



DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL



DECEMBER EDITION



# CAREERS NEWSLETTER 2025

**THEME OF THE MONTH**  
**Connecting Learning to Careers**

---

CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

---

LINKING CLASSROOM LEARNING TO CAREERS

---

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)

---

CAREER JOURNEYS

---

CAREER GUIDANCE

---

RECENT EVENTS

---

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LABOUR MARKET INFO

---



# CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

Why linking Classroom Learning to  
Careers Matters More Than Ever...

**As parents, we often ask the same questions:**

**Why do my children need to learn this? How will this help them in the real world?**

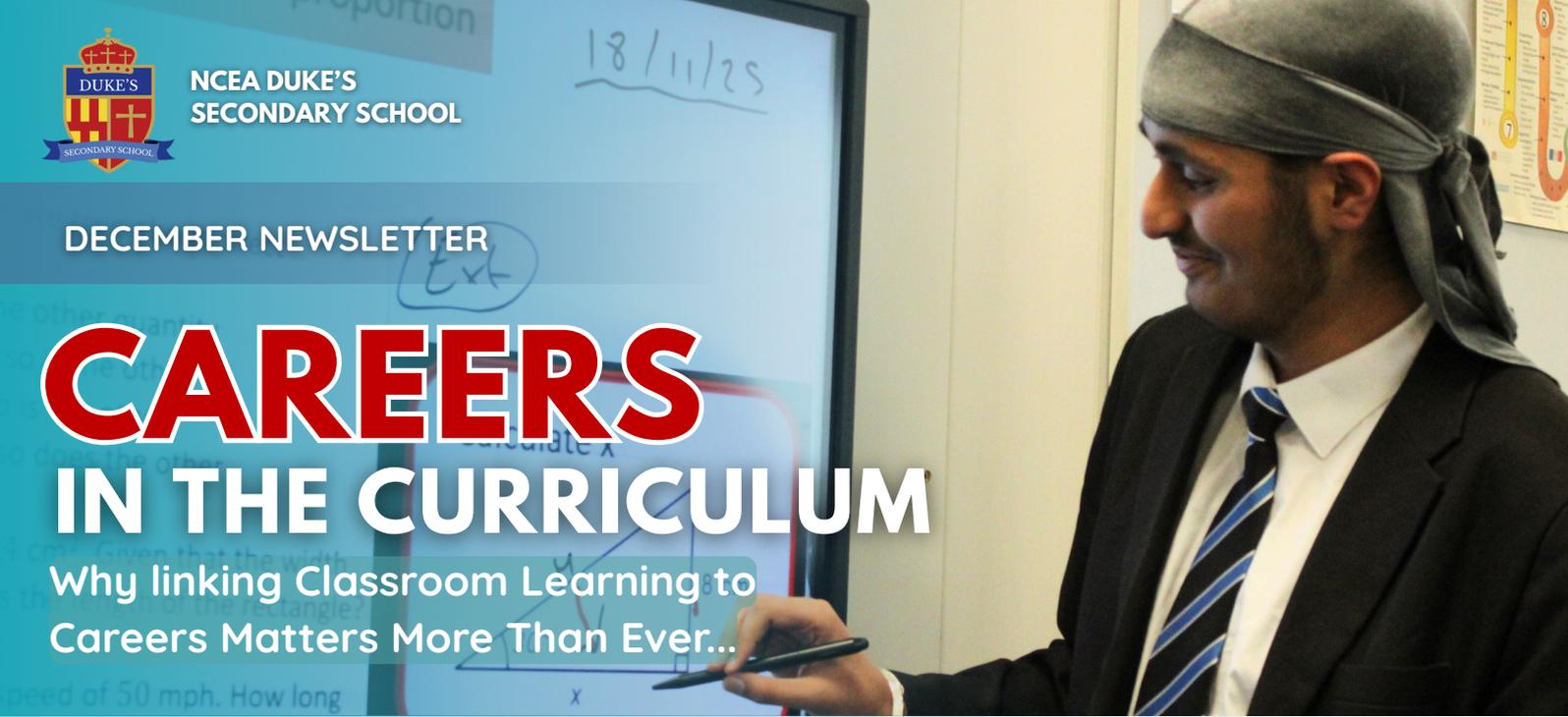
These are important questions and as a school, we are committed to helping students clearly see the connection between what they learn in the classroom and how it applies to life beyond school.

When students understand how their learning links to real careers, their motivation, focus, and confidence grow. During lessons, a maths problem becomes more meaningful when linked to engineering, finance, or technology. A science investigation connects to careers in healthcare, environmental work, and research. Writing and reading skills can be brought to life through careers in journalism, law, marketing, and the creative industries. These connections help students see the purpose behind their learning, not just the content.

To strengthen this approach, we will be hosting our Annual Careers Week from Monday 15th to Friday 19th December. During this week, every lesson across the school will include a careers education element. Teachers will highlight how subject knowledge and skills are used in real jobs, and students will take part in activities designed to help them explore a wide range of career pathways.

The benefits of this are wide-reaching. When students understand the real-world relevance of what they are learning, they are more likely to stay engaged, enjoy their lessons, and take ownership of their progress. They begin to recognise the importance of key skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and resilience; skills that employers value in every industry. This understanding also helps students make more informed choices about future subjects, post 16/ 18 pathways and career aspirations.

Parents and carers have an important role to play. Talking to your child about Careers Week, discussing how their lessons might link to different jobs, and sharing your own career experiences can make these connections even stronger. By embedding careers education across the curriculum, we are not just preparing students for exams, we are preparing them for their futures.





# Duke's Careers week 15th- 19th December



**Watch out for Career activities in lessons  
all this week!**

For more information, check out Duke's Twitter,  
Duke's website and ask your teachers.



# SUBJECT & CAREER OF THE MONTH

In addition to Careers Week, students explore a Subject and Career of the Month, every month during tutor time. This gives them regular opportunities to think about future pathways throughout the year, not just during special events.

Students use the Unifrog Careers and Subjects Library to research different roles and subjects. This allows them to explore:

- The skills needed for different careers
- Entry requirements
- Suggested linked subjects that support future pathways

We encourage you to get involved at home by asking your child to show you the Unifrog profile for their year group's subject and career for December. This is a great way to start meaningful conversations about their interests, strengths, and future aspirations.



## Careers of the month

Year 7	Quantity Surveyor
Year 8	Dispensing Optician
Year 9	Zookeeper
Year 10	Vehicle Electrician
Year 11	Business Development Manager
Year 13	Project Manager

## Subjects of the month

Year 7	Drama & Theatre Studies
Year 8	Anthropology
Year 9	Education
Year 10	Ophthalmics and optometry
Year 11	Pharmacy & Pharmacology
Year 13	Modern Middle Eastern Studies



Check out these  
careers/subjects  
on Unifrog to:

- Watch the video
- Find out what the job involves and how to get in
- See how much you could be paid





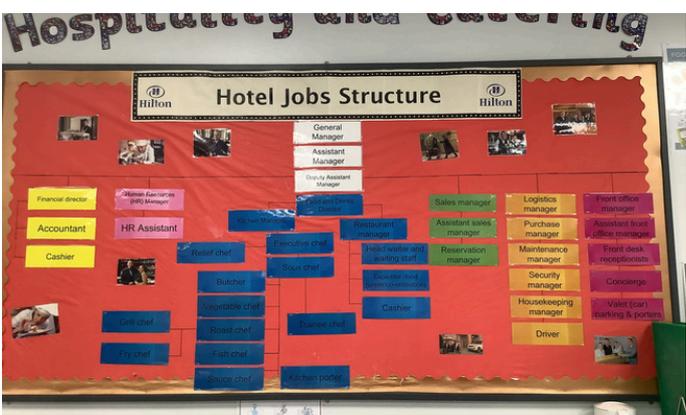
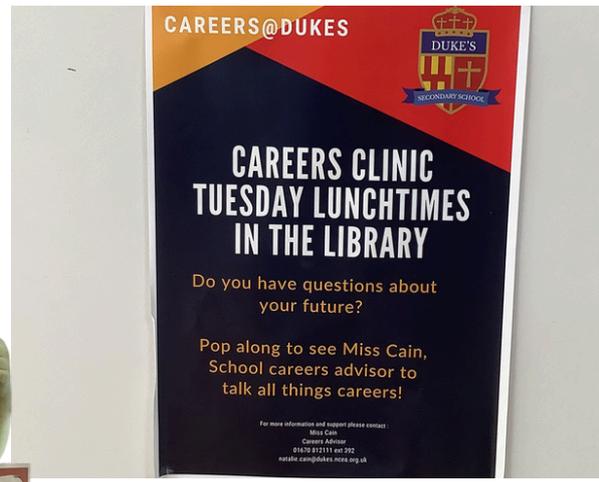
NCEA DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

# LEARNING LINKS TO CAREERS

## Showcasing how learning links to careers...

Throughout the year, every department showcases how their subjects connect to real careers through displays around the school. From Science and Maths to Art and PE, students can see the skills used in the workplace and transferable skills they develop.

This prompts students to take a look, ask questions, and explore how what they learn today can open doors to future opportunities!





# WHY DO EMPLOYERS VALUE STRONG LINKS BETWEEN LEARNING AND CAREERS?

Employers place great importance on young people understanding how their learning in school connects to real career pathways. They consistently tell schools that technical knowledge is important, but so too are the wider skills developed through everyday lessons, such as; teamwork, leadership, resilience, communication and problem-solving.

When curriculum learning is linked clearly to careers, students are better prepared for the world of work. They develop a stronger work ethic, a clearer sense of direction, and a better understanding of the skills employers are looking for.

This month, the British Army has highlighted strong connections between school subjects and a range of roles within the Armed Forces.

In Physical Education (PE), there are clear links to roles such as Tank Crewman and Household Cavalry. These careers require high levels of fitness, teamwork, discipline, and mental resilience. Through PE, students develop these vital qualities alongside leadership and the ability to perform well under pressure.

In Science, there are equally strong links to technical roles such as Ammunition Technician and Petroleum Operator. These careers rely on a solid understanding of chemistry, physics, safety procedures and precise working practices. Students build these foundations in science lessons by learning about materials, forces, energy, reactions, and the importance of working safely and accurately.

By understanding these subject links, students begin to see that what they learn in school is not separate from the world of work. Instead, it is the starting point for a wide range of future opportunities.

At our school, we are committed to giving students regular opportunities to explore how employers value the subjects they study. By working alongside employers and industry partners, we help students make informed choices and better understand the pathways available to them.



# CLASSROOM SUBJECTS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



SCHOOL SUBJECTS CAN LINK DIRECTLY TO ROLES IN THE BRITISH ARMY BY PROVIDING FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SPECIFIC CAREERS.

## SCIENCE: FROM LAB COATS TO COMBAT BOOTS

### PETROLEUM OPERATOR



- Storing, transporting, and distributing fuel for vehicles, aircraft, and equipment.
- Testing fuel quality to ensure it meets safety and performance standards.
- Maintaining fuel systems and pipelines.
- Following strict safety protocols to prevent accidents or contamination.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF FUELS AND LUBRICANTS

COMBUSTION AND ENERGY PRINCIPLES

SAFETY PROCEDURES WHEN HANDLING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FUEL USE AND SPILLS

PRESSURE, VOLUME, AND TEMPERATURE RELATIONSHIPS (IMPORTANT IN FUEL STORAGE AND TRANSPORT)

### AMMUNITION TECHNICIAN



- Checking if old ammunition is still safe to use.
- Safely transporting explosives without setting them off.
- Disposing of bombs or dangerous materials.
- Teaching others how to stay safe around explosives.



# CLASSROOM SUBJECTS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOOL SUBJECTS CAN LINK DIRECTLY TO ROLES IN THE BRITISH ARMY BY PROVIDING FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SPECIFIC CAREERS.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE): FROM THE SPORTS FIELD TO THE GLOBAL MISSION!



### TANK CREWMAN

- Tank crewmen operate in confined spaces, lift heavy equipment, and endure long missions.
- Operating a tank requires precise coordination between driver, gunner, and commander.
- Navigating terrain and reacting quickly to threats is vital in armoured vehicles.



STRENGTH TRAINING, AGILITY DRILLS & REACTION GAMES.



ENDURANCE CHALLENGES, TEAM WORK & GOAL SETTING.



MOVEMENT PATTERNS, COORDINATION, RHYTHM.



BALANCE, CORE STABILITY, POSTURE.

### HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

- Mounted soldiers need excellent balance and control while riding.
- Household Cavalry perform ceremonial duties requiring precision and discipline.
- Cavalry units rely on strong leadership and cohesion.





# ARMY CAREERS



## LOGISTICS & SUPPORT

### Soldier:

- Driver
- Supply Chain Operator
- Chef
- Petroleum Operator
- Driver Communications Specialist
- Movement Controller
- Port Operator
- Mariner
- Postal and Courier Operator
- Marine Engineer
- Driver Air Despatch
- Ammunition Technician
- Logistics Specialist

### Officer:

Royal Logistic Corps Officer



## MEDICAL

### Soldier/Officer:

- Student Nurse
- Combat Medical Technician
- Student Dental Nurse
- Environmental Health Technician
- Healthcare Assistant
- Medical Support Officer
- Dog Handler

### Professionally Qualified:

- Dentist
- Doctor
- Pharmacist Officer
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physiotherapist Officer
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Biomedical Scientist
- Mental Health Nurse
- Operating Department Practitioner Radiographer
- Veterinary Officer
- Army Nurse
- Dental Nurse
- Veterinary Technician/Nurse



## INTELLIGENCE, IT & COMMUNICATIONS

### Soldier:

- Communications Infrastructure Engineer
- Communications Engineer
- Power Engineer
- Electronic Warfare Signals Intelligence
- Information Services Engineer
- Network Engineer
- Operator Military Intelligence
- Operator Technical Intelligence
- Supply Chain Operative

### Officer:

Intelligence Officer  
Royal Signals Officer



The Army has many different careers available for people wanting to join as a soldier or officer. Explore their roles and find your perfect Army career.



# ARMY

BE THE BEST



## COMBAT

### Soldier:

Tank Crew,  
 Armoured Cavalry Crew,  
 Household Cavalry Soldier,  
 Infantry Soldier  
 The Guards  
 Paratrooper  
 Aviation Groundcrew Specialist  
 Aviation Communication Specialist  
 Light Gunner  
 Ceremonial Gunner  
 Uncrewed Aerial Systems  
 Light Cavalry Crew  
 Air Defence Gunner  
 Armoured AS90 Gunner  
 Missile System Gunner  
 Artillery Surveillance Observer  
 Artillery Logistics Specialist  
 Artillery Command Systems

### Officer:

Infantry Officer  
 Artillery Officer  
 Armoured Corps Officer  
 Household Cavalry Officer  
 Officer Pilot  
 Ground Officer



## HR, FINANCE & SUPPORT

### Soldier:

HR Specialist  
 Royal Military Police Soldier

### Officer:

Educational and Training Services Officer  
 HR Officer  
 Royal Military Police Officer  
 Legal Officer



## ENGINEERING

### Soldier:

Aircraft Technician  
 Armourer  
 Avionics Technician  
 Electronics Technician  
 Metalsmith  
 Recovery Mechanic  
 Geographic Technician  
 Technical Support  
 Specialist Vehicle Mechanic  
 Air Conditioning Fitter  
 Armoured Engineer  
 Bricklayer  
 Carpenter And Joiner  
 Construction Materials Technician  
 Design Draughtsman  
 Draughtsman Electrical And Mechanical  
 Driver Royal Engineers  
 Electrician  
 Digital Communication Technician  
 Fabricator  
 General Fitter  
 Infrastructure Engineer  
 Plant Operator Mechanic  
 Plasterer And Painter  
 Surveyor  
 Plumber  
 Combat Engineer  
 Marine Engineer  
 EOD and Search

### Officer:

Engineer Officer  
 Engineer Troop Officer



## MUSICIAN

Musician



NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

# MOOCS

## MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES

## STUDENTS CAN BOOST THEIR LEARNING WITH MOOCs...

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) let students explore new subjects, build skills, and extend their learning beyond the classroom. Students can access them easily via the MOOC tool on their Unifrog account.

They link directly to the curriculum, helping students deepen your understanding of subjects they study at school while also letting them explore new interests. Completing a MOOC shows initiative, develops key skills like time management and critical thinking, and can even earn students a certificate to showcase their achievements.

Encourage your child to find something they are interested in. MOOCs can be accessed From their Unifrog student homepage, click on the MOOC tool under the 'Exploring pathways' subheading.





# YOUR CHILD'S CAREER EDUCATION JOURNEY AT DUKE'S

**At Duke's, we are committed to providing students with outstanding careers education throughout their time at Duke's.**

Please find enclosed an infographic to show the journey your child will take through careers education during their current school year.

Students will have the chance to take part in a wide range of activities this academic year to showcase further and higher education opportunities, and all year groups have also have the chance to engage with a number of employers and local businesses.

To help us with our planning for the year ahead, we would love to collect the views of our parents to help inform our programme. I would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete a short survey that can be accessed using the link below.

**Parents, this link is for you!**

<https://forms.gle/KcXhgisDzD3xRfPo6>



We are always on the look out to engage with new businesses, large or small. If you currently work for an organisation or own your own business and would like to know more about how you could support careers education here at Duke's, please also indicate this on the survey link.



NCEA DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL



# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY

**YEAR 7**

**YEAR 8**

**YEAR 9**

**YEAR 10**

**YEAR 11**

**YEAR 13**

# DUKE'S SECONDARY YEAR 7



# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY

## TERM 2 - SPRING

- Newcastle Foundation
- Employability Programme
- National Apprenticeship
- Week World of Work Day
- National Careers Week
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Employer assemblies
- KPMG Work Ready Day

## TERM 1 - AUTUMN

- Launch of Unifrog
- Newcastle University Visit
- Duke's Careers Week
- STEM Roadshow
- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in (Every Tuesday)
- What are skills? workshop
- STEM Fest
- Northumberland Zoo

## TERM 3 - SUMMER

- Discovery Day
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Employer assemblies
- Labour Market Information Assembly

## UNIFROG YEARLY PROGRAMME OF TUTOR TIME ACTIVITIES

### YOUR JOURNEY YOUR FUTURE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT :

MISS CAIN CAREERS ADVISOR

MRS TOWERS CAREERS LEAD

# DUKE'S SECONDARY YEAR 8



# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY

## TERM 2 - SPRING

- Working Options Industry Insights
- National Apprenticeship Week
- World of Work Day
- National Careers Week Careers (Lunch time drop in)
- Employer assemblies
- NU Futures Employability Programme
- FutureMe Literacy Mentoring
- Northumbria University Visit

## TERM 1 - AUTUMN

- BAE Stem Roadshow
- Duke's Careers Week Army Supercamp
- Empower Girls Cyber Security
- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in (Every Tuesday)
- NHS Theatre Production
- Unifrog - Career Terminology
- STEM Fest Get set Programme

## TERM 3 - SUMMER

- Discovery Day Careers (Lunch time drop in)
- Employer assemblies
- Labour Market
- Information Assembly
- Port of Blyth Visit
- Faraday Challenge

## UNIFROG YEARLY PROGRAMME OF TUTOR TIME ACTIVITIES

### YOUR JOURNEY YOUR FUTURE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT :

MISS CAIN CAREERS ADVISOR

MRS TOWERS CAREERS LEAD

# DUKE'S SECONDARY YEAR 9



# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY

## TERM 2 - SPRING

- Working Options Industry Insights
- National Apprenticeship Week
- World of Work Day
- National Careers Week Careers (Lunch time drop in)
- Employer assemblies
- Creative Careers Day & Project
- NU Futures Employability Programme
- Year 9 Options Evening

## TERM 1 - AUTUMN

- Duke's Careers Week
- DNA Careers Day
- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in (Every Tuesday)
- Get Set Programme
- Green Skills Roadshow
- Employer insight event

## TERM 3 - SUMMER

- Further Education College
- Discovery Day
- Sunderland University Visit
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Employer assemblies
- Labour Market Information Assembly

## UNIFROG YEARLY PROGRAMME OF TUTOR TIME ACTIVITIES

### YOUR JOURNEY YOUR FUTURE

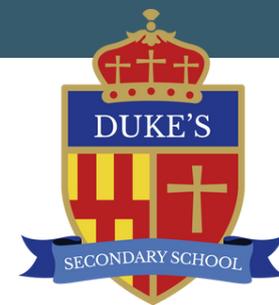
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT :

MISS CAIN CAREERS ADVISOR

MRS TOWERS CAREERS LEAD

# DUKE'S SECONDARY YEAR 10

# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY



## TERM 2 - SPRING

- Future Me - Student Finance Assembly
- Future Me - Work Experience Assembly
- National Apprenticeship Week
- World of Work Day
- National Careers Week
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Employer assemblies
- Green Careers event
- Build my skills project
- Allied Health masterclasses

## TERM 1 - AUTUMN

- Industry Insight work experience visits
- Durham University Visit
- Duke's Careers Week
- NU Futures Employability Programme
- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- My future options day
- Next Gen Nursing Event
- Future me - What if? Assembly STEM like us programme

## TERM 3 - SUMMER

- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Labour Market Information Assembly
- Work Experience

## UNIFROG YEARLY PROGRAMME OF TUTOR TIME ACTIVITIES

### YOUR JOURNEY YOUR FUTURE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT :

MISS CAIN CAREERS ADVISOR

MRS TOWERS CAREERS LEAD

# DUKE'S SECONDARY YEAR 11



# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY

## TERM 2 - SPRING

- 121 Careers Interview
- National Apprenticeship Week
- World of Work Day
- National Careers Week
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Employer assemblies
- Unifrog - A Level Choices
- Local College application workshops & supported open evening
- Ask Apprenticeships Application Workshop
- Unifrog - Coping with Change
- Unifrog - Introduction to Apprenticeships
- Mock Interviews

## TERM 1 - AUTUMN

- Options Assembly
- 6th Form Open Evening
- Duke's Careers Week
- Ask Apprenticeships Assembly
- Newcastle University Visit
- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Create a Future Me workshop
- Unifrog - Post 16 Choices
- Unifrog - Busting BTEC myths

## TERM 3 - SUMMER

- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in (Every Tuesday)
- Labour Market Information Assembly
- Unifrog - Post 16 Intentions

## UNIFROG YEARLY PROGRAMME OF TUTOR TIME ACTIVITIES

### YOUR JOURNEY YOUR FUTURE

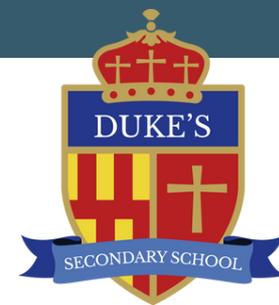
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT :

MISS CAIN CAREERS ADVISOR

MRS TOWERS CAREERS LEAD

# DUKE'S SECONDARY YEAR 13

# YOUR CAREERS JOURNEY



## TERM 2 - SPRING

- 121 Careers Interview
- National Apprenticeship Week
- World of Work Day
- National Careers Week
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Employer assemblies
- Future Me - Beyond the personal statement
- Ask Assessment centre event
- Ask Apprenticeships
- Application Workshop
- DWP workshop series
- Student Finance Workshop
- Budgeting Workshop

## TERM 1 - AUTUMN

- Unifrog - Yearly programme of workshops delivered weekly in tutor time
- Duke's Careers Week
- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- University portfolio workshops
- University Application Preparation
- Early Connect Launch
- CV & Interview Coach Workshops

## TERM 3 - SUMMER

- Employer assemblies
- Careers Lunch time drop in
- Labour Market Information Assembly
- Job Centre Support Workshops

## UNIFROG YEARLY PROGRAMME OF TUTOR TIME ACTIVITIES

### YOUR JOURNEY YOUR FUTURE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT :

MISS CAIN CAREERS ADVISOR

MRS TOWERS CAREERS LEAD



# Talent pool



## PERSONALISED APPRENTICESHIP & UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

All of our Y11-13 students are invited to join Talent pool to receive unique course and apprenticeship opportunities directly from universities and employers, tailored to their interests, skills, and academic profiles.

Recent opportunities shared by employers and universities include:

National Grid: Level 2 and 3 apprenticeships in commercial, engineering, and IT for Y11 / S4 leavers

British Army: Healthcare apprenticeships for Y13 / S6 leavers

King's College London: Politics & International Affairs degree webinar

Now's the perfect time for students to dive into Talent Pool and let their ideal next step find them! Links to sign up can be found on the advert on the next page.

# Jump into Unifrog's Talent pool

Let universities and employers find you with  
the right courses and apprenticeships!



## Why join Talent pool?

- ✓ Fill in your profile once, then **let the opportunities find you**
- ✓ Receive **tailored support** from universities and employers who are keen to see an application from you, to give you the best chance of success
- ✓ **Discover university courses and apprenticeships** you may not have heard about



Create your  
Talent pool  
profile

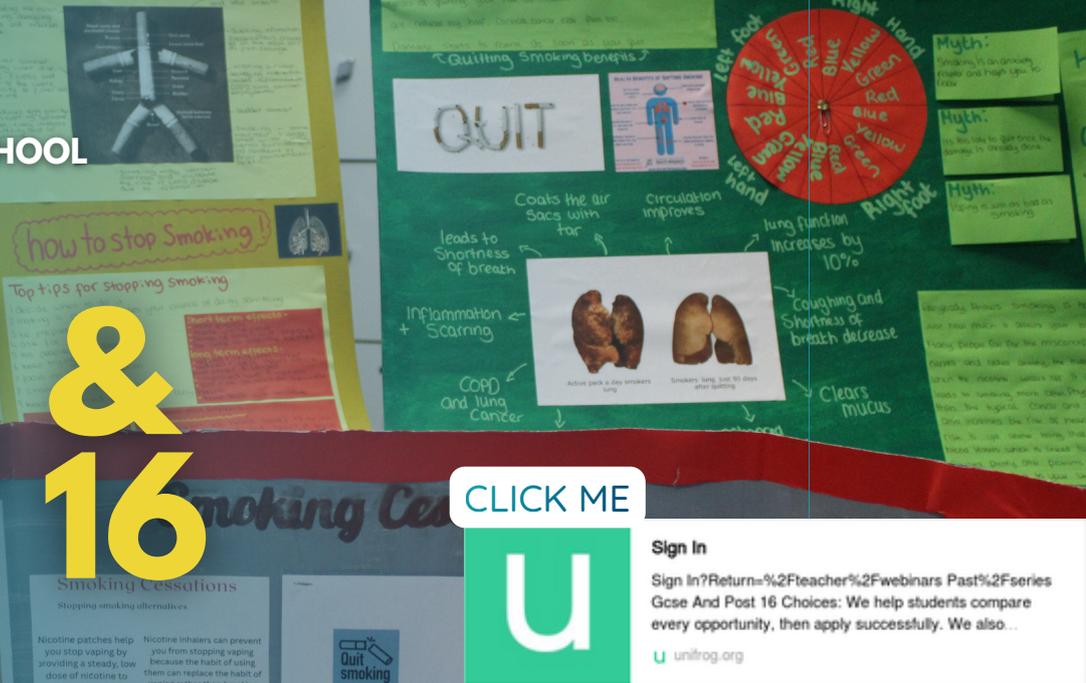
unifrog





**NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

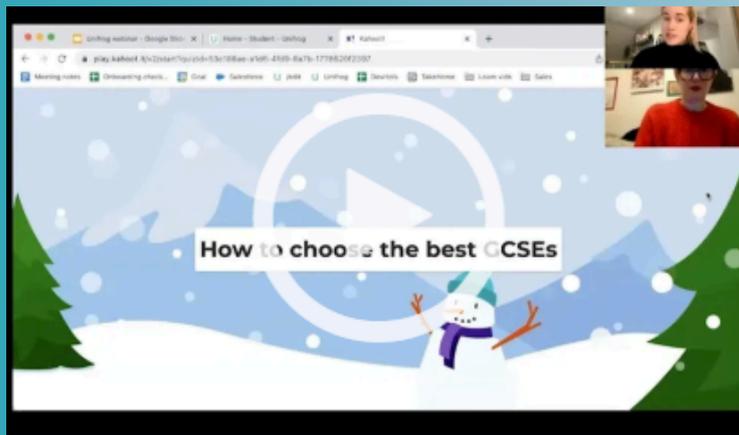
# GCSE & POST 16 CHOICES



Is your child starting to decide what subjects to study, and not sure how to choose? Advice is available for students and parents via the Unifrog webinar series, including top tips when choosing GCSEs, what are the post-16 options, and how to choose A levels, BTECs, or T levels.

**Links to watch the recorded webinars can be found below.**

<https://www.unifrog.org/teacher/webinars-past/series-gcse-and-post-16-choices#>



## How to choose the best GCSEs

For Students

Learn tips for choosing the best GCSE options for you, and find out how you can use Unifrog to help you.



## Parents and caregivers session: post-16 options and how to help make the right choices

Whether your child is choosing their GCSE or post-16 options, supporting the decision-making process can seem daunting. Join this webinar to find out more about what you can do to support your child, what tools on Unifrog can help, information about



## Supporting Your Child to Find Apprenticeship Vacancies

Apprenticeships let students earn while they learn and gain valuable work experience. Parents can help by guiding them through the process:

- Search vacancies: Use the gov.uk apprenticeship search or company websites and social media pages.
- Register online: Create an account, complete a profile, and upload a CV and personal statement.
- Apply and track: Students can apply directly and receive notifications from employers.
- Parental support: Help with researching roles, polishing applications, and keeping track of deadlines.

Getting involved early gives your child a head start in exploring careers and securing opportunities that match their skills and interests.

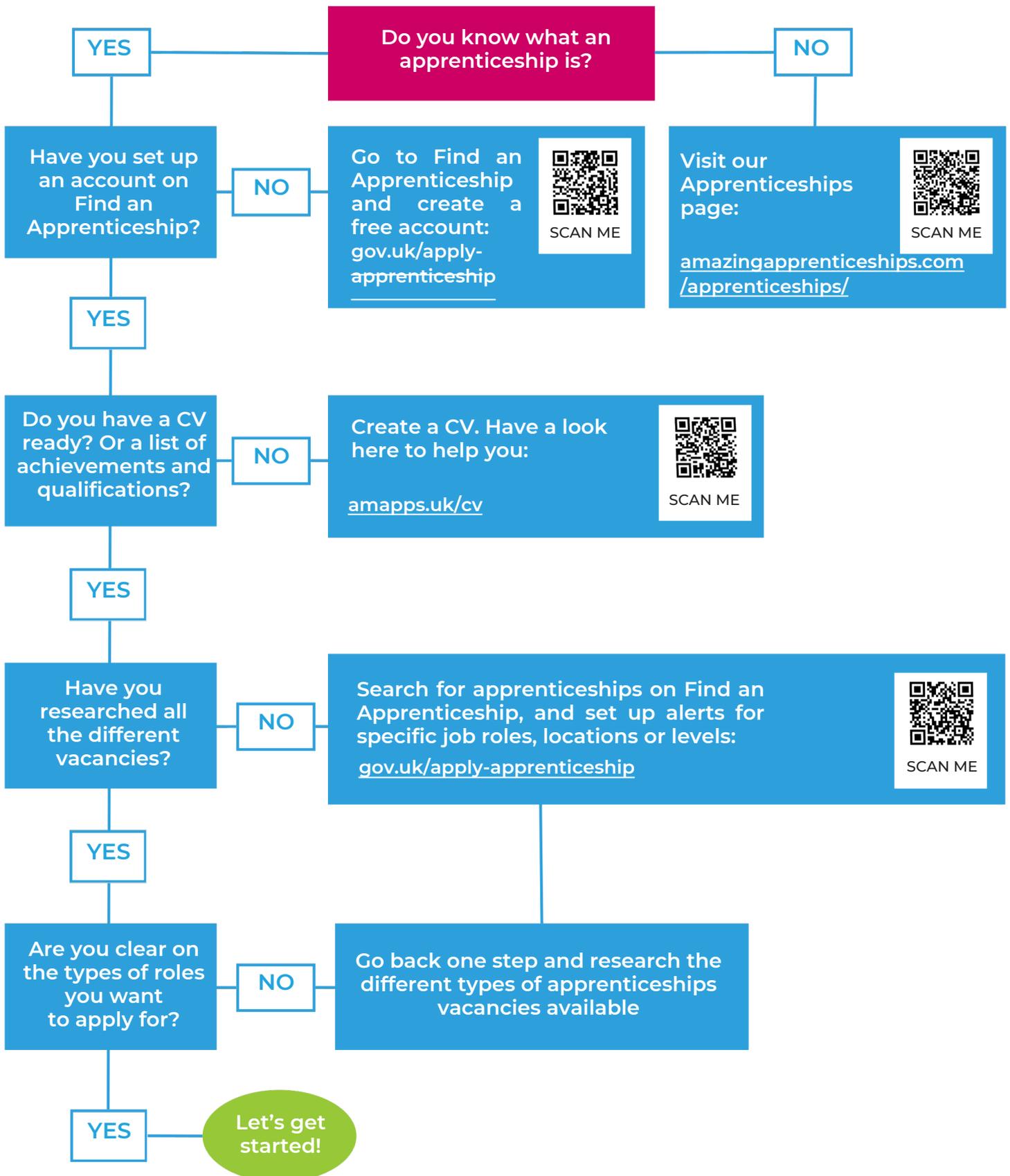
Year 11 and 13 students looking for apprenticeships should begin looking and applying now.

Students in lower year groups can still make accounts to browse vacancies and get an idea of the types of roles available.

Check out the tips below to reach the point of application.

# REACHING THE POINT OF APPLICATION

This guide is for anyone who is at the point of application for an apprenticeship. If you haven't found an apprenticeship yet, this is what you need to do to get to the point of application:



# HOW DO I FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeships will be advertised in different places, depending on the systems and platforms that the employer wants to use. It is beneficial to understand some of the most typical methods used, as this can also help to explain why the recruitment methods can feel a bit complex to navigate. The most typical places that you will find apprenticeship job vacancies advertised include:

Find an Apprenticeship	Employer website	Training Provider	Other
<p>Find an Apprenticeship is the government website where the majority of apprenticeship vacancies are advertised. It is free of charge to set up an account and you can use the system to search and apply for jobs.</p> <p>Remember – it only shows live jobs (so it won't tell you previous vacancies nor what's coming up)</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship">gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship</a></p>	<p>Some employers will use their own website to advertise their vacancies and will often have a dedicated page set up for their apprenticeship programmes.</p> <p>Some employers may require you to set up an account through their website to manage your application, others will provide instructions on how to submit the application – such as completing a form or sending in a CV and covering letter.</p>	<p>Some employers will ask their training provider to manage the application process for them.</p> <p>This could mean that when you are using Find an Apprenticeship, you find that you are redirected to the training provider when you click 'apply'. Sometimes it will mean that the training provider will be running information sessions or workshops to speak with potential apprentices.</p>	<p>There are other methods too. Some employers may use recruitment platforms, such as Not Going To Uni, UCAS Career Finder or Get My First Job.</p> <p>The employer will advertise their vacancies through these platforms and use this as a way to filter through to their recruitment pool.</p>

## TOP TIPS WHEN LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP



- Application processes and timelines will vary between different employers. Some employers could start recruiting as early as one year before they want the apprentice to start, others will have a shorter recruitment window.
- Vacancy adverts will all be different, so you need to read each one carefully and treat them individually.
- Deadlines will be different for each role, so make sure you take a note of key dates for each role. You could use the calendar on your phone and set alarms to remind you of different deadlines or get an app or even a paper calendar or diary specifically for application dates.
- Don't wait until the deadline. Some employers will set a closing date, but if they receive a high volume of responses, they may close their application window early.
- You can apply for more than one apprenticeship at a time, which will increase your chance of securing an apprenticeship.
- Employers will advertise at different times of the year, there is no set time to apply like for university applications.

## Has your child applied for University? What Happens Next?

### Once your child submits their UCAS application, here's what happens:

**1) Checks and Welcome Email** - UCAS checks the personal statement and processes the application. Your child then receives a welcome email with their Personal ID and instructions to track progress.

**2) Application Sent to Universities** - Universities see the application but don't know where else your child has applied.

**3) Decisions Arrive** - Universities may request interviews, auditions, or tests. Once a decision is made, UCAS emails your child.

### Types of Decisions

Conditional offer - Place is offered if conditions (usually exam results) are met.

Unconditional offer - Place is guaranteed, though non-academic conditions may apply.

Unsuccessful or withdrawn - Application is declined or withdrawn.

### Replying to Offers

Your child chooses a firm and insurance option. Firm is their first choice; insurance is a backup if conditions aren't met. Make sure they:

- Understand the conditions
- Visit the university if possible
- Check tuition fees and support for individual needs

# DEADLINE FOR 2026 ENTRY



NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Last  
decision  
received on  
or before  
31 March  
2026**

Their reply date  
is 6 May 2026  
unless they're  
using Extra to  
find a place.

**Last  
decision  
received on  
or before  
13 May  
2026**

Their reply date  
is 3 June 2026  
unless they're  
using Extra to  
find a place.

**Last  
decision  
received on  
or before  
15 July  
2026**

Their reply date  
is 22 July 2026.

## How You Can Help

Choosing a firm and insurance offer can be tricky. You can be a valuable sounding board by discussing:

- What they want from the course and university experience
- How the offers align with their long-term goals and preferences
- Recent changes in their interests or plans that might affect their choice.

Supporting your child through this stage helps them make informed, confident decisions and ensures they are ready for the next step in their education journey.



NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Clinical Skills  
Centre



# RECENT EVENTS

## YEAR 13 HEALTH ALIVE EVENT

Our fantastic Year 13 Health & Social Care students had an inspiring day at the Health Alive event at Northumbria University!

They explored hands-on activities, met industry professionals, and gained valuable insights into career pathways across health, care, and clinical sectors. A huge well done to our students for representing the school so brilliantly!

## YEAR 10 HISTORY INDUSTRY VISIT

Our students interested in history related careers visited National Trust Seaton Delaval Hall, exploring how history is brought to life through conservation, curation, and heritage management. Students heard about roles such as:

- Heritage conservation
- Archiving & collections
- Interpretation & exhibition design
- Visitor engagement & education
- 

It was a brilliant opportunity for students to see just how many pathways the subject can open whether you love storytelling, research, architecture, art, or working with people.

A big thank-you to the team at Seaton Delaval Hall for welcoming us and sharing their expertise.



NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# RECENT EVENTS



## ENGINEERING SKILLS ACADEMY VISIT TO AKZONOBEL

Today our Engineering Skills Academy students had the incredible opportunity to visit Akzo Nobel, one of the four employers leading the way in our trailblazing Skills Pathway!

Students enjoyed a fascinating factory tour, gaining first-hand insight into how innovation and engineering drive success at Akzo Nobel. They also took part in an engaging workshop exploring the brand's rich history, core values, and global impact.

Experiences like this inspire the next generation of engineers, connecting classroom learning with real-world industry practice.

A huge thank you to Akzo Nobel for welcoming our students and supporting their journey into future careers!





NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# RECENT EVENTS

## FINANCE INDUSTRY INSIGHT VISIT TO DELOITTE

Our Y10s stepped into the world of finance and accountancy today with an inspiring visit to Deloitte LLP!

They discovered what it's like to work at one of the world's leading firms and learned about the many career routes in business, finance, and beyond.

**Huge thanks to  
Deloitte for an event  
full of insight and  
inspiration!**





NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# RECENT EVENTS



## GIRLS EXPLORE CYBER SECURITY AT ST JAMES' PARK

Year 8 students at St James' Park enjoyed an exciting day exploring cyber security, thanks to Sage, several leading employers, and the Newcastle United Foundation.

Through interactive workshops and hands-on activities, students learned about protecting data, preventing cybercrime, and career opportunities in tech. Industry professionals shared inspiring stories and practical advice, encouraging young women to consider STEM careers.

The event was fun, engaging, and educational, leaving students motivated and excited about the possibilities in cyber security and technology.

Thank you to the  
staff at St James'  
Park!





# SPOTLIGHT LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

How Labour Market Information can help  
with career decisions...

Labour Market Information (LMI) provides a snapshot of trends in jobs, industries, pay, and skills. While it reflects averages and general patterns, LMI can help your child:

- Explore careers from different angles
- Understand what jobs involve day-to-day
- Learn which skills or qualifications are needed
- Identify which sectors are growing or declining

## WHAT ARE THE KEY SECTORS IN THE NORTH EAST?

This month we will focus on tourism.

A major leisure and tourism sector in the region - including urban and rural assets, two World Heritage Sites, a National Park and the Gateshead Quays development; with over 48 million visitors per year to the region.

To consider - which tourist attractions are close to our school? Is this a place your child could visit and find out about what job roles are available?

### Tourism

Conservator, events manager, museum attendant, resort representative





NCEA DUKE'S  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# USEFUL RESOURCES

## Talking Futures

Talking Futures is a suite of resources delivered by The Gatsby Charitable Foundation that can support parents and carers to have constructive careers and education conversations with their young people. The website outlines post-16 and post-18 options, including technical pathways and apprenticeships which may be less familiar, and provides structured activities to help families to start talking more about careers.

Resources can be found here; <https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/>