



St. Anne's Catholic High School

# Careers Newsletter

December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to this term's Careers Newsletter! We are pleased to share the latest updates, guidance and opportunities to support students as they explore their next steps. Whether your child is beginning to think about future pathways or is actively preparing for college, apprenticeships or university applications, this newsletter aims to provide clear information and practical advice. We hope the resources included will help families feel informed and confident as students plan for life beyond school.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lee, Careers Leader

Email: [leej@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:leej@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk)



*The gift of love,  
of joy, of peace...  
May all these and  
more be yours this  
Christmas.*

## Share your Career Story!



At St. Anne's Catholic High School, we're always looking for ways to inspire our students to think about their futures. We'd love to hear from parents, carers or family members who could offer a short careers insight talk or take part in a careers-related workshop this year. You don't need to be a professional speaker – just someone willing to share what you do, how you got there, and what skills or experiences helped you along the way!

Getting involved is a great way to support our students' career learning and help them see the wide range of opportunities available after school.

### Who do I contact?

If you'd like to take part or are interested to find out more, please contact **Mrs Julie Lee, Careers Leader**, via email at [leej@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:leej@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk), or visit our careers page: [www.st-annes.enfield.sch.uk/careers](http://www.st-annes.enfield.sch.uk/careers) where you will find the link for the Parents & Carers Careers database sign up form.

## Holiday Fun & Social Activities

### Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) – Enfield

Free winter holiday-club sessions with activities, sports, and meals for eligible students.

Ages: 5–16



**More info**

### City of London Youth Programme – Hampstead Heath Outdoor Activities

Outdoor nature, wellbeing, and green-space activities during school holidays.

Ages: 13–25



**More info**



**Tip:**

Many of these programmes require early booking or eligibility checks (especially HAF). Make sure to contact the organisers soon to secure your spot!

# Sixth Form Applications

## Making Your Sixth Form Applications Tips for Students, Parents and Carers



Applying for Sixth Form is an exciting step, but it can also feel overwhelming. Here's a guide to help you prepare strong applications and make confident choices.

### 1. Start Early

- Research Sixth Forms you're interested in: subjects offered, facilities and enrichment opportunities.
- Check deadlines – some schools have early deadlines or interviews.
- Gather references, predicted grades and any supporting documents you might need.

### 2. Choose Your Subjects Wisely

- Pick subjects you enjoy and are strong in – Sixth Form is more demanding than GCSEs.
- Think about your future goals: certain subjects can open pathways to university courses or apprenticeships.
- Balance your workload – don't overload yourself with too many challenging subjects at once.

### 3. Write a Strong Personal Statement (if required)

- Introduce yourself and explain why you want to join that Sixth Form.
- Highlight your achievements, interests and extracurricular activities.
- Show your motivation: schools want students who are enthusiastic and committed.

### 4. Prepare for Interviews (if required)

- Research common interview questions: why you want to study specific subjects, your hobbies or long-term goals.
- Be polite, confident and clear – first impressions matter!
- Practice with a teacher, parent or friend to feel more confident.



### 5. Ask for Help

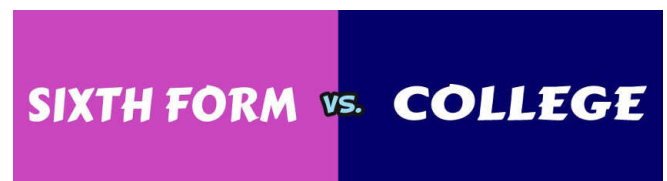
- Your teachers, careers advisors, or parents can provide feedback on your personal statement and application.
- Attend Sixth Form open days and virtual taster sessions to get a better idea of the environment and expectations.

### 6. Check Everything Before Submitting

- Make sure your application is complete and accurate.
- Double-check deadlines – missing a deadline could mean losing your place.
- Keep a copy for your records

## ✓ Resources & Links

- **UCAS Advice for Sixth Form** –  [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)
- **The Parents' Guide to Sixth Form Applications** –  [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)
- **Open Day Listings** – Check your chosen schools' websites for virtual or in-person tours.



## Which is right for you?

When thinking about what to do after Year 11, students often choose between Sixth Form and College. Here's a simple guide to help you understand the differences and benefits:

### Sixth Form

- **Where:** Usually attached to a secondary school.
- **Focus:** A-levels (academic subjects), sometimes vocational courses.
- **Environment:** Smaller, school-like setting; familiar teachers; structured timetable.
- **Benefits:**
  - Continuity from your current school – same environment and support network.
  - Smaller classes – more one-to-one support.
  - Good preparation for university, particularly if planning to take A-levels.
  - Extra-curricular activities like clubs, sports, and leadership opportunities.



# Sixth Form Applications

## College

- **Where:** Separate further education college.
- **Focus:** Wider range of courses including vocational qualifications, BTECs, T-levels, and A-levels.
- **Environment:** Larger, more independent; mix of students from many schools.
- **Benefits:**
  - More choice of courses and flexible pathways.
  - Opportunity to specialise in vocational or practical subjects.
  - Learn to manage your own timetable and gain independence.
  - Often more varied social and extracurricular activities.

## How to Decide

- Think about your **learning style**: Do you prefer smaller classes or a more independent environment?
- Consider your **career goals**: Academic (A-levels → university) vs Vocational/Practical (college courses → apprenticeships or work).
- Visit open days and talk to teachers, careers advisors or current students to see what fits you best.

## Things to Consider when making your Post-16 Subject Choices

Choosing what to study after Year 11 is an important step — it shapes your next few years and can influence your future career or university options. Here are some key things to think about before you decide:

### 1. Your Interests and Strengths

- Choose subjects you enjoy and are good at.
- You'll perform best when you're genuinely interested in what you're learning.
- Think about which lessons you look forward to — that's a good clue!

### 2. Future Career Plans

- Some careers require specific qualifications (e.g. Science A levels for medicine, Art and Design for creative fields).
- Use websites like the National Careers Service or UCAS to check what subjects or grades are needed for your dream job or course.

### 3. Course Requirements and Pathways

- If you're planning to go to university, check entry requirements early.
- If you're considering an apprenticeship or vocational course, find out which subjects or skills are valued.
- Attend open days and taster sessions to experience subjects firsthand.
- Speak to teachers, careers advisors, and current students about course content and workload.

### 4. Workload and Difficulty

- Be realistic about how demanding each subject is and whether you can manage the combined workload over two years.

### 5. Quality of Teaching and Course Content

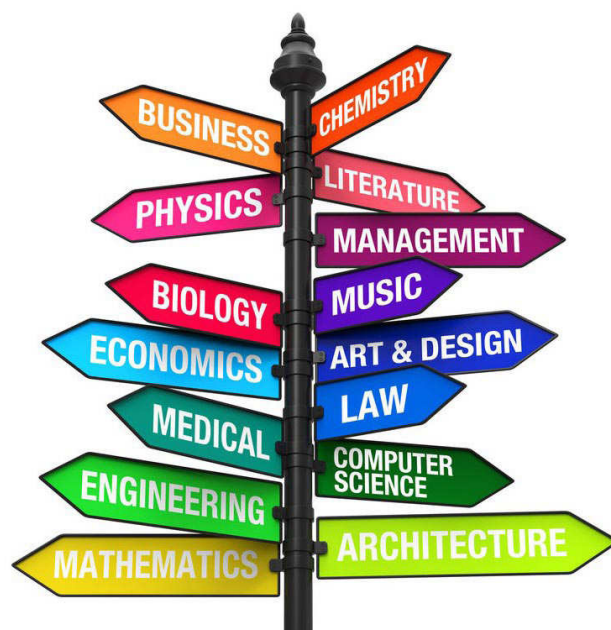
- Look into what each subject actually covers and, if possible, speak to teachers or current students to understand the teaching style and expectations.

### 6. Check Entry Requirements

- Some Sixth Forms or Colleges require minimum grades for certain subjects.
- Make sure you meet the criteria before selecting your courses.

### ✓ Quick Tips

- Make a list of must-have subjects and optional subjects.
- Look at your predicted GCSE grades to guide choices.
- Ask questions — teachers and careers advisors are there to help.



# Sixth Form Applications

## Helping with Subject Choices



Parents play a key role in supporting students through subject choices and the application process. Here's how you can help:

### 1. Discuss Interests & Strengths

- Encourage conversations about your child's passions and strengths.
- Help them reflect on GCSE performance to make informed choices.

### 2. Research & Compare Options

- Attend Sixth Form or College open days with your child.
- Compare courses, teaching styles, facilities, and extra-curricular opportunities.

### 3. Guide on Future Goals

- Discuss career aspirations and the subjects needed for their chosen pathways (university or vocational).

### 4. Support Workload & Wellbeing

- Help your child create a balanced timetable.
- Encourage breaks, exercise, and stress management.

### 5. Application Support

- Proofread personal statements and applications.
- Help organize documents and track deadlines.
- Encourage and support your child during interviews or application steps without taking over.

#### 💡 Tip:

Active parental support, combined with student independence, helps your child feel confident and prepared to make the best choices for their future.

## 💡 Fun Career Facts to Share with Your Child



🎓 1. There are over 13,000 different job roles listed on the National Careers Service website – and new ones are being created all the time!

🌐 2. Today's young people are expected to have around 5–7 different careers during their working life – not just one!

💻 3. Over 80% of future jobs will involve digital skills, so learning to use technology confidently is a huge advantage.

🚀 4. Some of the most popular jobs of today didn't exist 10 years ago – think social media manager, drone operator, or app developer.

🏥 5. The NHS is the UK's largest employer, offering over 350 different career paths – from medicine and midwifery to IT and engineering.

🎮 6. Creative careers are growing fast, with design, gaming, and digital media offering thousands of opportunities for artistic students.

🌱 7. Green jobs are on the rise – roles in renewable energy, sustainability, and environmental protection are expected to grow by 30% in the next decade.

✈️ 8. Soft skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving are what employers value most – not just grades!

📁 9. Apprenticeships aren't just for trades anymore – there are degree-level apprenticeships in law, banking, engineering, healthcare, and even space science.

🕒 10. The average person spends about 90,000 hours at work in their lifetime – so finding something enjoyable and meaningful really matters!



# Degree Apprenticeships & Uni

## Understanding the Difference - Degree Apprenticeships vs University

As your child begins to think about their next steps after Sixth Form, it's helpful to understand the key differences between a degree apprenticeship and a traditional university degree. Both are excellent routes to gaining a higher qualification – the best choice depends on your child's interests, learning style, and career goals.

### Degree Apprenticeships

- A degree apprenticeship allows students to work and study at the same time.
- They are employed by a company and earn a salary, while also studying for a university-level qualification (often a full degree).
- Tuition fees are fully covered by the employer and the government, meaning there are no student loans or debt.
- Apprentices gain valuable workplace experience, build professional skills, and often secure a permanent role with their employer.
- It's a great option for students who prefer hands-on learning and are ready to enter the workplace.

### University Degrees

- A university degree focuses on academic study, usually over three years (or longer for some subjects).
- Students pay tuition fees, which can be covered by a student loan.
- University life offers opportunities for personal growth, independence, and involvement in clubs, societies, and placements.
- It's ideal for careers that require specific qualifications, such as medicine, law, or education.
- Best suited for students who enjoy independent study and want to explore a subject in depth before entering full-time employment.

### ★ In Summary

- Both routes can lead to excellent career prospects.
- A **degree apprenticeship** offers a direct route into work, with a salary and no fees.
- A **university degree** provides academic depth, flexibility, and the full university experience.
- Encourage your child to research both options carefully and talk with teachers or careers advisers to find the best fit for their goals and learning style.

## Do GCSEs matter for University?

Yes – but not as much as A-levels. Most universities ask for minimum GCSE grades, especially in Maths and English (usually grade 4/5+, sometimes 6+ for competitive courses). Some subjects also require certain GCSEs, such as a science GCSE for Psychology or higher grades for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Universities may use GCSEs as a tie-breaker when applicants have similar predicted A-level grades. However, strong A-levels can often balance out weaker GCSEs. Requirements vary by course and university, so it's important for students to check entry criteria early.



## Spotlight on... University of Birmingham



**This month's Russell Group University Spotlight features the University of Birmingham, a leading research university known for its academic excellence and welcoming campus.**

Located just outside Birmingham city centre, the university offers a wide range of degrees including Law, Medicine, Business, Engineering and Psychology.

Students benefit from strong links with employers, access to placements and internships, and excellent graduate career prospects.



Find out more: [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# Spotlight On...

## Gatsby Benchmarks



At St. Anne's, we are committed to providing every student with high-quality careers education that prepares them for success beyond school or college. From Autumn 2025, all schools, colleges and training providers in England will adopt the updated **Gatsby Benchmarks** – the national framework that defines excellence in careers provision. These updates ensure that every young person benefits from clear guidance, meaningful employer engagement and real-world learning opportunities that support informed decision-making about their future. Schools and colleges are being urged to begin planning now so the transition is smooth.

### 💡 What's New?

- The eight Gatsby Benchmarks remain the same, but the guidance has been refreshed to reflect current research and best practice.
- The updates place greater emphasis on leadership, inclusion, and employer partnerships, ensuring that all students can access meaningful, high-quality opportunities.
- Benchmark 6 – “Experiences of Workplaces” has been strengthened to clarify what constitutes *a meaningful experience of work*.

### Benchmark 6: Experiences of Workplaces

Benchmark 6 ensures that young people have the opportunity to experience real workplaces and develop

an understanding of different jobs, sectors and professional environments. It moves beyond the traditional single week of work experience, promoting multiple, varied, and purposeful experiences throughout a student's education.

### What makes a workplace experience meaningful?

- A clear purpose is agreed upon by both the student and the employer.
- The experience links to the student's interests, abilities or aspirations.
- Students engage in active interaction with staff, rather than passive observation.
- Opportunities are provided to explore different roles and tasks within the organisation.
- The experience includes feedback and reflection, enabling the student to consolidate their learning.



### What this means for Students

- By age 16, students should have participated in several meaningful workplace experiences.
- By age 18, they should have completed at least one additional meaningful experience.
- Colleges and training providers are expected to ensure that all learners have access to a substantial workplace opportunity, in addition to any part-time work.
- Some activities may be delivered virtually, but in-person experiences remain essential.



### Why this Matters

Meaningful workplace experiences help young people develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to make informed decisions about their future education and career pathways. They also provide valuable insight into the expectations, culture and skills required in the modern workplace. Research shows that schools and colleges delivering strong careers programmes experience higher student engagement and lower numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). Benchmark 6 aligns with the government's new **Work Experience Guarantee**, ensuring that every young person has at least one high-quality work experience before completing their education.



### In Summary

The updated Gatsby Benchmarks reinforce the importance of meaningful experiences in preparing young people for the world of work. At St. Anne's, we remain committed to ensuring that all students have access to purposeful, high-quality workplace opportunities that inspire ambition and confidence in their future choices.



**Gatsby Summary of Changes (PDF)**



# Careers Provision Update



## Careers Updates at St. Anne's

Our Careers programme is now updated in line with the **Gatsby Benchmarks** (2025) to make sure that every student – from Year 7 to Sixth Form – receives high-quality careers education, guidance and real-world opportunities.



[www.st-annes.enfield.sch.uk/careers](http://www.st-annes.enfield.sch.uk/careers)

### What is a 1-to-1 Careers Guidance Meeting?

A 1-to-1 Careers Guidance Meeting is a personal session where students meet individually with a qualified Careers Adviser to talk about their future plans. During the meeting, students can explore their interests, strengths and possible career paths and receive impartial advice about GCSE, post-16 and post-18 options such as sixth form, college courses, T Levels, apprenticeships or university routes.

These meetings help students make confident, informed decisions about their next steps and set realistic goals for the future. Parents and carers are encouraged to talk with their child afterwards about what was discussed, and to visit our Careers page for further information and support.



### Careers Education Lessons for Students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

As part of our updated Careers provision, we're delighted to share that all students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 now have allocated Careers Education lessons built into their timetable. Each year group will receive two dedicated Careers Education lessons per academic year, forming a key part of our whole-school approach to preparing students for life beyond school.

These lessons are delivered by students' class teachers and include regular use of computers to support interactive learning and online research.

During these sessions, students will:

- Explore their skills, interests and strengths to identify potential future career pathways.
- Learn about different education and training routes such as GCSE options, A Levels, T Levels, apprenticeships, college courses and university.
- Use online tools such as *CareerPilot* to research job sectors, labour market information and develop their own career plans.

- Build essential employability skills such as teamwork, communication, and decision-making.
- Gain practical advice on writing CVs, preparing for interviews, and understanding workplace expectations.
- These lessons ensure that every student receives structured, age-appropriate careers education to help them make confident, informed decisions about their future.



### Year 10 Work Experience Week

We're excited to announce that **Year 10 students will now be taking part in a week-long Work Experience placement during the Summer term** as part of our updated Careers Education Programme, in line with the new **Gatsby Benchmark 6: Experiences of Workplaces**.

This valuable opportunity allows students to spend time in a real working environment, helping them to:

- Develop essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Gain a better understanding of different career pathways and workplace expectations.
- Explore how their studies link to real-world careers and future goals.

Students will be expected to secure their own work experience placement, with guidance and support from parents and carers. While the school will not facilitate placements directly, we will provide resources, advice and suggestions to help students identify opportunities that match their interests and aspirations.

To help students make the most of their experience:

- They will have a pre-work experience lesson to help them prepare for their placement, covering topics such as workplace behaviour, expectations, and safety.
- Each student will receive a Work Experience Journal to complete throughout the week, encouraging them to record key learning moments, skills developed, and reflections on their experience.
- After their placement, students will take part in a reflection lesson to review what they learned and consider how their experience may influence their future career choices.

**Work Experience Week provides students with a meaningful insight into the world of work and supports them in making confident, informed decisions about their post-16 options.**





# St. Anne's Careers Fair 2025

## ✱ Annual Careers Fair inspires Students' Futures

On Wednesday 8th October 2025, St. Anne's proudly hosted its annual Careers Fair, welcoming an impressive range of visitors from both further and higher education providers. The event offered students an exciting opportunity to explore their future options and gather first-hand information about life after school.

Representatives joined us from: **Hertford University, Oxford Brookes University, SOAS, City St Georges University, Goldsmiths University, Army Careers, RAF and NHS Careers**, among many others, including **School Sixth forms and Colleges**. Their displays, guidance and enthusiasm helped bring the world of work and study to life for our students.

Throughout the day, all students from Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 had the opportunity to attend the fair, speak with providers, and discover a wide range of post-16 and post-18 pathways – including university courses, apprenticeships, and vocational training. Many students commented on how valuable it was to be able to ask questions directly and gain insight into entry requirements, course content, and career progression.

### 💬 The Benefits of Attending

Events like the St. Anne's Careers Fair play an important role in helping young people make confident, informed decisions about their next steps. Students benefit by:

- **Exploring a variety of pathways** – from higher education to apprenticeships and employment.
- **Building communication skills and confidence** through discussions with employers and admissions staff.
- **Developing a clearer understanding** of the skills, qualifications, and experience required for different career sectors.
- **Connecting learning to life** – seeing how their current studies link to real-world opportunities.

The Careers Fair continues to be a highlight of our school calendar, inspiring ambition and encouraging our students to think deeply about their future goals.





# Opportunities and Resources



## What is CareerPilot – and How Can Parents Get Involved?





CareerPilot is a free, national careers website designed to help young people aged 13–19 explore their future education, training and work options. It provides up-to-date information on courses, apprenticeships, and local job sectors, helping students make informed choices about their next steps.

All students in KS3 and KS4 will be asked to register and complete activities on CareerPilot during their careers education lessons, supporting them to learn more about their interests, skills and career pathways. Parents and carers can also get involved by visiting the Parent Zone on CareerPilot, which offers clear guidance on post-16 and post-18 options (such as A Levels, T Levels, university and apprenticeships) and practical advice on how to support young people with their decisions. You can find out more at [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk) and click on **Parent Zone**.



### Careerpilot's AI supports Careers Guidance

Careerpilot now uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make their support even more personalised and effective. AI in Careerpilot helps by:

-  Personalising career suggestions: Using students' interests, skills, and subject choices, the system can suggest suitable job sectors, courses, and pathways — including apprenticeships, T Levels, and university options.
-  Providing real-time labour market information: AI analyses current job trends to show which industries are growing, what skills are in demand, and typical salaries for different roles.
-  Supporting next-step planning: Students can create their own Career Action Plan, track progress, and receive AI-driven recommendations to guide them towards their goals.
-  Encouraging self-reflection: Through quizzes and profiles, AI helps students identify their strengths and what motivates them — a vital part of making confident decisions about the future.



## The CareerPilot Buzz Quiz!



Are you looking for a fun way to start thinking about careers? Try the **Buzz Quiz**!

In just a few minutes, you'll discover your personality type and how it links to different careers and subjects.

The quiz asks a series of quick, light-hearted questions and then tells you which animal best matches your personality — for example, you might be a Lion (leader), Dolphin (communicator) or Owl (thinker). Once you get your result, you can explore jobs, courses, and career paths that suit your strengths and interests.

### Play now!



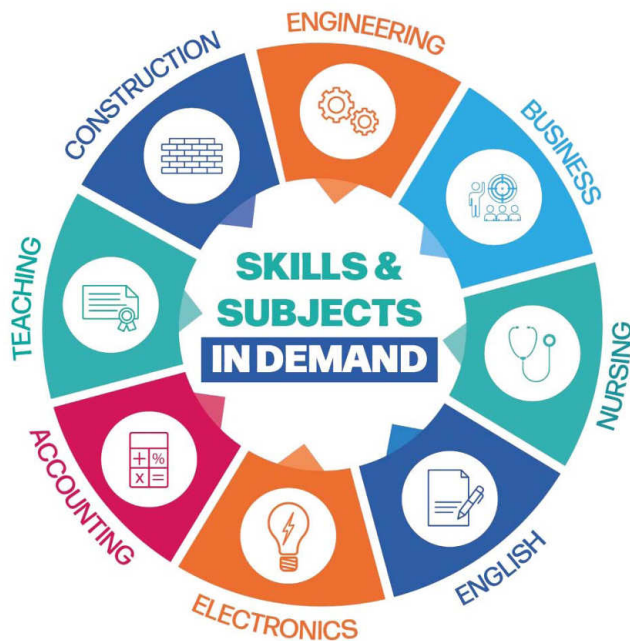
[www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/buzz-quiz](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/buzz-quiz)

**It's quick, fun, and a great conversation starter between parents and students about future ambitions!**



# Labour Market Information





## Labour Market Snapshot – London & Enfield (2025)




### Understanding the World of Work

The world of work is changing quickly and it's important that young people – with support from parents and carers – understand the opportunities and skills employers are looking for.

Here's a quick update on the labour market in London and Enfield (2025):

-  **Employment:** Around 75% of working-age people in the UK are currently in employment.
-  **Unemployment:** This is c. 6.5% in London (July–September 2025) – slightly above the national average.
-  **Qualifications:** Over 60% of London adults hold a qualification at Level 4 or above (e.g. a foundation degree or higher).
-  **Top Job Areas in London:**
  - o Professional roles (34% of all jobs)
  - o Associate professional & technical roles (16%)
  - o Managers, directors & senior officials (14%)
  - o Service industries (retail, hospitality, health & education) continue to employ the largest number of people.

-  **Skills in Demand:** Employers across London say the biggest skills gaps are in digital skills, problem solving, and communication.

### What this means for Students and Parents

- Building transferable skills (communication, teamwork, IT, problem solving) is vital for success.
- Work experience, employer visits, and volunteering can help students understand what careers interest them and develop key employability skills.
- Even as technology changes jobs, human skills such as creativity, leadership and adaptability remain highly valued.

### Useful Resources for Parents

- Greater London Authority Labour Market Indicators: <https://data.london.gov.uk/labour-market-indicators/>
- LMI for All (explore national job trends and salaries): <https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/>
- Start Profile London – explore local careers: <https://london.startprofile.com/>

### Apprenticeship Spotlight -


## BT Group

This issue's **Apprenticeship Spotlight** shines on BT Group, a leading UK telecommunications company offering a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers.

BT apprentices work in exciting areas such as Digital Technology, Cyber Security, Network Engineering, Business Management and Customer Service – gaining real-world experience while earning a salary and studying towards a recognised qualification (up to degree level).

Apprentices benefit from hands-on training, a dedicated mentor and the chance to work on major projects that shape how millions of people stay connected every day.

 **Locations:** Nationwide

 **Entry:** Usually 5 GCSEs (including English & Maths); some higher-level roles may require A Levels

 **More info:** [www.bt.com/apprentices](http://www.bt.com/apprentices)

# Current Opportunities

## Free Opportunities for Students (14–16)

Looking for something fun, educational or career-focused to do over the Christmas holidays? Check out these [free opportunities](#) in and around London!

### ✓ Volunteering & Youth Activities

#### 🌐 Habitats & Heritage

Join monthly nature conservation sessions: planting, habitat care and species protection. Great for volunteering hours or DofE. **Ages:** 14–25

#### 🌐 London Youth / London Wildlife Trust

Take part in Keep It Wild's wildlife conservation campaigns, creative projects, and media training. **Ages:** 11–25

#### 🌐 London Youth Games

Help organise youth sports events, assist with media, logistics, and competitions. **Ages:** Junior volunteers, 14+

#### 🌐 Local Youth Hub Holiday & After School

Free or low-cost clubs offering art, sport, music, and social activities over the holidays. **Ages:** 10–19

### ✓ Work Experience & Career Insights

#### 🌐 NHS Virtual Work Experience (Springpod)

Explore NHS careers online through webinars, interactive activities, videos, and podcasts. **Ages:** 14–19

#### 🌐 NHS Careers Untapped Programme

Discover lesser-known NHS roles with free podcasts, videos, webinars, and interactive activities. **Ages:** 13–19

#### 🌐 Futures For All – Work Experience Programme

Fully funded in-person and remote placements with UK employers, plus short Insight Days. **Ages:** 14–19

### ✓ Holiday Fun & Social Activities

#### 🌐 Holiday Activities & Food Programme, Enfield

Free winter holiday-club sessions with activities, sports, and meals for eligible students. **Ages:** 5–16

#### 🌐 City of London Youth – Hampstead Heath

Outdoor activities, nature, wellbeing and green-space activities during school holidays. **Ages:** 13–25

📌 **Tip:** Many of these programmes require early booking or eligibility checks (especially HAF). Make sure to contact the organisers soon to secure your spot!

## The Sutton Trust UK Summer Schools

The Sutton Trust support Year 12 (England/Wales), Year 13 (Northern Ireland), and S5 (Scotland) students from state schools across the UK.

Sutton Trust Summer Schools offer fantastic opportunities for students from state schools across the UK to experience university life, explore subjects at a leading institution and get valuable guidance on their university applications.

Applications open on Monday 12th January 2026, though you can register your interest before this date.

Parents are invited to discover what they can do at home to help their daughters cope better.

#### 🌐 The Parents' Guide to Making Study Easier

#### 🌐 The Parents' Guide to Revision Timetables

#### 🌐 More info / Register your interest

# FUTURES FOR ALL

### Work Experience Programme

Futures For All offers in-person and remote placements, alongside shorter introductory Insight Days, with hundreds of leading UK employers.

Their goal is to demystify careers, build skills and self-belief, prepare young people for the workplace and open doors to opportunities that were previously closed. Future For All's high-quality, fully funded work experience programme is accessible to all 14–19-year-olds from state schools and colleges nationwide.

**More info:**

🌐 [www.futuresforall.org/about-work-experience](http://www.futuresforall.org/about-work-experience)



# Fun Facts: Christmas Edition!

## 1. Santa has a lot of help!

Every year, thousands of people across the UK work as Santa's helpers, grotto staff, or Christmas elves – spreading cheer and helping children enjoy magical moments.

## 2. The Busiest Time for Bakers!

Bakery and catering staff see demand soar in December – mince pies, yule logs and festive treats keep them working around the clock!

## 3. Parcels on the Move!

Royal Mail and courier companies hire over 20,000 seasonal workers each Christmas to help deliver all those cards and online orders on time.

## 4. Shops Go Merry and Bright!

Retail stores take on extra staff to help with Christmas sales, gift wrapping, and displays. It's often the first job for many young people gaining work experience.

## 5. Christmas Trees Don't Decorate Themselves!

Seasonal workers help grow, harvest, and sell Christmas trees, and some even travel to local markets or garden centres to help customers choose the perfect one.

## 6. Carol Singing Pays Off!

In some towns, carol singers raise thousands of pounds for charity every year – combining music, teamwork and festive spirit for a good cause.

## 7. Snow Business is Real!

Theme parks and events companies hire people to create artificial snow scenes and run winter wonderlands – it's all part of the magic!

## 8. Toy Testers Exist!

Some companies actually hire seasonal toy testers to help review products before Christmas – yes, it's a real job!

## Did You Know?

Many people start their working lives in Christmas jobs – gaining skills in teamwork, communication, and customer service that help them throughout their careers.

# Merry Christmas!