers at Aquinas" logo. Social media links are provided: "You can also follow us on Twitter @Aquinascareers", "Alumni Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/1831007020477958/?ref=bookmarks>", and "LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8506763>".



Careers provision at Aquinas College

- ▶ Organise career events in college throughout the year
- ▶ Work in partnership with college curriculum staff
- ▶ Work with external partners across Greater Manchester



Approach to the 6th form careers provision - summed up

Curriculum

**Tutorial
Programme**

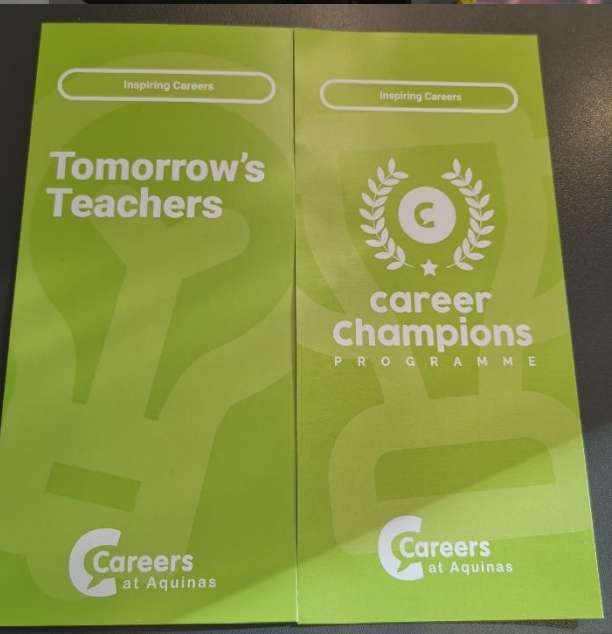
**Pastoral
team**

- Skills/skill needs
- Embedding Careers
- Employers



 Careers At Aquinas
@Aquinascareers

Fast track apprenticeship programme, done! Well done to the students who participated and thanks to the Apprentice Academy for their fantastic support. 🌟
#AQUINAS #Apprenticeships



Career events, back to normal or are virtual events still important?



What my role involves - Head of Careers/Careers Leader

- ▶ Mixture of both strategy and operational responsibilities.
- ▶ Developing the strategic approach for the academic year for Year 12 & 13 students.
- ▶ Evaluating progress of Gatsby Benchmarks with Enterprise Coordinator/Adviser.
- ▶ Overseeing the college's progress towards the Quality in Careers Standard Award.

What my role involves - Careers Adviser

- ▶ Arranging 1-1 career appointments - may also involve parents/carers attending sessions.
- ▶ Creating social media content to promote career opportunities for students, staff and parents/carers.
- ▶ Supporting our pastoral team, should issues arise with students who are considering alternative options.

What my role involves - Personal Tutor

- ▶ Personal tutor to Year 12 and Year 13 students (up to 60 students).
- ▶ Support students through their tutorial programmes - from careers, academic independent learning skills, to equality and diversity and health awareness issues.
- ▶ Support with progression 'after Aquinas'

What I enjoy most about my role

- ▶ Autonomy
- ▶ Freedom/flexibility
- ▶ Permanence
- ▶ A place to grow and develop
- ▶ CPD opportunities
- ▶ It's varied!



Challenges of the role

- ▶ Raising the profile of careers guidance
- ▶ Meeting students where they are at
- ▶ Working within the structure of the college curriculum - embedding careers/skills
- ▶ Managing professional relationships and managing expectations
- ▶ Managing professional expectations
- ▶ Time!

What CPD I undertake and why

What:

- ▶ Keep up to date with the latest news, information and professional practice mainly through the CDI.
- ▶ CPD opportunities, - higher education, social mobility programmes, careers & enterprise company, apprenticeships and local employer engagement opportunities.
- ▶ Careers Consortiums - local and CDI Regional Meetings.



What CPD I undertake and why

Why:

- ▶ Developing as a professional practitioner - skills, knowledge and awareness.
- ▶ Networking possibilities - raising your profile as a professional.
- ▶ Sharing good practice.



How I use professional networks to support my practice

- ▶ Being active on social media is important to me. Keeps me informed to be the best professional I can be.
- ▶ CDI Regional Meetings/local career consortiums are a really good way of sharing good practice and insights.
- ▶ External partnerships with the college careers provision has led to good opportunities.



Careers At Aquinas
@Aquinascareers

Lovely treat on a Monday morning! Thank you
[@ShefUniSchools](#) [@ShefUniSchools](#)!
[#DiscoverSheffield](#) [#Aquinas](#) [#BeMore](#)



Hints and tips for people interested in working in a 6th form

- ▶ Get to know the landscape - difference between 6th form provision, secondary & FE Colleges
- ▶ Get to know the local secondary schools and give back, where possible.
- ▶ Be aware of latest topics e.g. T Levels, future of BTEC qualifications



The Barlow RC High
@TheBarlowRC

Year 10 have taken part in Mock Interviews with various companies. Well done to all the pupils for the fantastic feedback from the interviewees! Thank you for all the companies that have taken part. [#TheBarlowRC](#) [@stock_college](#) [@AquinasUK](#) [@TraffordCollege](#) [@CheadleCollege](#)



Hints and tips for people interested in working in a 6th form

- ▶ Network with other career practitioners.
- ▶ Be aware of the key transitions for young people - UCAS, apprenticeships, their pressures and influencers
- ▶ Become a Registered Career Development Professional (RCDP) of the CDI - they're great!



Thanks for listening & please get in touch!

- ▶ You can connect with me on Twitter - https://twitter.com/___JohnMorrison___ & LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-morrison-3962b647/>



Follow our Careers at Aquinas
College twitter page -
<https://twitter.com/Aquinascareers>

