

The ten best careers blogs

Anthony Barnes

Here's my selection of the top ten careers blogs for staff working in schools and colleges. If I've failed to mention one of your favourites, do get in touch!

1. Running in a Forest

<http://runninginaforest.wordpress.com/author/runninginaforest/>

'Running In A Forest - Exploring Career Guidance & Development in a Complex and Obscured World' by Thomas Staunton is a stimulating and thought-provoking blog. Tom describes himself as a 'careers advisor and a bit of a geek' but there's nothing geekish in the way that he uses theory to illuminate effective practice. I'm still inspired by one of his posts last year called '5 Problems with Gove's inspirational career role models plan'!

2. Adventures in Career Development

<http://adventuresincareerdevelopment.wordpress.com/>

'Adventures in Career Development: Thoughts about careers and other stuff' is by the prolific blogger, Tristram Hooley, Professor of Career Education at the University of Derby. It's chatty and full of plenty of topical stuff. He posted a comment on the updated statutory guidance from the DfE (25 March 2015) the very next day. He also tells us about the work he's doing and uploads his presentations and reports.

3. Secondary CEIAG

<http://secondaryceiag.wordpress.com/about/>

'Secondary CEIAG: Preparing young people for the world of work – Not sure which of the two is going to get the biggest shock' is by Russell George, Careers Adviser and Work Related Learning Co-ordinator at Stopsley High School. Russell's blog – written from a little office in Luton – has the authentic whiff of the workplace. Careers advisers and curriculum leads in schools will find plenty that's relevant to their needs.

4. The Careers Defender blog

<http://www.outstandingcareers.co.uk/careers-defender-blog/>

Janet Colledge, an ex-teacher turned careers education consultant, is the careers defender 'flying around the country defending the careers of students in schools up and down this land'. Janet's passion for careers and her straight talking (Headteachers take note!) make her posts highly readable and down-to-earth.

5. Careers – In Theory

<http://careersintheory.wordpress.com/>

'Careers – In Theory' is the blog from the Careers Group, University of London. The posts by David Winter, colleagues and guests really make careers theory accessible – Have a look at Jim Bright's

article on career chaos theory. (Jim's blog – The Factory – is at <http://www.brightandassociates.com.au/wordpress/>). The Careers Group say 'we like to think deeply about the work we do whilst maintaining our practicality and our sense of humour. Please join in. It's more fun for us if you comment, rate and share.'

6. Careerschap

<http://careerschap.wordpress.com/>

'Careerschap – the musings of a careers professional in higher education' by Leigh Fowkes at the University of Derby. He writes 'This is my personal blog covering some of my ideas and thoughts on all things career, complemented with some random musings'.

7. Careers Work 2.0

<http://www.bigchange.co.uk/>

'Careers Work 2.0' is the personal blog of Michael Larbalestier, Head of Research at Prospects Careers Services, has a particular focus on the use of digital technology and social media in career practice. His latest post is about about MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and their growing significance in STEM teaching.

8. Adviser on the Edge

<http://rosiealexander.wordpress.com/>

'Adviser on the Edge – Careers in island communities: research, theory and practice' by Rosie Alexander, Careers Manager for the University of the Highlands and Islands based in Orkney is a fascinating insight into an area of careers work that few of us know much about.

9. Develop your Career

<http://blogs.thecareersgroup.co.uk/yourcareer/>

'Develop your Career' is another blog from The Careers Group' but this time aimed at undergraduates. School and college staff advising students on graduate careers will find the content particularly useful. I've chosen it as an example of the many HE careers and employability blogs which might be of interest to you. AGCAS has a list http://www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/403-Careers-and-Employability-Blogs

10. Cegnet

<http://www.cegnet.co.uk/blog/>

I've allowed myself to mention the Cegnet blog written by yours truly and occasional guests! In anticipation of your forthcoming visit, I've written a piece about Frank Parsons, the founding father of vocational guidance. The posts aren't as frequent as I'd like them to be or as they need to get momentum and build up a following, but on behalf of all my fellow careers bloggers, please let us know you're out there by posting your comments. The blogosphere can be a very lonely space!

March 2015

Postscript

Thanks to those of you who have pointed out your favourites! Have a look at:

Working adviser careers blog – <http://workingadviser.com/blog/>

Careers policy, research and practice – <http://deirdrehughes.org/blog/>

The blog of the Central London Careers Hub – <http://www.centrallondoncareershub.co.uk/blog>

June 2015