



SUMMER EDITION

DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

THEME OF THE MONTH

THE END OF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC YEAR!

DEVELOP ENTREPRENEURIAL AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

WORK EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

THE END OF AN ERA FOR SIXTH FORM AT DUKE'S

RESULTS DAY: SAVE THE DATE

READ NOW





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SECONDARY SCHOOL



CAREERS

AT DUKE'S SECONDARY

The end to another successful
academic year!

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the progress our students have made in their careers education and thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

This year has been filled with valuable opportunities for students to explore their future pathways, develop essential employability skills, and gain a greater understanding of the wide range of careers available to them. From employer encounters and workplace experiences to careers lessons, assemblies, and further education guidance, students have engaged positively with activities designed to help them make informed decisions about their futures.

In this final careers newsletter of the year, we look back on some of the key highlights from this term and achievements from our careers programme, recognise the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students, and share information about the summer results days for our Year 11 and 13 students. We are proud of the progress our young people have made and look forward to continuing to support them as they take the next steps on their career journeys.

We hope you enjoy reading about the many successes of the past year and join us in celebrating all that our students have achieved.

YEAR 7

Develop Entrepreneurial and Employability Skills

This term, Year 7 students took part in two exciting enterprise events designed to develop their employability and entrepreneurial skills.

In The Big Idea workshop, delivered in partnership with Dell, students worked in teams to create a social enterprise and design an innovative technology product before pitching their ideas for funding. The programme helped students develop valuable skills including teamwork, leadership, communication, creativity, problem-solving, and presentation skills.

Students also participated in an Entrepreneurial Skills Event with Bright Futures, where they tackled a real-world business challenge. Through activities such as Festival Frenzy: Calculated Risk, Smart Choices, students worked collaboratively to make strategic decisions, balancing risk and reward while developing their teamwork, communication, and decision-making skills.

Both events provided valuable opportunities for students to gain an insight into business and enterprise while building skills that will support them in their future careers.





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YEAR 8 & 9

Educational Visits...

Our Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting employer visit to the Port of Blyth, one of the largest employers in our local area. Based at the Energy Central Learning Hub, students had the opportunity to learn more about the wide range of careers available within the port and the industries it supports.

Throughout the day, students explored the port facilities and took part in engaging workshops focused on engineering, renewable energy, and STEM-related careers. The visit provided valuable insight into the skills, qualifications, and career pathways available in these growing sectors.

The experience helped students connect their learning in school to real-world careers and highlighted the exciting opportunities available within our region's thriving energy and engineering industries.

Year 9 students took part in an inspiring visit to the University of Sunderland. The aim of the visit was to increase students' awareness of Higher Education and raise aspirations by giving them a first-hand experience of university life.

During the day, students attended a welcome talk, enjoyed a guided campus tour, and took part in interactive activities including a Student Life workshop and a Rocket Cars challenge. These sessions encouraged students to explore the opportunities available through Higher Education while developing their teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the visit, students also had the chance to meet student ambassadors and hear about their personal journeys to university. Their experiences provided valuable insight into university life and helped students understand the different pathways available to them after school.





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YEAR 10

Work Experience Success

We were over the moon to see nearly 130 of our Year 10 students secure in-person work experience placements across a wide range of sectors this year. From engineering and healthcare to primary education, hair and beauty, and many more industries, students gained valuable insight into the world of work and experienced the day-to-day realities of different careers.

Work experience provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop key employability skills, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, time management, professionalism, and resilience. Students also built their confidence, expanded their understanding of workplace expectations, and explored potential future career pathways.

Students who were unable to complete an in-person placement demonstrated excellent independence and commitment by undertaking virtual work experience programmes with the NHS, Asda, Hubspot, and the Metropolitan Police. These programmes enabled students to develop their independent learning skills while gaining valuable knowledge about a variety of career sectors.

We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude and enthusiasm shown by all of our Year 10 students and thank the many employers who supported this important opportunity.





You don't have to travel far to get ahead

YEAR 13

The End of an Era for Sixth Form at Duke's

As we come to the end of the academic year, we also mark the end of an era for Sixth Form at Duke's.

Following the closure of the Sixth Form in summer 2026, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our final cohort of Year 13 students.

The Class of 2026 has been an outstanding group of young people who have demonstrated resilience, ambition, and determination throughout their time with us. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Over 40% of students are planning to progress to university, with destinations including both local institutions and those further afield, such as Edge Hill University. Others have secured exciting apprenticeship opportunities, including positions in NHS Dental Nursing and accountancy, while many are pursuing a range of other pathways into employment and training.

We thank our Year 13 students for the contribution they have made to Sixth Form life at Duke's and wish them every happiness and success as they begin the next chapter of their journeys.



Year 11 Results Day

Year 11 Results Day:
The main school atrium at
9.30am on
Thursday 20th August. School
will close for the collection of
results at **11.30am.**



Year 13 Results Day

Year 13 Results Day:
Thursday 13th August 2025.
between 8.30am and
10.30am

