



St. Anne's Catholic High School

Careers Newsletter

Supporting Your Child's Future • Spring 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the **Spring Careers Newsletter**. It is designed to help parents and carers understand the opportunities available to students at St. Anne's and how you can support your child as they begin to think about their future.

Our **careers education programme** supports students in exploring career pathways, developing essential employability skills and making **informed decisions about their future education and employment opportunities**. The programme is designed in line with the **Gatsby Benchmarks**, ensuring students receive high-quality careers education and meaningful encounters with employers and further education providers.

Inside this newsletter you will find:

- Key careers events this term
- Information about **pathways after Year 11**
- Guidance on **apprenticeships, T Levels** and **university**
- Details about **Year 10 work experience**
- Useful online resources like **Careerpilot** and **Springpod**
- How parents can support career conversations at home

Parent Tip: Even **15 minutes a week discussing careers** with your child can help them develop confidence and awareness of future opportunities.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lee, Careers Leader

✉ leej@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk

Key Careers Dates This Term

22 April 2026 — Year 8 Careers Speed Networking Event

22–26 June 2026 — Year 10 Work Experience Week

18th, 19th & 22nd May — Year 9 Money Workshop

Throughout Spring and Summer Term — Careers lessons exploring career pathways, skills development and post-16 progression routes.

💡 Parent Tip

- ✓ Encourage your daughter to explore careers using **Careerpilot**.
- ✓ Support them in identifying possible work experience opportunities including virtual ones on **Springpod**.



Useful Careers Websites



Parents, carers and students may find these resources helpful:



National Careers Service
Careers advice and labour market information



UCAS
University applications and course information



National Apprenticeship Service
Search and apply for apprenticeships



Careerpilot
Careers exploration and post-16 pathways



Springpod
Virtual work experience opportunities

HAF Programme

Enfield Council HAF Programme (30 March – 10 April): Free holiday camps for students in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. Offers sports and creative activities with meals included.

Careers Education at St. Anne's

At St. Anne's, students take part in a **structured careers programme** that supports their personal and professional development from **Year 7 through Year 11**, helping them build confidence, explore opportunities, and plan for the future. Our programme is **aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks**, ensuring we follow nationally recognised best practice for careers education. The **full programme is available on the school website** for parents and students to view.

Year 7–8: Exploring the World of Work

- Introduction to careers and different industries.
- Skills development activities to build self-awareness and teamwork.
- Encounters with employers and career exploration events.
- Introduction to online careers platforms to research pathways.

Year 9: Preparing for GCSE Choices

- Guidance on GCSE options and subject choices.
- Career pathway exploration to align interests with potential careers.
- Opportunities to meet employers and professionals for insight and inspiration.

Year 10: Experiencing the Workplace

- Work experience placements to gain real-world understanding.
- Career exploration workshops to learn about different industries.
- Development of employability skills, such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving.

Year 11: Planning for Post-16

- Individual guidance meetings to discuss career and education options.
- Awareness of college, sixth form and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Support with post-16 progression and making informed choices.

Why This Matters

- The programme helps students develop **confidence, aspiration** and **awareness of future opportunities**
- Students gain **transferable skills** valued in all careers, such as problem-solving, communication and digital literacy.
- Parents can view the **full careers programme and resources online** to support their child's planning.



Cybersecurity Analyst

Cybersecurity is one of the **fastest growing career sectors in the UK**. Cybersecurity analysts help protect organisations from digital threats by monitoring networks, investigating incidents and managing data security. They play a vital role in keeping businesses, schools, hospitals and government services safe online.

Skills Required

- **Problem solving:** identifying and addressing security risks.
- **Technical knowledge:** understanding networks, software and cybersecurity tools.
- **Attention to detail:** spotting anomalies and vulnerabilities.
- **Communication:** explaining risks and solutions to both technical and non-technical colleagues.

Possible Pathways

- Degree in computer science, cybersecurity or IT.
- Digital or technology apprenticeships.

Labour Market Insight (UK)

- **Demand:** Around 2,700 cyber jobs advertised monthly in the UK, with cybersecurity analysts among the most sought-after roles (gov.uk).
- **Skills Gap:** Nearly half of UK businesses report shortages in basic cyber skills, creating opportunities for students who build technical experience early.
- **Salaries:** Entry-level roles pay around £40-50K, mid-level analysts earn £55-75K and senior specialists can earn £90K+. London and remote roles often offer higher pay.
- **Career Outlook:** The cybersecurity career sector is booming. While competition for entry-level roles is strong, practical experience, apprenticeships and certifications can give students a head start.

Why Consider This Career?

- Cybersecurity analysts are at the frontline of digital safety. With ongoing demand across all industries, students who develop technical skills and pursue relevant pathways can build a secure, well-paid and future-proof career.



The Changing World of Work

The world of work is evolving rapidly due to advances in technology, automation and environmental innovation. Many future careers will require new skills and knowledge, and the jobs of tomorrow may look very different from those of today.

Growing Industries in the UK

Here are some sectors that are expanding and in demand, along with example roles and typical starting salaries:

Industry:	Healthcare & Medical Science
Roles:	<i>Nurse, Biomedical Scientist, Public Health Analyst</i>
Skills Needed:	Communication, problem-solving, teamwork
Starting Salary (UK):	£21,000–£28,000
Industry:	Cybersecurity & Digital Technology
Roles:	<i>Cybersecurity Analyst, Penetration Tester, IT Security Consultant</i>
Skills Needed:	Digital literacy, problem-solving, attention to detail
Starting Salary (UK):	£40,000–£50,000
Industry:	Engineering & Construction
Roles:	<i>Civil Engineer, Robotics Technician, Project Manager</i>
Skills Needed:	Problem-solving, teamwork, technical knowledge
Starting Salary (UK):	£28,000–£35,000
Industry:	Renewable Energy & Sustainability
Roles:	<i>Solar Engineer, Sustainability Consultant, Environmental Scientist</i>
Skills Needed:	Creativity, adaptability, technical knowledge
Starting Salary (UK):	£25,000–£35,000
Industry:	Creative Digital Industries
Roles:	<i>Animator, Game Designer, Social Media Manager</i>
Skills Needed:	Creativity, communication, digital literacy
Starting Salary (UK):	£22,000–£30,000

Note: Salaries vary by location, experience, and employer. London and high-demand sectors may offer higher pay.

Skills That Employers Value



Employers increasingly value transferable skills that can be developed through **lessons, projects, group work, extracurricular activities** and **part-time experiences**:

- **Communication** – sharing ideas clearly and listening to others
- **Problem solving** – thinking critically and finding solutions
- **Teamwork** – working effectively with others
- **Creativity** – developing new ideas and approaches
- **Organisation** – managing time, meeting deadlines
- **Digital literacy** – using technology safely, efficiently
- **Adaptability** – being flexible and open to change

Mapping Skills to Careers:

- **Digital literacy** → Cybersecurity, Creative digital, Engineering
- **Communication** → Healthcare, Renewable energy, All sectors
- **Problem-solving** → Engineering, Sustainability projects, IT

💡 Parent Tip

Help your child develop these skills by encouraging them:

- To participate in **clubs, sports or creative activities**
- To take on **responsibilities at home**
- To try new **experiences and challenges**

Why This Matters

These opportunities help build confidence and prepare young people for future education and careers. Understanding which careers are in demand helps them make informed choices for GCSEs, post-16 pathways and beyond.

Pathways After Year 11



After completing their GCSEs, students have several progression pathways available. Each pathway offers different styles of learning and opportunities, allowing young people to choose the route that best suits their interests, strengths and future goals.

A-Level

A Levels are **academic qualifications** usually studied over two years. Students typically choose **three or four subjects** to study in depth. Both school sixth forms and further education colleges offer A Level courses.

A Levels are often chosen by students who enjoy **subject-focused learning** and may wish to progress to **university, higher education, or professional careers**.

T-LEVELS

T Levels are **two-year technical qualifications** that combine classroom learning with a **minimum 45-day industry placement** with an employer. They are designed for students who prefer **practical learning linked directly to careers** and want to develop **industry-specific skills**. T Levels are mainly offered by **further education colleges and specialist providers**.

Subjects currently include:

- Digital production and technology
- Health and healthcare science
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Construction and design

Students completing T Levels may progress to:

- University
- Higher apprenticeships
- Skilled employment

Apprenticeships **combine paid employment with structured training** and allow students to **earn while they learn**. Apprentices work for an employer while studying towards a recognised qualification.

Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of sectors including *Engineering, Finance and Business, Healthcare, Information Technology and Creative Media and Marketing*. Higher and degree apprenticeships can lead to qualifications equivalent to university degrees.

Higher-level apprenticeships can be highly competitive, so early preparation and strong applications are key.

Apprenticeships are available at different levels:

- **Level 2** – GCSE equivalent
- **Level 3** – A Level equivalent
- **Level 4–5** – Higher apprenticeship
- **Level 6–7** – Degree apprenticeship

Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships are often delivered through **further education colleges or training providers**, alongside employment with a company.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Vocational courses are **practical qualifications** designed to develop **industry-specific knowledge and skills**. These courses prepare students for **employment, apprenticeships, or further study**. These courses are typically offered by **further education colleges or specialist training providers**.

Examples include areas such as:

- Health and Social Care
- Engineering
- Construction
- Creative Media
- Business

Parent Tip

Encourage your child to **research different pathways** and think about which style of learning suits them best — academic, practical, or work-based. Speaking with **teachers, careers advisers, and attending college open events** can help students make informed decisions about their next steps.



GCSE Subjects & Future Careers

GCSE subject choices can influence future career pathways. While students do not need to decide on a specific career at this stage, selecting subjects they enjoy and are motivated by can help keep a wide range of options open for the future.

Many careers require particular subjects at **A-level or further study**, so GCSE choices can sometimes shape the options available later. Encouraging students to choose a balanced mix of subjects they enjoy and perform well in is often the best approach.

Examples include:

- **Science** → Medicine, healthcare, engineering, environmental science
- **Computer Science** → Cybersecurity, software development, artificial intelligence, data science
- **Art & Design** → Graphic design, architecture, animation, fashion
- **Languages** → International business, travel and tourism, diplomacy, translation
- **Business Studies** → Marketing, entrepreneurship, finance, management

It is also important to remember that many careers are **flexible**, and there are often different routes to reach the same goal.

Parent Tip

Ask your child:

- Which subjects do you enjoy most at school?
- Which subjects do you feel confident in?
- What kind of problems do you enjoy solving?

Discussing interests and strengths can help young people start thinking about possible future pathways without feeling pressured to make early decisions.

Where to Find Careers Information

Parents and students can explore career ideas using trusted websites such as:

-  **The National Careers Service**
-  **BBC Bitesize Careers**
-  **Prospects (UK)**

These resources provide information about job roles, skills needed, and possible education routes

Year 9 GCSE Options: Supporting Your Child



For many students, **Year 9 is the time when they choose their GCSE subjects**. This can feel like a big decision, but it is important to remember that these choices are just **one step in a longer journey**.

Most schools offer a **core set of compulsory subjects**, usually including **English, Maths and Science**, with additional option subjects chosen based on interests and strengths.

When supporting your child with GCSE choices, encourage them to:

- Choose subjects they **enjoy and are motivated to study**
- Consider subjects they **perform well in**
- Think about subjects that might help with **future interests or career ideas**
- Keep a **balanced set of subjects** where possible

It is also helpful to attend **school options evenings, information sessions, or careers events**, where teachers can explain how different subjects may link to future study and careers.

Parent Tip

Remind your child that **GCSE choices do not lock them into a single career path**. Many careers have **multiple entry routes**, and interests can change as students learn more about different subjects and opportunities.

Open conversations at home about **skills, interests and future possibilities** can help students feel more confident when making their choices.

Careers Support at St. Anne's

💡 Did You Know?



At St. Anne's, we are committed to helping every student explore their interests, develop key skills and make informed decisions about their future. Students can access a range of careers support throughout their time at school, including:

- **Careers lessons** – helping students learn about different pathways, skills and future opportunities
- **Employer encounters and events** – meeting professionals and learning about different industries
- **Work experience placements** – gaining valuable insight into the workplace
- **Online careers platforms** – such as Careerpivot, where students can research careers and plan their next steps
- **Individual careers guidance interviews** – one-to-one support to help students discuss their interests, options and future goals

We encourage parents and carers to talk with their child about their career ideas and future plans. These conversations can play an important role in helping young people feel confident about their next steps.

If you have any questions about careers education or opportunities for your child, please contact **Mrs J Lee, Careers Lead at St. Anne's** at:

✉ leej@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk

📖 Around **half of today's students will work in jobs that don't yet exist**, which is why developing skills like teamwork, communication and problem-solving is so important.

🔧 There are more than **600 different apprenticeship pathways** in the UK, covering industries such as engineering, healthcare, digital technology, construction and business.

💻 Digital and technology careers are some of the **fastest growing job sectors**, with roles in areas like cybersecurity, game design and artificial intelligence.

🌍 Many future jobs will focus on **sustainability and protecting the environment**, including careers in renewable energy, environmental science and green construction.

📚 Employers often say that **attitude, reliability and communication skills** are just as important as qualifications.

🗨️ Talking about careers at home can make a big difference. Students who regularly discuss their future plans with parents or carers are **more confident when making education and career choices**.

Supporting Your Child's Career Journey

Parents and carers are the **single biggest influence** on young people's career choices. Simple ways to support your child include:

- ✓ Talk about your own career journey
- ✓ Encourage curiosity about different jobs
- ✓ Explore career websites together
- ✓ Visit open days or career events
- ✓ Encourage part-time work or volunteering

Small conversations can help students **build confidence and motivation for the future**.

Careers education helps students explore opportunities, understand their strengths and begin planning their future pathways.

Together we can help students **discover their strengths, explore opportunities, and build exciting futures.**

Careers Support at St. Anne's

Careers Updates at St. Anne's

Year 8 Careers Speed Networking



On Wednesday 22nd April 2026, Year 8 students will take part in a **Careers Speed Networking event**, meeting professionals from a variety of industries and asking questions about their careers.

Benefits for Students:

- **Discover new career pathways:** Exposure to a wide range of roles helps students explore options they may not have considered.
- **Understand workplace expectations:** Students learn what employers value in terms of skills, behaviour, and professionalism.
- **Build confidence speaking with professionals:** Practising conversations with industry representatives develops communication and networking skills.

Benefits for Parents:

- Gain insight into **what students are learning about careers and workplace expectations.**
- Understand **current trends and growing industries** that may guide future GCSE or post-16 choices.
- Provides **talking points to support career conversations at home**, helping children reflect on interests and skills.
- Opportunity to encourage your child to **think proactively about their future pathways and aspirations.**

How Parents Can Support:

- Encourage students to **prepare thoughtful questions** for the professionals they will meet.
- Discuss the event afterwards to reflect on what they learned and which careers sparked their interest.

Year 10 Work Experience Week

All Year 10 students will complete a week-long work experience placement from 22nd–26th June 2026.

Benefits of Year 10 Work Experience A Parents' Guide

1. Real-World Insight

- ✓ Students gain **first-hand experience of a workplace**, helping them understand what different jobs and industries involve.
- ✓ They learn about **day-to-day responsibilities**, work culture, and employer expectations.

2. Development of Key Skills

- ✓ **Communication:** Interacting with colleagues and supervisors improves verbal and professional communication.
- ✓ **Teamwork:** Collaborating on tasks fosters cooperation and adaptability.
- ✓ **Problem-solving:** Students face real-life scenarios that require initiative and decision-making.
- ✓ **Time management and organisation:** Meeting deadlines and planning tasks builds essential life skills.

3. Career Exploration and Motivation

- ✓ Work experience allows students to **explore career interests** before making GCSE or post-16 decisions.
- ✓ It can **inspire future career goals** or highlight skills they may want to develop further.

4. Confidence and Independence

- ✓ Being in a professional setting helps students **build confidence** in themselves and their abilities.
- ✓ They learn to **take responsibility for their actions** and gain independence in a safe, structured way.

5. Strengthening College/Job Applications

- ✓ Students can reference their work experience on **future CVs, college applications, and apprenticeship interviews.**
- ✓ It demonstrates **proactive engagement, responsibility, and initiative**, qualities highly valued by employers and educational institutions.

How Parents Can Support:

- ✓ Help students **identify suitable placements** based on their interests.
- ✓ Encourage them to **contact employers early** and prepare for the placement.
- ✓ Discuss their **experiences afterwards**, reflecting on what they learned and the skills they developed.

Careers Support at St. Anne's

Year 9 Money Workshop Building Financial Confidence



In Year 9, students at St. Anne's participate in a **Money Workshop facilitated by The Money Charity**, giving them practical skills and knowledge to manage money wisely. This interactive session introduces students to **real-life financial situations** and helps them develop confidence in making informed financial decisions.

Benefits for Students:

- **Understanding personal finance:** Students learn about budgeting, saving, and managing money effectively.
- **Developing decision-making skills:** They explore how to make choices about spending, saving, and prioritising needs versus wants.
- **Building financial resilience:** Students gain strategies to cope with unexpected expenses and plan for the future.
- **Practical life skills:** Knowledge gained in the workshop supports everyday financial decisions, part-time work, and preparation for post-16 education.
- **Confidence and independence:** By practicing real-life financial scenarios, students feel more capable of managing their own money responsibly.

Parent Tip

Encourage your child to share what they learned in the workshop and discuss how they might use these skills in their daily life. This can help reinforce their understanding and confidence.

Springpod[®]

 **Springpod** provides virtual work experience opportunities with employers in a wide variety of industry sectors.

As such, students can complete **short work experience programmes** in areas such as:

- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Law
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Media

Programmes typically take 5–10 hours and provide certificates.

Students can:

- ✓ Complete industry tasks
- ✓ Attend webinars with professionals
- ✓ Develop professional skills
- ✓ Gain experience of applications

Exam Revision Support

Exams can feel challenging, but consistent revision helps students feel prepared and confident.

Helpful strategies include:

- ✓ Creating a weekly revision timetable
- ✓ Studying in short focused sessions
- ✓ Using flashcards and practice questions
- ✓ Completing past exam papers
- ✓ Taking regular breaks

Healthy habits such as **sleep, exercise and balanced nutrition** also support learning.

Parent Tip

Ask your child what they learned today rather than focusing only on what they revised.

Opportunities and Resources

Careerpilot

 **Careerpilot** is an online careers information and planning platform designed for students aged 11–19, as well as parents and teachers. It provides clear, impartial information about different career pathways, including GCSE choices, post-16 options, apprenticeships, further education and university routes.

The platform helps students explore their interests, learn about different job sectors, and understand the steps they need to take to achieve their future career goals.

At school, we actively promote **Careerpilot** as part of our careers programme. Students are introduced to the platform and create their own accounts during careers education lessons so they can explore career ideas and record their interests and achievements.

Parents can also use the site to access reliable information and support conversations at home about future education and career pathways, helping students make informed decisions about their next steps.

Careerpilot helps students:

- ✓ Explore careers based on interests and skills
- ✓ Compare post-16 pathways
- ✓ Research university courses
- ✓ Access labour market information

Parents can ask students to show their **Careerpilot dashboard** and discuss the careers they are exploring.



SPEAKERS for schools

 **Speakers for Schools** offers **employer work experience placements** with organisations including:

- ✓ NHS organisations
- ✓ Media companies
- ✓ Law firms
- ✓ Banks and professional services firms

Students can apply independently.

University Outreach & Taster Programmes

SOAS University of London – Year 10 Outreach Summer School

 23rd–27th June (annual programme)
 SOAS London campus

Students:

- ✓ Attend interactive lectures and workshops
- ✓ Complete group projects
- ✓ Learn about subjects including law, politics, economics and culture
- ✓ Experience university learning and campus life

Students can apply individually without their school.

 www.soas.ac.uk

HEON Higher Education Taster Days (Years 9–11)

 Events run throughout the academic year
 Various universities across the UK

Students can:

- ✓ Experience university-style lectures
- ✓ Meet academics and university students
- ✓ Explore different subject areas and careers

These events are designed to introduce students to higher education pathways early.

 www.heon.org.uk/events/

Durham University – Schools' Science Festival (Years 9-10)

 Usually held during Easter holidays
 Durham University

Students take part in:

- ✓ Hands-on science activities
- ✓ Workshops led by researchers
- ✓ STEM career exploration sessions

 www.durham.ac.uk



Current Opportunities

Live Virtual Allied Healthcare Work Experience

Sunday 12th April from 9:30am - 5pm



Students will gain an intimate look at the healthcare industry in the LIVE virtual work experience, delving into diverse roles within allied healthcare and taking a closer look at patient care by following the journeys of two patients from incident through to treatment.

The NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience is the largest programme for aspiring healthcare professionals, having successfully invited over 12,000 students to participate in its programme last academic year — many of which have gone on to study:

- ✓ Nursing
- ✓ Midwifery
- ✓ Paramedicine
- ✓ Physiotherapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Dietetics
- ✓ Radiography
- ✓ Prosthetics and Orthotics
- ✓ Speech and Language Therapy
- ✓ Pharmacy

Registration Link:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

Places are £10 a session to cover administrative and technological costs, or £50 for the full 6 months (6 sessions).

Students can register at any time throughout the 6-month programme. We recommend booking early to gain as much from this programme as possible.

Once registered, students will receive access to their virtual work experience portals. Better yet, every complete session comes with a Work Experience Certificate, and for those who complete the full 6-month programme, there's a Highly Commended Reference – a golden ticket for their apprenticeship and UCAS applications.

Registration will start at 9:30am, then the live work experience session starts at 10am, with an end at 5pm. Plenty of breaks are scheduled throughout.

NHS Work Experience Opportunities



Applications usually open during the Spring for Summer placements.

Students can:

- ✓ Shadow healthcare professionals
- ✓ Explore careers like nursing, physiotherapy, biomedical science
- ✓ Experience hospital environments

Placements are typically 1–5 days and available through NHS trusts.

Registration Link:

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/work-experience

Current Opportunities

Employer & Professional Services Opportunities



KPMG – Employability Booster: Personal Brand

📅 5th March 2026

🕒 4:00–5:00pm

🌐 Online

Students learn:

- What a professional personal brand is
- How to develop skills employers value
- How companies recruit apprentices
- Suitable for school and college students interested in business careers.

KPMG – Employability Booster: Resilience

📅 16th April 2026

🕒 4:00–5:00pm

🌐 Online

Students learn:

- What resilience in the workplace means
- Skills needed for professional careers
- How to prepare for applications and interviews.

🌐 www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/student-events/

Games Design Holiday Course (Ages 12–17)



Barnet and Southgate College is running an exciting **Games Design Holiday Course** for young people interested in gaming, creativity and digital skills. For students aged **12–17**.

During this hands-on course, students will explore how games and digital worlds are created from developing ideas and environments to understanding the creative processes behind animation, games design, and visual effects.

What students will experience:

- Introduction to world-building for games and animation
- Creating their own game environments and creative concepts
- Learning how animation, games design, and VFX work together
- Developing creative and digital design skills
- Working with specialist tutors in a real college creative environment

This course is a fantastic way for young people to explore the creative industries, try something new during the holidays, and discover potential future study pathways in games, animation, and digital media.

Course Dates:

🌐 **World Builders: 30 March 2026**

🌐 **World Builders: 7 April 2026**