Issue 22 Autumn 2026

Innervate

INSPIRING CAREERS & PERSONAL GUIDANCE

"intouch"

Welcome to our latest Innervate careers newsletter.

Making decisions about the future can feel exciting, but also a little overwhelming. Whether you're choosing GCSE subjects, exploring your next steps at 16 or planning for life after 18, understanding your options can help you move forward with confidence.

You don't need to have your whole career mapped out, start with your interests, ask questions and stay open to different possibilities.

In this edition, we shine a spotlight on Green Careers, exploring how different jobs can contribute to a more sustainable future. We also look at financial support for studying and training from Year 12 onwards, alongside guidance on the key choices at each stage of your education.

For parents and carers, we hope these articles provide a useful starting point for conversations at home. Exploring the possibilities together can help young people recognise their strengths and discover routes they might not previously have considered.

Best wishes

Natalie Papworth
Founding Director
Innervate Careers

Key Features

- Events & Opportunities
- School & Colleges Career Resources & Events
- Year 8 & 9 Choosing Your GCSE Options
- Year 10 & 11 Post-16 Options
- Year 12 and 13 Post-18 Options
- Financial Support From Year 12 Onwards
- Apprenticeships snapshot
- Career Spotlight: Green Careers
- Labour Market Information Update
- About Innervate Careers Service

Up to date Careers News, Information & Opportunities

Schools | Teachers | Young people | Career advisers | Parents/Carers

inspire

Events & Opportunities

Parents/Carers | Young people | Teachers

What University? & What Career? for all 15–19-year-olds considering their options for after school or college.

What Next?

Olympia London
13th and 14th Nov



Book Tickets



Futures Festival is the biggest free careers event for those looking to start a career in the Film & TV industry. Based at Pinewood Studios, you can meet employers and industry professionals, take part in workshops and attend panels. Last year's event was held over two days in January. Individuals can sign up here to join the wait list for tickets for the 2027 event:

FUTURES FESTIVAL UK SIGN UP



London Careers Fair
Nov 6th 2026 10am – 2pm
Hornsey Town Hall N8 9JJ

The London Careers Fair will offer candidates from all backgrounds, experience and education levels the opportunity to speak to representatives from **over 150 local and national employers, all in one place** Book Tickets

THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW LONDON & SE 9-10 FEBRUARY 2027 SANDOWN PARK, SURREY

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY METROPOLITAN POLICE

Sandown Park Racecourse Surrey



Tuesday 9th February 2027 10:00 – 14:30
Wednesday 10th February 2027 10:00 – 14:00
Parents/Carers/Individuals dedicated evening opening: Tuesday 9th February 2027 15.30-18.00

The National Apprenticeship Show – London & South East is for School and College leavers, as well as young adults, to discover more about apprenticeships across the region. The event welcomes visitors and exhibitors from all London Boroughs, Surrey, Brent, Croydon, Sussex, Hertfordshire, Hampshire and Kent. The National Apprenticeship Show

Reading Careers Fair



VENUE & DATE
The Penta Hotel · 24 February 2027

Meet local and national employers face-to-face and apply directly for hundreds of vacancies.
Discover more here

Guildford Careers Fair



VENUE & DATE
G Live · 12 March 2027

Meet local and national employers face-to-face and apply directly for hundreds of vacancies. Guildford Careers Fair

Events & Opportunities

Parents/Carers | Young people | Teachers

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

FIND YOUR LOCAL CLUB

The 2026/27 National Saturday Clubs start this November. They are available for 13–16-year-olds and are completely free to attend. You can join a wait list for one in your area or sign up for the 2027/28 courses from Spring/Summer.

Clubs include fashion and business, art and design, film and screen, and science and engineering, Venues include Reading College, Kingston University and London Metropolitan University. Find a club near you here: Saturday Club map and find out all about the scheme here Saturday-club.org

Upcoming online Army events include…



Your Army journey explained: Regular soldier
Wednesday 4th November 12.00-12.30



Women in the Army: Real stories, real impact
Monday 7th December 18.00-18.35



Virtual Harrogate open day
Wednesday 4th November 18.00-19.00

Explore and register for all events here

Upcoming online events with Pathway CTM include….



Skills session with Harris Federation for Year 12 and 13 students
Monday 23rd November 6.00-7.00pm
Location: Online



A parent's guide to apprenticeships with Amazon
Thursday 10th December 6.00-7.00pm
Location: Online

Find out more and register here:
Events - Pathway CTM

Access online and in-person work experience placements and insight events at:

SPEAKERS for schools Work Experience

Choose from a wide range of both virtual and in-person placements: Speakersforschools

Forage

Choose from hundreds on online job simulations: The Forage

Springpod

Virtual work experience placements: Springpod

School/College Resources/Events for Careers & Employability

EUK EDUCATION
Inspiring Futures Together



EUK Education offer free resources and activities in STEM. Find out more about upcoming events and resources here:

Explore Climate Schools Programme

Explore Tomorrow's Engineers Week

Explore Neon

Explore Meet the future you

Explore teacher-led Energy Quest

And discover more about all the upcoming Big Bang activities below:

The Big Bang Competition

The Big Bang Fair

Big Bang at School

The Big Bang Challenge

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2026/27

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a free tech-for-good programme for young people aged 11–18, encouraging
them to use technology and creativity to tackle real-world challenges.

Through the programme, students can develop skills in innovation, problem-solving and pitching, with opportunities to take part in workshops and receive support from Samsung volunteers.
Follow the link below to find out more, to access free resources and to register.

Read more here

SAMSUNG

DISCOVER!
creative careers

Creative Careers Month November 2026

Discover! Creative Careers Month 2026 is an opportunity for young people to gain insight into real job roles and pathways through online and in-person events.
Schools and colleges can register their interest now at:

Discover Month Hub

sky up

At Sky's TV studios, students get a chance to use cutting-edge digital technology to create their own digital media. They will take on real life media roles and work with a team of experts to create a news reel or trailer.
The Sky Up academy is accessible to all and they welcome visits from those with learning difficulties and disabilities.
There is also the option of a digital storytelling challenge, for if you would like to keep the programme in class.

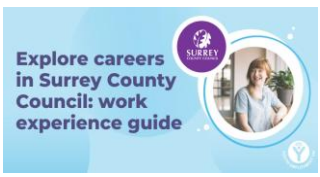
For more information: Sky Up:Schools and Education

Virtual work experience resources for schools

Explore Youth Employment UK's Virtual Work Experience Programmes, designed to introduce young people to the world of work.









Explore all Youth Employment UK Free School Resources:

School/College Resources/Events for Careers & Employability

Bridge to BDO Year 11 Insight Day

Wednesday 26th November
Camberley

Bridge to BDO is running a free Year 11 Insight Day for students in Surrey. 'Bridge to BDO' focuses on increasing awareness of the accountancy profession, improving access to opportunities at essential decision-making moments. It has been designed in line with the Career & Enterprise Company's Equalex definition of modern work experience.

On the Insight Day, students will:
-Meet BDO volunteers to find out more about their career journey and experience,
-Be introduced to a range of jobs within the Professional Services industry, including apprenticeship opportunities at BDO,
-Participate in interactive activities to practice and improve their professional skills.

Each school can bring between 6-8 students to this event. Spaces are reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. If you are interested in participating, please email BDO@connectr.com.

Uni Compare free workshops for schools

Uni Compare are offering free careers and university workshops for students and parents/carers:

Confident Choices (Years 10-13, 40 minutes.)

Navigating Clearing(Year 13, 30 minutes.)

Skills, Choices and Futures (parents and carers of Year 10 plus, 25-30 minutes.)

Sessions can be delivered online or in person. The Uni Compare team are also available for careers fairs. To access the workshops, schools need to join the Uni Compare School Network and book a short call: Join the network
Book a call

Guiding Careers; Changing Futures National Launch Conference

Friday 30th October
10am-1pm
Online

Guiding Careers; Changing Futures is a new Department for Education-funded professional development programme designed to strengthen careers guidance for young people facing additional barriers to education, employment and progression. The programme will include conferences, expert panels, and consultation and learning focused on SEND, Mental Health, Care Experience, Alternative Provision, Parents and Carers, and Future Skills and Priority Sectors.

The event will include:
-An opening address from the Department for Education on the aims and ambition of the programme.
-Tammy Banks, CEO of Transform Your Training, sharing the mission behind Guiding Careers; Changing Futures and providing a programme overview.
-An interactive consultation and learning session.
-An expert panel discussion featuring lived experience, policy and practice representatives.
-Early access to registration for the first programme modules.

Over the coming years, the programme will also include a series of regional conferences, with both face-to-face and online events.

Follow the link to register

Register now to secure your school's place for our livestream on **Thursday 5 March 2026.**
By the end of the livestream, students will:

- Have heard from and interacted with a range of NHS staff at school
- Be inspired to put this learning into context and submit their competition entries
- Have raised their career aspirations and awareness of the 350+ NHS careers

You'll be able to join a number of stand-alone sessions between **9:00am to 3pm.**
Register here: Step into the NHS Day 2026

School/College Resources/Events for Careers & Employability

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2027



National Apprenticeship Week 2027 will take part on 8-14th February. Sign up for the newsletter and find out more about upcoming events here: National Apprenticeship Week 2027

UCAS



UCAS's toolkit for advisers includes links to lesson plans, parents evening presentations, virtual work experiences, subject guide videos and virtual university open days. Find out more here:

UCAS advisers toolkit 2026 cycle

CAREERS IN GOLF

New Resources from Careers In Golf

Explore the club. Try the jobs. Earn every badge. Discover six real careers that keep golf clubs and resorts thriving across the UK and Ireland. Careers In Golf have created this interactive resource so students can learn about different roles in golf.
Follow the link below to explore the resources.

Read more

Amazing Apprenticeships — Post-16 Pathways Animation Film

This new, short animation video from Amazing Apprenticeships helps students explore the new range of opportunities available after Year 11, including V Levels. View Here

Green Careers Week

Green Careers Week returns 2nd–7th November with the brand-new website www.greencareersweek.com

1. Dive Into the New Resource Hub
An updated library of free teaching tools, assembly presentations, and lesson guides.
2. Take the Interactive "Green Buzz Quiz"
A fun way for students to discover green careers, jobs, and roles that match their personal interests and skills.
3. Visit the Virtual Careers Fair
Explore the platform's Virtual Careers Fair to connect students with top employers and industry sectors leading the charge in sustainability, renewable energy, and green technology.
4. Download Exclusive Partner Materials
Access co-branded campaign assets, posters, and guides directly from their trusted partners including STEM Learning, Morrisby, BBC Bitesize, the Ministry of Eco Education, and the UK Atomic Energy Authority all hosted in one place.
5. Join the Community & Spread the Word
Use the new website to share resources with colleagues, sign up for the mailing list for the latest updates, and tag them on social media using #GreenCareersWeek #GCW2026

Find out more here

CW

Coffee With have created the following resource to help teachers show students the careers which studying dance can lead to, the skills it builds, and pathways for studying dance:

What-can-you-do-with-dance

Apprentago

Students can use the CV builder and search for work experience opportunities and apprenticeships. Schools can use the site to help manage work experience placements and see every student's career journey:
Apprentago/schools

Years 8 & 9
Choosing your GCSE Options



Helping you decide… consider the following:

- What are your favourite subjects?
- Which subjects do you get good grades in?
- What are your least favourite/most difficult subjects?
- How do you learn best – exams/ coursework/practical work? Does how the subject is assessed suit your style of learning?
- What is the content of each subject at GCSE or BTEC? Remember that it could be very different to what you have studied up to now.
- Do you have a career in mind? If so, are there any essential or helpful subjects?
- If you don't know what job you want to do in the future (and this is perfectly fine at this stage!) are there any skills that you'd like to develop? Examples include creative, research, leadership, problem solving or teamwork. Which subjects would help you to develop these skills?

Make good decisions

- Ask questions and obtain further information if needed. Does the subject description tell you all you need to know about the content covered, the ways in which it is taught and the means of assessment.
- Can you attend tasters in the subjects you are considering? It can be helpful to use these sessions to explore the subjects you are unsure of, rather than the ones you are definite about.
- What will you choose as a back-up, for if you don't get all your first choices? Ensure you research potential backup subjects thoroughly.
- Consider the pros and cons. What are the reasons to take this subject and the reasons not to?
- Speak to others. Sources of advice could be your careers adviser, teachers, parents/carers, older siblings, other family members and older friends.
- Obtain opinions from others but remember that they may have different opinions to you. Someone else may have found a course difficult that you find easy, due to having a genuine interest in the subject.
- Try not to be swayed too much by which teachers are taking the subject or which of your friends are. You may be put in a different set to your friends or the teachers may change.

BBC Sign in

BITESIZE



Have a look at this BBC Bitesize page for videos on choosing your options and tips from career coaches:

Top tips on choosing the best GCSE or National options for you!

Years 8 & 9 Choosing your GCSE Options



Subjects required for specific careers

If there is a particular career you are interested in, check that you are not ruling it out with your GCSE subject choices. Examples include:

Careers requiring a language - languages cannot generally be studied at A Level if they have not been studied at GCSE. Careers in this field include translator, interpreter and modern foreign languages teacher. Roles where a language is not essential but can b**e** advantageous are diplomatic and civil service roles and jobs working for multinational business.

Architecture and other art/design careers – usually require an art/design subject to be studied at sixth form/college, Therefore, it is required that you have studied an art/design subject at GCSE/BTEC, or have created a portfolio of work in your own time.

Marine Biology - some university courses require a second science subject alongside Biology A Level. If you are not keen to continue chemistry, physics or maths at A Level, an alternative could be geography or psychology.

Some university courses and careers have more flexible subject requirements than you may expect….

Law – Many university courses will accept any A Level subjects which are essay-based. The University of Cambridge's admissions page states that most successful applicants have studied at least one of English, history, a language (modern or ancient,) economics, law, maths or a science subject.

Medicine/Healthcare careers – choosing triple science rather than combined science at GCSE can be an advantage when going on to study science A Levels. This is because it is considered less of a jump up. However, choosing combined science at GCSE will not prevent you from studying sciences at A Level, which are required for many healthcare careers.

Psychology careers – you do not generally need to study Psychology GCSE to take this subject at A Level and many schools do not offer it as a GCSE option.

If there is already a particular sixth form or college you know you want to progress to in the future, you could check their subject requirements now for any courses you are interested in.

Exploring and researching career ideas

You can use the following websites to carry out further career research:

icould

Explore careers
View all job profiles alphabetically and filter by category.

PROSPECTS

BBC BITESIZE CAREERS

Year 10/11
What are your post-16 options?

Where can I work or study after Year 11?

School Sixth Form

Mainly offer A Levels, although some offer a limited range of vocational courses. Attached to a school. May have a dress code and require students to remain on site between lessons. More contact time with tutors. Usually have smaller classes.

Sixth Form College

A wider range of A Levels and vocational courses offered. Usually offer more freedom than school sixth forms. A larger campus than a school sixth form. Larger class sizes. May have more flexible entry requirements than school sixth forms.

Further Education (FE) College

Larger than a sixth form college. May offer A Levels but the focus is on vocational, practical courses. The widest range of entry levels and therefore the most flexible entry requirements. More freedom. Also offer apprenticeship options.

Apprenticeship

Work-based option. The most practical route. Paid a wage. Longer hours. Less holidays than school/college. Working alongside adults. Learning a qualification part-time. Learning can be at a college, training provider or take place online or in the workplace, via visits from an assessor. Different levels of apprenticeships offered. Some require specific GCSE grades.

Types of sixth form/college qualifications:

A Levels - classroom based, theory-based learning. Most similar qualification to GCSEs. Some are assessed 100% by exams whereas others, such as PE, Art and Geography, have a practical element or coursework. Usually study 3 subjects, sometimes 4.

T Levels – assessed by exams and the completion of a log book in the workplace. Spend 20% of your time on a work placement, which is usually in-person but can be online for some courses. Focus on one subject area, linked to a job sector.

V Levels/BTECs/similar qualifications – assessed at the end of each unit by exams, computer-based tests, coursework or practical work. Can be a small qualification, worth one A Level, or a large qualification studied on its own and worth 3 A Levels. Smaller BTECs and V Levels can be studied alongside A Levels.

Level 2 qualifications (such as Level 2 BTECs and the new Foundation Certificate and Occupational Certificate qualifications) - for school leavers who want to go onto level 3 but aren't ready to progress, due to their GCSE grades. These provide a year of study before progressing onto a Level 3 course.

Level 1 qualifications (such as Level 1 BTECs) - for school leavers who have either not met the grade requirements for level 2 courses or who aim to move into employment or an apprenticeship. Provide extra support for learners whilst providing skills needed to enter the workplace.

Foundation, entry level, SEND and ESOL courses – Many FE colleges offer a range of course for students who have SEND, have not sat GCSEs/have achieved low grades, or have English as an additional language. If you are unsure which level of course is right for you, speak to your careers adviser or school or contact your local colleges.

How do I figure out the best option for me?

Consider the following:

- What are your predicted grades? What are you likely to achieve? Check with teachers if you are unsure.
- What subjects have you enjoyed at school? Can you identify any potential new subjects?
- Would you like to focus on one subject? Or take a range of subjects that keep your options open?
- Do you enjoy classroom-based learning or prefer practical activities? How do you feel about exams? How do you feel about coursework?
- Do you know what career area you want to go in to? If so, are apprenticeships available for school leavers in that industry? How would you feel about working in an environment with adults, with longer hours and fewer holidays, whilst getting paid?

Thinking of university?

- Level 3 qualifications include A Levels, T Levels, V Levels and Level 3 BTECs. All can lead to higher education (university) or higher and degree level apprenticeships.
- The majority of universities accept alternatives to A Levels, but a small number do not, such as Oxford and Cambridge.
- Some highly competitive university courses do not accept qualifications other than A Levels. These include medicine and veterinary medicine.

Year 10/11
What are your post-16 options?

informed

Deciding what to study

If you don't know what you want to study at university, you may want to explore different subject combinations to discover which university courses they could lead to. Find out more here:

Informed Choices | Complete University Guide | UCAS

For researching career ideas and routes into them:

icould | Explore careers – View all job profiles alphabetically and filter by category. | PROSPECTS | BBC BITESIZE CAREERS

For researching apprenticeships and finding vacancies:

The most common source of apprenticeship vacancies for school leavers is the government vacancy service. Find out more here and search for live apprenticeships:

GOV·UK Find an apprenticeship

Other sources of apprenticeship vacancies are

HIGHERiN | Amazing Apprenticeships | UCAS

Pathway CTM advertise apprenticeships and events and provide support to students and parents with applications. Discover more here:

PATHWAY CTM

Researching courses at sixth forms and colleges:

Look at course guides on college and sixth forms websites and visit their open evenings. They may also hold taster sessions, where you can experience subjects you are considering.

School sixth forms often hold open events near the beginning of Year 11 whereas FE colleges hold open events each term, which you can visit in Year 10 as well as during Year 11.

Beware of early deadlines:

School sixth forms and sixth form colleges usually have specific application deadlines.

Some have very early deadlines, such as **Esher College,** which holds its open event in the summer term of Year 10 and has an application deadline in September of Year 11.

Another provider with an early deadline is **Farnborough Sixth Form College**, which holds an open event for Year 11s in September/early October. It then opens its application window for approximately two weeks only.

Some FE colleges do not have application deadlines but we still advise applying in the autumn term of Year 11, before popular courses may fill up.

Please carefully check the websites of any local providers you are interested in.

Upcoming FE College open events:

ACTIVATE LEARNING



Banbury and Bicester College:
November 21st 9.30-12.00

Reading College:
November 11th 16.30-19.00

Bracknell and Wokingham College:
November 14th 9.30-12.00

Year 10/11
What are your post-16 options?

informed

Activate Learning (continued)

City of Oxford College:
Main open event: November 18th 16.30-19.00
Rugby Academy (boys) Harcourt Hill campus:
November 7th 9.00-12.15
Rugby Academy (girls) Harcourt Hill campus:
November 7th 9.30-1.00

Farnham College:
November 21st 9.30-12.00

Guildford College:
November 18th 16.30-19.00

Merrist Wood College:
November 14th 9.30-12.00

The Leys College:
November 11th 16.30-19.00

https://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/open-events/

South Thames Colleges Group

South Thames College
November 7th 10.00-13.00

Carshalton College:
November 14th 10.00-13.00

Kingston College:
November 18th 16.30-19.00

Merton College:
November 24th 16.30-18.30

Discover all upcoming events and register here

Farnborough College of Technology

Main campus open event:
November 18th 16.00-19.30

Aldershot Campus Construction open event:
November 19th: 16.00-18.30

Discover more here

Richmond upon Thames College

Open event for courses and apprenticeships:
November 17th 16.00-19.00

Parents tour:
December 9th 18.00-19.30

Events | Richmond Upon Thames College

Windsor Forest Colleges Group

Slough & Langley College
November 4th 16..00-18.30

BCA College:
November 14th 10.00-14.00

Strode's College:
February 11th 16.30-19.00

Windsor College:
February 23rd 16.30-19.00

Discover more here

Orbital South Colleges

East Surrey College
November 4th 16.45-19.00

John Ruskin College
November 11th 16.45-19.00

Find out more here

Brooklands Technical College

SEND and inclusion event:
November 10th 13.15-15.00

Ashford open event and hair and beauty salon showcase:
November 26th 16.30-19.00

New student experience evening:
December 10th 16.30-19.00

See all upcoming events here

Year 12/13
What are your post-18 options?

informed

- **Higher Education at a university or college**
- **Degree or Higher Apprenticeship**
- **Intermediate or Advanced Apprenticeship**
- **Job with training**
- **Gap year**
- **Self-employment**
- **Internship or work experience placement**
- **Volunteering**

Find out more below:



At a UCAS event you can talk to unis, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers to compare all your options side-by-side.

Discover more here: Search for an event near you

Open day calendar

Lots of universities and colleges will be hosting open days over the coming months for Year 12 and 13 students.

Browse events here and sign up here: opendays.com university and college open days

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



Search apprenticeships, internships and insight events and gain access to careers resources. Job sectors include law, business, accounting, finance and engineering.

Sign up here

King's Trust

How the King's Trust Support Young People

The King's Trust help young people from disadvantaged communities and those facing the greatest adversity by supporting them to build the confidence and skills to live, learn and earn.

Their courses, resources and other support help people aged 11 to 30 to develop essential life skills, get ready for work, access job opportunities and set up their own businesses. Over the last five years, 3 in 4 young people supported by The Trust moved into work, education or training. Find out more here

Explore gap year options at : www.gap360.com
UCAS Gap Years Plan My Gap Year
www.responsibletravel.com



Uptree

Register for your free Uptree account to access events, connect with employers and complete free courses. There are also resources to help with CVs, applications and interviews. Upcoming employer events include opportunities with Deloitte, KPMS, Lloyds Banking Group, CGI, Rothschild & Co, and Trowers and Hamlins. Sectors include banking, law, finance, the Civil Service, IT and Business. Discover more and sign up here

Keep your options open by applying for multiple pathways. As degree and higher apprenticeships are competitive, many students have a backup plan of applying to university, or looking for lower-level apprenticeships or jobs with training. Remember that you can work your way up apprenticeship and job levels.

Keep an eye on deadlines. Your school or college will have earlier deadlines than UCAS for submitting university applications, as they will need time to write your reference.

See the Appenticeships Snapshot section from page 14 onwards for plenty of opportunities which are open now to apply for. November is a key month for apprenticeship applications!

Financial support from Year 12 onwards

Worried about the cost of college, sixth form, an apprenticeship or university?

College/sixth form bursaries

Colleges and sixth forms have bursaries to help with accommodation costs, trips, books and equipment, travel, meals and childcare costs. All bursaries have eligibility criteria and will take each student's individual circumstances into consideration. To find out more, look on your local college or sixth form website, contact their student services department or ask about support offered when attending an open event.

Apprenticeships

As an apprentice, you will be paid a wage. Find out more about finance for apprenticeships here: Apprenticeship Wage | UCAS

If you have been in care, you could be eligible for a care leavers bursary of up to £3.000 towards your apprenticeship. You can also join Care X, a support network for care experienced apprentices. You can find out more about this and the care leavers bursary here

Part-time work

Many students also supplement their studies by working part-time. You may want to find out what your timetable will look like, so you can decide whether you could fit part-time work around it. If there is a sport you already take part in, you could look into gaining related qualifications to become a referee, assistant coach or life guard. You may also want to look out for seasonal vacancies or consider setting up your own small business. Find out more about seasonal work here:



Discounts for students and apprentices

Students and apprentices are eligible for aTotum card (formerly known as an NUS card) which provides discounts on a wide range of goods and services. Bus and train services also offer student rates.

Discover more about Totum here

TOTUM

Financial support for university

You can discover financial sources of support for university, such as bursaries, scholarships and grants, as well as advice on budgeting here: Money | UCAS

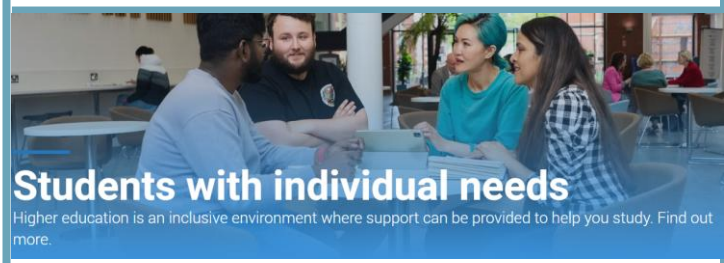
THE SUTTON TRUST 25 YEARS

The Sutton Trust champions social mobility through programmes, research and policy influence

The Sutton Trust support young people from less advantaged backgrounds to access leading universities and careers. In partnership with universities and employers, Sutton Trust run engaging programmes that give students practical advice and leave them feeling inspired and more confident about their future.

Suttons Trust programmes are completely free to attend. All costs - including travel, accommodation, food and activities – are paid for by the Trust and our partners. Programmes include summer schools, to experience university, and apprenticeship pathways.

Register here to receive updates about 2026/7 Sutton Trust programmes and for application dates



The UCAS website has a section for students with individual needs, which includes articles for those with disabilities and SEN, care-experienced students, young carers, those with parenting responsibilities, students estranged from their parents, displaced students and those from Armed Forces families.

Discover more here

UCAS

Apprenticeships Snapshot

What time of year do apprenticeship opportunities open?

Applications for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, for those in Year 13, typically open from October.

Applications for school leavers tend to open between October and March/April. However, apprenticeships are advertised all year round

The following is a snapshot of current apprenticeship opportunities

Financial Services

S&W



S and W's current apprenticeship vacancies include accountancy positions based at Guildford. Search all school leaver vacancies below (A Levels or equivalent are required) SWGroup/early-careers

RSM

School leaver positions (UCAS points required.) Start date of September 2027.
Audit Data Analytics School Leaver - CFAB – London
Audit School Leaver – Reading

KPMG

Audit apprenticeships, in a variety of locations, including Reading and London. Find all vacancies here

pwc

Applications are now open for entry level programmes, which include apprenticeships and other qualifications. Routes available are Consulting, Operate and Tax. Find out more and apply now hare: Discover more and apply here for entry level programmes

Entry level
Entry level programmes

Applications now open for degree programmes in accounting based in London, Reading, Manchester and Newcastle and in Business Management in Ulster. Discover more and apply here for degree programmes

Entry level
Flying Start degree programmes

HOWDEN

Apprenticeships available in a wide range of locations, in sectors including insurance, finance, HR, and risk and compliance. Apply Here

EY

Ernest & Young Apprenticeship now open for September 2027 start:

Applications are now open for apprenticeships in audit, tax, project delivery, digital and technical.
Find out more and apply here: Work Experience and Apprenticeships | EY - UK

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

Applications are now open for Menzies' AAT Apprenticeship programme :Menzies Early Careers

Apprenticeships Snapshot

“intouch”

Apprenticeships open now in a variety of locations, offered at both Level 4 and Level 7, to suit both Year 11 leavers and those completing A Levels or equivalent qualifications

ICAEW specialise in tax, accounting and auditing. Explore all roles and apply here



Apprenticeship applications open on 3rd November for a range of roles including digital and technology, data and AI, finance and accountancy: Lloyds apprenticeships

Law

Solicitor apprenticeships opening on 2nd November and closing on 28th January. UK Solicitor Apprenticeship Program | Freshfields

Solicitor apprenticeship applications now open. see link for roles based in several locations, including London: Solicitor apprenticeship | Early Careers | DWF Group

London Degree Solicitor Apprenticeship scheme

Apply now to start in September 2027. Financial support provided a couple of months before joining to help towards accommodation and workwear expenses. **Please note that the application deadline is 9th November:**

See here for more details and to apply

Solicitor apprenticeships now open, in a range of locations including London. Apply here: Careers at Trowers & Hamlins

London-based solicitor apprenticeship applications open on 1st November, with two virtual open days held during the month. Applications close on 29th January. Solicitor Apprenticeships | Farrer & Co

Applications for the Mishcon de Reya 2027 Solicitor Apprenticeship Programme (London) are now open. The closing date is **Friday 27th November 2026.**

View our Vacancies - Talent Acquisition Portal

Apprenticeships Snapshot

“intouch”

Miscellaneous/multiple industry sectors offered

Morrisons
More to love

Morrisons apprenticeships now open in finance, engineering and retail. Find out more here

BBC CAREERS

Apprenticeships applications will be opening on 3rd November. The BBC offer Level 3, 4 and degree apprenticeships in a wide range of career areas, including journalism, production, HR and business. ‘Get In’ taster experiences are also offered to find out if a career in the BBC is right for you.

Sign up for updates and information here

BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways are offering a range of apprenticeships including in Business, Data Science and Engineering for 2027. Some opportunities are suitable for school leavers, whereas others are for Year 13 students. Their website also details BA’s work experience schemes. Apply here now



AWE are accepting applications now for Level 3, 4 and degree apprenticeships in a range of fields, including nuclear engineering, science, HR and project management. The minimum age has been raised this year to 17 for some roles and 18 for others. Apply now: AWE Early Careers Apprenticeships

NHS

Carry out a job search of apprentice roles within the NHS and you’ll find a wide range of current roles, including administration, HR, finance, healthcare and pharmaceutical roles: Jobs.nhs.uk/apprentice

You can discover more about NHS apprenticeships here: NHS/careerplanning/apprenticeships

Busy Bees

Busy Bees offer apprenticeships in early years and catering. Discover more about their apprenticeship schemes here: Busybeestraining/apprenticeships

Use their vacancy search to look for current vacancies, entering ‘apprentice’ as the key word: Careers/busybees/apprentice

Apprenticeship Schemes

Virgin Media and O2 are currently accepting applications of interest for the following apprenticeships:

- Network Engineer
- Technical Solutions
- Compliance
- Product Management
- Data Analyst
- Entertainment Trials Analyst
- Field Technician
- Fraud Agent
- Business Analyst
- Quantity Surveyor
- Radio Engineer
- Radio Planner
- Technical Business Administration

Discover more and register here

Apprenticeships Snapshot

“intouch”

Watch this space….

NatWest Group

Natwest have announced that applications for their next round of apprenticeships will be opening in Spring 2027. Categories include business administration, customer service, financial services, digital and technology, and relationship manager. Find out more here and join their early talent community to be alerted when roles applications go live

TESCO Careers

Tesco offer Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeships. Last year’s scheme recruited for locations across England, with a starting salary of £23, 662.08. No specific qualifications were required. Discover more here

BAE SYSTEMS

BAE apprenticeship applications are opening in January 2027 for schemes in engineering, business, technology and manufacturing. See the link below for when they go live and, in the meantime, you can also access links to insight days and work experience to increase your chances of success: Careers.baesystems/uk/apprentices ,

Thames Water

Thames Water have offered apprenticeships in previous years. You can find out more and register your interest here: Thames Water/emerging-talent

mace

Mace have offered a wide range of opportunities in construction for school and college leavers in previous years, including Surveying, Engineering, Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Project Management. Applications for 2027 are not yet open but you can register your interest here: **Mace Apprenticeship Schemes**

Deloitte.

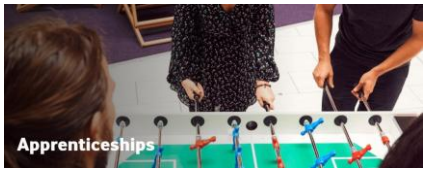


There are no open opportunities at Deloitte at present, but you can check their apprenticeship page for future vacancies: Deloitte/early-careers/apprenticeships

BT



Apprenticeships offered in engineering, software engineering, transformation and delivery, and service. See here for current BT vacancies with a start date of January 2027 and for checking the announcement of future apprenticeship schemes: BT/Apprenticeships



There are no openings advertised at present but Vodaphone offer Level 6 (degree level) apprenticeships in software engineering, data analytics, project management and IT consultancy. Vodafone/early-careers/apprenticeships

Apprenticeships Snapshot

intouch

Also ensure that you are checking the following websites regularly for vacancies…

Amazing Apprenticeships



Amazing Apprenticeships specialise in Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships. Their October listing has over **1,200** vacancies listed, but you will need to check individual opening dates, as some schemes don't open for another month or more.

Explore the whole website here: Amazing Apprenticeships

Access their October 2026 Higher and Degree Apprenticeship listing here

HIGHERiN

HIGHERiN has an apprenticeship search facility which you can filter by level, making it suitable for both Year 11 and Year 12/13 leavers. You can also search for insight days, work experience placements and school leaver programmes: HIGHERiN Apprenticeship Search

GRADCRACKER
Where the STEM jobs are

Gradcracker specialise in degree apprenticeships, summer placements and internships in STEM careers. Find out more and apply for opportunities here

UCAS

Although better know for university applications, UCAS also advertise apprenticeships, from Level 3 to Level 7: UCAS Apprenticeship Search

GOV·UK

The Government website is a good place to look for local apprenticeship vacancies as you can input your postcode and how far you are prepared to travel. It is especially good for Year 11 school leavers, as there are a wide range of Level 2 and 3 apprenticeships advertised, as well as higher levels : Apply for apprenticeships

NGTU
NOT GOING TO UNI

As the name suggests, Not Going To Uni is for sixth form/college leavers who are exploring alternative options to university. Find apprenticeships, courses and work experience opportunities here: Not going to uni

success at school

Success at School advertise apprenticeships, from Level 2 up to Level 7. Search for Vacancies Here

PATHWAY CTM

Pathway CTM advertise apprenticeships, hold apprenticeship events and can support students with applications. Click here to see opportunities

In addition, check the websites of any local and national companies you would like to work for, speak to family and friends to find out about any contacts they may have, attend insight events, and try to arrange some relevant work experience, either in-person or online. You could also use LinkedIn or ask a parent or carer to do this for you, in order to follow companies in the sectors you are interested in.

Career Spotlight

Parents/Carers | Schools | Young people

Green Careers

Perhaps you want to help the environment? Or you're interested in working with green energy? Would you like to find a solution to climate change? Green careers can be found in wide range of different categories. You can find out more about some of them here:

BBC Bitesize/Green Careers

And use this website to discover what you could be doing right now to help stop climate change:

Friends of the earth/take action

Some of the varied job roles where you could make an impact include:

Climate Scientist
Ecologist
Environmental Consultant
Journalist
Climate Scientist
MP
Geologist
Meteorologist
Environmental Lawyer
Civil Engineer
Renewable Energy Engineer
Charity Campaigner
Wind Turbine Technician
Film/TV content creator

And examples of relevant university courses are:

Global Sustainable Development at The University of Warwick

Civil and Environmental Engineering at The University Of Cardiff

Wildlife and Conservation Management at SRUC

Explore green job roles and routes into them within Prospects' job sectors pages, including

Environment and Agriculture
Charity and Voluntary Work
Energy and Utilities
Engineering and Manufacturing

And use Prospects' job profiles page to search for individual roles:

Prospects/job-profiles



You can also explore the government's National Careers Service website, searching by job categories, which include

Agriculture-environment-and-animal-care



The Green Careers website can be used to explore a range of organisations which are promoting green careers Greencareersweek/organisations

You can even try out the Green Buzz Quiz to find out which green careers you'll be matched to: Green-buzz

Labour Market Updates

Office for National Statistics

Employment

Employment rate

Aged 16 to 64 seasonally adjusted (Jun - Aug 2026)

75.3%

↑ 0.2pp on previous year

Analysis Data

Unemployment rate

Aged 16+ seasonally adjusted (Jun - Aug 2026)

4.7%

↓ -0.1pp on previous year

Analysis Data

Inflation

CPIH 12-month rate

Sep 2026

3.6%

↑ 0.3pp on previous month

Analysis Data

GDP

Quarter on Quarter

Apr - Jun 2026

0.5%

↓ -0.1pp on previous quarter

Analysis Data

Skills England

Calendar year 2025

Occupations in demand

Across the UK labour market, in 2025 there are 5.1m workers in critical demand occupations, 15.4% of all UK employment. This includes 62 occupations, of which:

- Specialist medical practitioners (137k) show the highest demand across all occupations, with 4 out of 5 indicators in critical demand and the remaining indicator (change in hours worked) in elevated demand.
- A further 5 occupations are in critical demand in 3 out of 5 of the indicators: IT business analysts, architects and systems designers (193k), chief executives and senior officials (180k), senior care workers (111k), brokers (58k), medical radiographers (36k).
- Book-keepers, payroll managers and wages clerks (381k) have the largest number of workers, followed by sales, accounts and business development managers (352k) and marketing, sales and advertising directors (269k).

A further 10.9 million workers are in elevated demand occupations, 32.9% of all UK employment. This includes 125 occupations, of which care workers and home carers has the largest number of workers at 910k, followed by programmers and software development professionals (533k) and secondary education teaching professionals (478k).

Education statistics.service.gov.uk

About Innervate Careers Service



Our Approach

Our approach is to provide multiple career guidance interactions offering schools a variety of methods to access personal guidance. By accessing our assemblies, presentations, workshops, and career lessons, young people are better prepared for their one-to-one personal guidance meeting with our qualified career advisers.

Our careers and personal guidance services can help schools and career advisers make the most effective and efficient use out of the resources, time and personnel available.

We have designed and developed our career lessons from the CDI Framework learning outcomes, with a range of career and personal development activities to encourage self-awareness, decision making skills, opportunities awareness and transition management skills.

The approach we provide enables this to happen at each key stage for each year cohort. It supports schools in addressing the needs of students with an effective way of planning caseloads and preparing students for personal guidance interviews.

Key stage 3:

- One-to-one personal guidance interviews and/or interactions for prioritised students choosing their GCSE Options
- Group career and personal guidance interactions, prioritised students choosing their GCSE Options
- An annual career lesson for all students in year 7, 8 & 9 delivered by a qualified personal guidance adviser
- Guidance services at parents evenings, options evenings, career events
- CEIAG activities including group work, assemblies, and career days e.g. workshops on Apprenticeships, Employability, University

Key stage 4:

- One to one personal guidance interviews and/or interactions for year 10 and 11 students
- Group career and personal guidance interactions for year 10 and 11 students
- Presentations/ group work for all key stage 4 students to build awareness and understanding of all post 16 options including education and technical training, with follow up interventions to monitor intended destinations and guidance needs
- Guidance services at parents evenings, options evenings, career events
- CEIAG activities including group work, assemblies, career days e.g. workshops on Apprenticeships, Employability, University
- Labour Market Information and Career Pathways lessons and activities

Key stage 5:

- One to one personal guidance interviews and/or small group discussions for sixth form students
- Providing focus and clarity to any contemplating their current programme/ considering leaving 6th form
- Supporting students with generating initial ideas around their next steps, plan of action regarding university and/ or work in light of long-term career goals
- Dilemmas regarding university courses and subjects, university or work, long term career planning
- Support for those considering work or higher/ degree apprenticeship schemes, CV preparation, job/ opportunity searching, interview and assessment centre day technique
- Any last-minute concerns, change of plan
- August exam results period – triage/ emergency one-to-one support
- Career Lessons/ Sessions as part of a Careers Programme:
- Employability Skills – the content of winning CVs, application forms and personal statements
- Interview & Assessment Centre Preparation – details and mock activities to provide insight and readiness
- Introduction to UCAS/ Personal Statement workshops/ UCAS application clinics
- Higher & Degree Apprenticeships
- Attendance at Year 12 & 13 Parents Evenings and Parent Information
- Apprenticeships, UCAS and the Importance of Work Experience
- Labour Market Information and Career Pathways lessons and activities

Targeted support for high needs students:

- Schools can choose specific targeted support for disadvantaged and/ or high needs and/ or those at risk of exclusion/ NEET
- Group career guidance interventions once a term for prioritised students from year 7 to year 10
- A developed range of extension activities around the key stage 3 and 4 programme and increased the frequency of interactions with a career adviser for these students from once a year, to once a term.
- Students are seen in small groups of up to five to provide a sense of focus and give each student more opportunity to participate, be heard and interact with the career adviser and each other.
- Each term we build on the work of previous sessions providing careers education activities with reflective guidance time that enables a deeper impact in terms of building aspiration and achievement over time.

Bespoke:

We can provide bespoke personal guidance activities to fit schools and cohort needs.