



Life after Laurus

Careers Newsletter

January 2026 – April 2026

Across our schools, we are committed to delivering a high-quality careers programme aligned with the **Gatsby Benchmarks**, ensuring all students benefit from **meaningful encounters** with employers, employees and post-16 providers.

Through a range of talks, events and employer engagement opportunities, students are supported to explore different pathways, develop their understanding of the labour market, and make informed decisions about their future. **Here's what we've been up to...**

Year 9 Careers Workshop

January 2026 – Priestnall School

Year 9 students took part in an engaging careers workshop delivered by pladis McVitie's, gaining a real insight into the world of manufacturing and packaging.

Students explored the wide range of roles within this global organisation and developed their understanding of the skills required in this **future-focused industry**, helping them to consider potential career pathways beyond the classroom.



People Who Help Us Event

14 January 2026 – Cheadle Hulme High School

Students met professionals from Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and Greater Manchester Police, gaining valuable insight into careers that support the community.

A range of NHS roles were represented, including a Senior Sister, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurse, and Clinical Skills Facilitator. Students explored what a typical day looks like, the skills required, and pathways into these careers.

Interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities – including trying on theatre scrubs – helped bring these roles to life and made the experience both engaging and memorable.



National Apprenticeship Week

Week Commencing 9 February 2026 – Trust Wide

Students took part in a series of live talks and virtual events, exploring a range of apprenticeship pathways and career opportunities.

Guest speakers included:

The GMCA Apprenticeship Team, Manchester Metropolitan University, Macclesfield College, and Myton Food Group, giving students insight into the careers landscape, degree apprenticeships and real-life apprenticeship journeys.



Mott MacDonald Apprenticeship Visit

February 2026 – Laurus Rycroft

As part of **National Apprenticeship Week**, students visited the Manchester offices of Mott MacDonald, gaining a valuable insight into real apprenticeship pathways through the DEC (Design Engineer Construct) programme.

Students toured the offices and took part in a **speed networking session** with apprentices and professionals, learning about routes from Level 2 through to degree and master's level while earning. The visit also highlighted exciting opportunities available through the Trust's partnership, including priority access to apprenticeships and guaranteed interviews for DEC Award achievers.



Inspiring Girls into STEM

11 February 2026 – Cheadle Hulme High School & Laurus Cheadle Hulme

A group of Year 9 students attended the **Another Way: Inspiring Girls into STEM** event at Manchester Science Park, gaining valuable insight into careers within STEM.

Students had the opportunity to **meet inspiring role models** and explore the wide range of pathways available in science, technology, engineering and maths, helping to broaden their aspirations and challenge stereotypes.



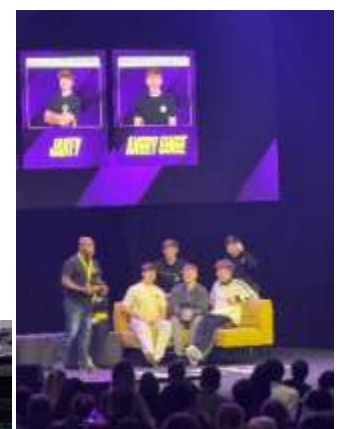
Industry Insight Event – JD UP

25 February 2026 – Laurus Cheadle Hulme and Laurus Rycroft

Year 10 students attended the JD UP careers and inspiration event at Manchester Central, gaining valuable insight into a wide range of career pathways within a global brand.

Students explored opportunities across areas such as retail, law, finance, technology, logistics, marketing and design, and heard directly from **industry professionals**, including business founders.

The event provided an inspiring opportunity to experience the world of work beyond the classroom and encouraged students to think more confidently about their future pathways.



National Careers Week

Week Commencing 2 March 2026 – Trust Wide

Students took part in a series of live talks and virtual events, exploring a wide range of careers and pathways.

Guest speakers included:

Emma O’Sullivan (TV Production), Max Preston, and Kate Hawker shared their experiences, helping students gain insight into different industries and career journeys.

Building Futures Workshop

March 2026 – Laurus Rycroft

As part of **National Careers Week**, Year 10 students took part in the annual *Learn to Earn* workshop delivered by Young Enterprise, focusing on developing key employability skills and future planning.

Through a range of interactive activities, students explored goal setting, financial awareness and the skills needed for life after school, helping them to better understand their options and prepare for their next steps beyond Laurus.

Industry Insight Event – Who Am I?

5 March 2026 – Cheadle Hulme High School

Year 8 students had the opportunity to meet a range of professionals and learn about their working lives through an interactive “Who Am I?” activity.

By asking questions and using clues, students worked to guess each professional’s role, making it a fun and engaging way to explore a wide range of careers, develop their questioning skills, and challenge common stereotypes.

Professionals included:

BBC journalist; CEO of Collectiv; Senior Electrical Engineer (Mace); Team Manager (Stockport Council); Licensed Aircraft Engineer; Prison Offender Manager; Head of Data Architecture; Head of Procurement (Stockport NHS FT).



Industry Insight Event – Quiz an Engineer

3 March 2026 – Cheadle Hulme High School

Year 9 and 10 students from CHHS and LCH had the opportunity to hear from inspiring engineers from the local community, including former student Emily. After studying MEng Avionic Systems at the University of Liverpool, Emily is now a Senior Software and Systems Engineer working on robotic and autonomous systems.

Through an **engaging Q&A session**, students were able to ask questions about careers in engineering, gaining valuable insight into day-to-day roles, skills and pathways into the industry. This event helped bring career pathways to life and show students what is possible for their future.



Industry Insight Event – Who Am I?

20 March 2026 – Laurus Cheadle Hulme

Year 8 students took part in an engaging “Who Am I?” careers event, where they asked thoughtful questions to uncover the roles and job titles of visiting professionals.

This interactive session provided a fantastic opportunity for students to explore careers within the local area, spark curiosity, and begin thinking about their future pathways.

Professionals included:

Registered Team Manager (Stockport Council); Housing Support Team Leader (Stockport Homes); Care Manager (Quality Care of Cheadle); Health, Safety & Environment Manager (Harmen Technology Ltd); Assistant Manager/Recruitment Consultant (Vision for Education); CEO (KINESSO); Assistant Director of Estates and Asset Management (Stockport Council); Co-owner (Outside the Box Board Game Café).



Industry Insight Event – North West Tech Talent Experience Day

18 March 2026 – Laurus Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle Hulme High School & Hazel Grove High School

Year 8 students attended the North West Tech Talent Experience Day at ANS Group in Manchester, engaging with employers including Manchester Airport Group, BAE Systems, Siemens, Microsoft and the University of Salford.

Through a series of **interactive workshops and Q&A sessions**, students gained hands-on experience and explored how key skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and communication are used within the tech industry, helping them to better understand future career opportunities.

Industry Insight Event – Inspiring Girls into STEM

26 March 2026 – Hazel Grove High School

Year 9 students took part in **Another Way: Inspiring Girls into STEM**, an engaging and thought-provoking session delivered by Laura Stringer and Christine Edge, founders of **ARC Mindset**.

The session featured a digital panel alongside an **interactive booklet activity**, designed to deepen students’ understanding of the wide range of career pathways within STEM industries. Through real-life insights and practical exploration, students were encouraged to consider the importance of representation and the role it plays in inspiring more girls to pursue opportunities in STEM.



McLaren Racing Visit

March 2026 – Laurus Ryecroft

Students were inspired by a visit from a graduate engineer at the McLaren Formula One Team, gaining first-hand insight into careers at the highest level of motorsport.

Through assemblies and **interactive sessions**, students explored the wide range of roles within Formula 1, from engineering and data science to logistics and sustainability. The visit also highlighted the skills and qualities needed to succeed in this fast-paced industry, helping students to see how their learning can translate into real-world careers.



Snap Inc. Guest Speaker

March 2026 – Laurus Ryecroft

Computer Science students were inspired by a visit from a guest speaker at Snap Inc., who shared his journey into the tech industry and the challenges he overcame along the way.

Students from across the Trust took part in an **engaging session**, asking thoughtful questions and gaining valuable insight into careers in technology and future pathways within the industry.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the exciting careers opportunities across the Trust. We're proud of the experiences our students continue to access, and we look forward to sharing more in our next newsletter.