



Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Sapientia et Doctrina

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21 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Parents' Evening, Flu Vaccination Mop-Up, Scholastic Bookfair, Phone System, Careers & Work-Related Learning Bulletin, Secondary Parent's Online Safety Q&A Event – 10 December 2025 at 6:30pm, North Hykeham Town Council's Christmas Fayre – 29 November 2025, Sports results, Coats

Welcome to my end of week update letter. As we approach the middle of this half term, it is fair to say that the weather has turned, sports fixtures have to begin earlier in the day and we have several evening events on the horizon or scheduled for the not too distant future. Some important updates below:

Year 9 Parents' Evening

The upcoming Year 9 Parents' Evening is scheduled to take place next week on Wednesday 26 November 2025. Appointments can still be made until late on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Flu Vaccination Mop-Up

These will take place on Tuesday next week for all students with consent who have not yet received their nasal vaccine. Consent can still be given using the letter you have received already.

Scholastic Bookfair

This week, we hosted the annual Scholastic Bookfair. It is always really encouraging to see our youngsters having a good trawl for new books. I hope that some good ones have been chosen and orders are finalised soon.

Phone System

In recent weeks, the academy telephone system has been upgraded. As part of this upgrade, the 'Switchboard' menu has been updated and simplified. The menu now contains 3 options. When calling the Academy, please use one of the following options; 1 – Report a student absence. 3 – Speak to the main office. Please do not use Option 2, as this goes to our staff absence line. All other options have been removed in a bid to make it easier for you to reach the relevant team when you call. Please also note that we may record calls and the system will announce this when you contact the Academy by phone.

Careers & Work Related Learning Bulletin

Please find attached the latest edition of the Careers and Work-Related Learning Bulletin.

Secondary Parents' Online Safety Q&A Event – 10 December 2025 at 6:30pm

Join the Stay Safe Partnership for practical guidance on: Setting up parental controls, understanding age-appropriate apps and games, spotting harmful content and online risks, answering your burning questions about social media and trends and equip yourself with the tools to keep your young person safe while they explore the digital world.

Sign up now: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1929121>

North Hykeham Town Council's Christmas Fayre – 29 November 2025

North Hykeham Town Council are hosting their annual Christmas Fayre at the Town Council Offices, Fen Lane on Saturday 29 November 2025. The event will start at 11:00am.

Keep an eye out for SRPA's stall selling a whole host of tealight holders, tree baubles etc.

Sports Results

This week has seen fixtures for our badminton teams v Branston and a national cup football fixture for our Year 8 boys v Carlton-Le-Willows in Nottinghamshire. Both badminton teams came away with wins and the Year 8 boys advanced on penalties after a 3-3 draw. Well done to everyone involved!

Coats

The rapid drop in temperature this week has led to a cold snap where it is vital students come dressed for the weather. A significant number still do not wear a coat, which baffles me when it is lingering around freezing. I encourage all students to come equipped with a suitable outer layer, especially as we approach Christmas and the weather doesn't get warmer from this point on.

In the words of Clint Eastwood, "Sometimes if you want to see a change for the better, you have to take things into your own hands." This week, I spent a couple of days with colleagues in Birmingham at the Schools and Academies Show. I have never been before and certainly would not have taken two days out of school before now. It was an enlightening experience to hear directly from the Minister for School Standards, Ofsted's HMCI and various other high profile speakers including Max Verstappen's performance coach and Lord Blunkett, former Secretary of State for Education. The agenda for change in terms of this government's curriculum, financial and qualifications agenda is becoming clearer, which we will respond to successfully in due course.

My team and I also spent valuable time considering SEND, cyber-security and business/finance to stay firmly at the sharp end of innovation. Our own agenda for development and change will become clear in due course as we benefit from this week's experience.

I will write again soon.



Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster





Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Careers Work-Related Learning

Bulletin 2025

Term 2

Welcome and Key Dates

Welcome to the Careers and Work-Related Bulletin for Term 2

November is always a busy month! For Year 11 and Year 13, it's an exciting time as they begin exploring options for their next steps—whether that is further study, apprenticeships, or career opportunities. Year 12 students are also preparing for their work experience placements in January, which will give them a valuable taste of the world beyond the classroom.

Earlier this year, the Gatsby Career Benchmarks were updated to make careers guidance clearer and more accessible for parents and carers. Our goal is to ensure you feel informed and confident about the support your child receives as they plan for their future.

In this bulletin, we will share how our careers programme is evolving and how we are putting the new guidance into practice at the Academy. We hope this gives you a better picture of the opportunities available to students and how we're helping them make informed choices.

Want to get involved? If you have any questions—or if you can offer insights, opportunities, or support to enrich our careers provision—please contact Mrs Mather. Your experience could make a real difference to our students' futures!

Key Dates

Wednesday 3 December 2025 – Personal Development Day 2
Wednesday 28 January 2026 – Personal Development Day 3
Wednesday 18 March 2026 – Personal Development Day 4
Wednesday 20 May 2026 – Personal Development Day 5
Wednesday 1 July 2026 – Personal Development Day 6

Careers in Lincolnshire



Access Creative College is holding an Open Day on Saturday 29 November 2025 from 11am until 2pm (drop in anytime). This is an ideal opportunity to check out the campus and the creative college courses on offer that are starting in September 2026.



We have some new courses; the full list is below.

Level 3 Courses (worth up to 168 UCAS points / equivalent to 3 A levels):

Music Performance
Music Production
Film, Videography and Photography
Animation & Visual Effects (VFX)*
Graphic & Digital Design*
Games Development
Games Art
*new course

Level 2 Courses:

Music Performance and Technology
Video, Photography and Design
Games Development

Entry Requirements:

Level 3 - 4 or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English Language or Literature.

Level 2 - 3 or more GCSEs at Grade 3 or above, including English Language or Literature.

You can book your place for the **Open Day** [HERE](#) or by scanning this **QR code**



Useful Links:

Further information can be found on the [courses](#) page of our website. We are currently accepting applications from Year 10 - Year 13 students.

Students can apply for a course by using this link - [APPLY HERE](#).

Next Open Day - Saturday 24 January 2026



Degree Apprenticeship with Anglian Water – Now open for applications!

We're delighted to share that **applications are now open for our fully funded Degree Apprenticeships**, offering students the chance to earn while they learn and **kickstart a career in technology and innovation**. We currently have two fantastic programmes available:

Data Science Degree Apprenticeship

- Location: Lincoln, Lincolnshire (with some travel across the Anglian Water region and to university)
- Duration: 3½ years
- Start Salary: £23,500 per annum
- Start Date: September 2026
- Closing Date: 16 November 2025

Ideal for students passionate about data, coding, maths, and problem-solving, this programme combines classroom learning with hands-on experience in areas such as:

- Data analysis and mathematical modelling
- Programming and algorithms
- Real-world projects that make a difference to customers and communities

Digital & Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship

- Location: Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (with some travel across the Anglian Water region and to university)
- Duration: 4½ years
- Start Salary: £23,500 per annum
- Start Date: September 2026
- Closing Date: 23 November 2025
-

Perfect for students interested in software engineering, cyber security, IT consulting, and network engineering, this programme offers:

- University study combined with practical experience
- Opportunities to work on innovative technology solutions
- Mentorship and support from experienced professionals

If shortlisted, they'll be invited to an in-person assessment centre in December.

Please share these opportunities with your students who are passionate about technology, data, and innovation.

This is a fantastic chance to start a career without the traditional university route. Students can apply online via our careers page: [Search and apply - Anglian Water Careers](#).

Why choose Anglian Water?

- A debt-free degree and Level 6 apprenticeship standard
- Competitive salary from day one
- Mentoring and development support
- Generous holiday allowance, pension scheme, and private healthcare
- A guaranteed full-time role at the end of the programme (subject to performance)

Thank you for helping us connect with future talent. Please note that at this time, we're unable to accommodate work experience requests or attend careers fairs.

Job of the Week



Week 1: Sound Engineer

[Job Of The Week - Episode #132 - Sound Engineer](#)

Week 2: Talent Agent

[Job Of The Week - Episode #133 - Talent Agent](#)

Week 3: Utility Manager

[Job Of The Week - Episode #134 - Utility Manager - Youtube](#)

Week 4: Veterinary Nurse

[Job Of The Week - Episode #135 - Veterinary Nurse](#)

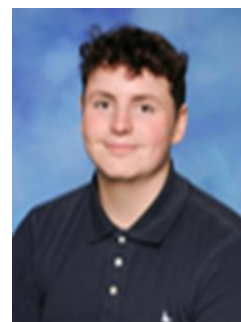
Week 5: Writer

[Job Of The Week - Episode #136 - Writer](#)

Week 7: Yacht Deckhand

[Job Of The Week - Episode #137 - Yacht Deckhand](#)

What's happening in careers at SRPA this term?



By William, Jack and Thomas, our SSLT Aspiration Leads

Applying for University



Many of the Year 13 students are currently applying for university. Applying for university can seem daunting at first, but by breaking it down into steps it feels easy and more stress-free.

I spoke to students who are mid-way through the process and, below, they outline what it involved:

The first step entailed putting your basic information into the UCAS website. This included your name, personal details and GCSE results. It doesn't take too long at all, with most people having completed it within a couple of days.

The second step was a little more work, which is your personal statement. It can seem tricky, but what you must do, is write about your achievements and your qualities. As well as saying why you want to study a particular course, it's your chance to advertise yourself to universities, and 'show off' all the great things you've done.

The third step is to meet with your tutor and discuss your choices, personal statement and reference.

The fourth step is a final check with Miss Burch, before pressing the button and sending it to UCAS. It is then just a matter of time before the offers (hopefully) come rolling in!

If you would like to find out more about university and submitting an application, please see: <https://www.ucas.com/>

SRPA Alumni

Our Head Boy, Will, is currently reaching out to SRPA Alumni to find out what our students do when they leave us. If you are an ex-student of SRPA and would like to help Will with his project, please contact Mrs Mather for further information.

Unifrog Spotlight



Our first Personal Development Day was a fantastic opportunity for Year 8 students to dive back into their career exploration journey! Using Unifrog, they researched their dream careers and discovered exciting pathways for the future.

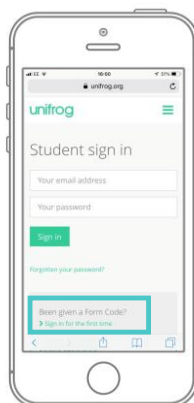
Next time, it's Year 7s turn! They'll be exploring everything Unifrog has to offer—and even finding out which frog they are! 🐸

Meanwhile, Year 11 students are meeting with Mrs Johnson to create detailed action plans. These plans are being uploaded to Unifrog so students can access them anytime they need guidance.

For our Sixth Form students, Unifrog is proving invaluable. Year 12 and Year 13 are busy crafting and updating their CVs and personal statements, ensuring they're ready for the next big step in their education and careers.

Unifrog has regular webinars and updates linked to academic subjects studied here at the Academy, by creating a Unifrog account parents/carers can access these resources also.

Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to www.unifrog.org/student and click 'Sign in for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

SRPAparent

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!

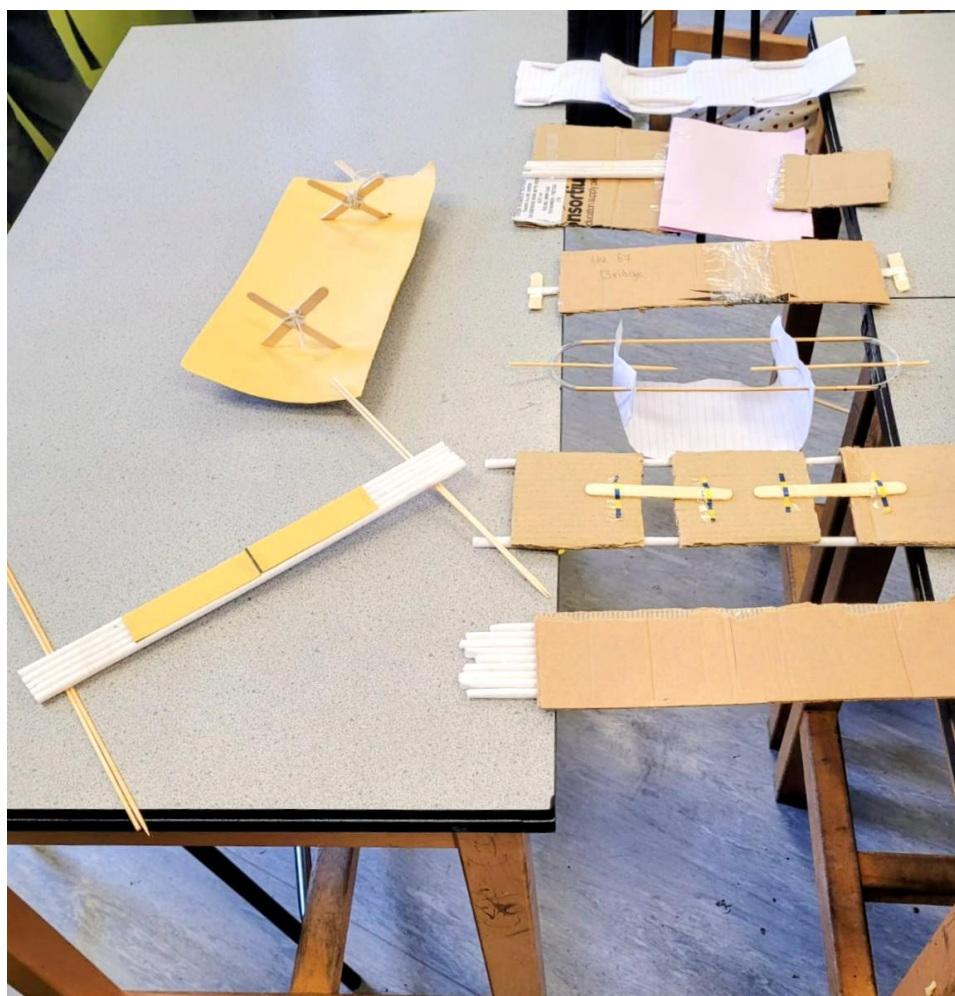


Our Curriculum and Careers

STEM

STEM Club kicked off the year by diving headfirst into the world of engineering, and it's safe to say our students really bridged the gap between creativity and problem-solving. The highlight was our 'Bridges on a Budget' challenge, where teams had to design the strongest structure using limited materials, and even more limited funds! Some groups went for sleek modern styles, others built chunky beam bridges, and a few... well, let's just say their designs collapsed under financial pressure. Even so, every team showed fantastic resilience, teamwork and an impressive ability to negotiate whether three sheets of paper were truly worth their price.

We have now launched full speed into Term 2: Chemistry Chaos. Things are already bubbling, fizzing and occasionally foaming! Students have kicked off with hands-on reaction experiments and it's clear this term is going to be chem-misery for no one - just lots of colourful surprises and safe, well-supervised chaos in the lab. Bring on the next reactions!



Future Study Opportunities



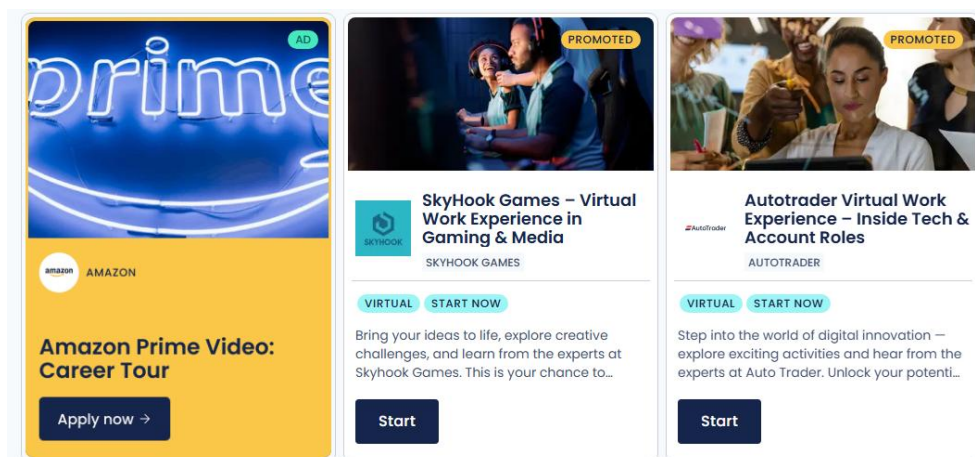
Virtual Work Experience with Springpod

Looking for ways to help your child gain real-world experience from home? Springpod offers a wide range of virtual work experience placements across different industries—from healthcare and engineering to media and finance. These interactive programs give students a taste of what working in their chosen field is really like, all from the comfort of their own home.

To explore the opportunities and learn how to get started, visit:

👉 <https://www.springpod.com/>

The images below are just a sneak peek of what's available—there's something for every interest!



Personal Guidance Plan for Term 2

Personal Careers Guidance – Supporting Individual Pathways

In Term 2, appointments continue to be arranged for Year 11 and Year 13 students (by request), focusing on post-16 and post-18 options including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university pathways.

- Appointment notifications will be sent via email approximately one week in advance.
- Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend their child's appointment. If you would like to join, please provide at least 48 hours notice so that arrangements can be made.

These sessions are a valuable opportunity for students to explore their interests, ask questions and receive tailored advice as they plan for the future. Action plans created during the appointment will be uploaded to Unifrog for students to access. Please see below for an example of the action plan completed during the appointment:

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CAREER ACTION PLAN

NAME: Joe Bloggs **ADVISER:** Sue Johnson

TUTOR GROUP: 11S/SM **Date:** 01/09/2025

Notes from the discussion:
We met today to talk about your plans for after year 11 and for the future.
You are currently studying:

	School predicted grade	Latest mock result	Grade you expect to achieve
English language	4	3	4
English literature	4	2	4
Maths	5	4	6
Science	5-5	3-4	5-4
History	5	4	6
Spanish	4	3	4
PE	5	6	7
Drama	L2M	?	L2D

Intended Destination after Year 11: College

Agreed Targets:

- Draw up and implement a study/revision timetable (within the next two weeks - see example below)
- Explore different revision techniques that suit both you and your subjects/topics (within the next 4 weeks - see link below)
- Book tickets for the next convenient college open events (within the next two weeks - see links below. Remember the tickets are free, but you will need a separate ticket for yourself and for everyone who is attending with you.)

Summary notes from the meeting /

Initial Meeting and Support

- Sue introduced herself as a careers support person, emphasising her role is to help and not to dictate career choices.
- Confidentiality is discussed; information will be shared with school and home but not beyond that without consent.
- Sue encourages Joe to openly share thoughts and questions during the conversation.

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Year 11 Progress and Career Aspirations

- Joe reflected on having had some behavioural struggles in school but now wants to focus on passing GCSEs and entering the workforce soon.
- Turning 16 soon and considering options post-GCSE; expressed a desire to work in a trade, specifically bricklaying or plastering, possibly influenced by family connections.
- Not interested in a part-time job before starting college or an apprenticeship, preferring to wait for a more direct path into the trades.

College and Apprenticeship Options

- Discussion about local college options: Lincoln College and North Lindsey College
- Interest in trades like bricklaying, plastering, or even carpentry; family members work in related fields.
- Explanation of the seven main skilled trades (bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, plumbing, electrical installation, tiling, painting/decorating) and the distinction from labourer roles like scaffolding.
- Sue describes the "multi-skills" or "multi-trades" course, which allows trying several trades before specialising—an option at Lincoln College.
- Pay for apprenticeships and skilled trades is discussed; apprentices are typically paid hourly, at minimum wage depending on age, and not per brick.
- Importance of having both a college place and searching for apprenticeships as a backup, since apprenticeships aren't guaranteed and must be found independently.

Work Experience and Practical Considerations

- Joe has not yet undertaken work experience but expresses interest in work experience in trades; Sue offers to make inquiries.
- Emphasis on employability skills such as punctuality and attendance, and their importance in the workplace.
- Opportunities to earn while at college are discussed; full-time college courses may only require three days per week, leaving time for part-time work.
- The job market in construction is currently strong, with high demand expected for skilled tradespeople in the coming decades.

Questions, Flexibility, and Next Steps

- The Joe asked about the timing and process for applying to college and apprenticeships; Sue explains applications are open now and offers ongoing support.
- Encouragement to keep college applications open as a backup, even if an apprenticeship is lined up, due to potential changes in business circumstances.
- Flexibility is emphasised; Sue notes that plans can change and support will be provided regardless of the path chosen.
- Process for college taster days is discussed; Sue is working to arrange these opportunities.
- Further conversation covers college logistics, apprenticeship arrangements, and clarification of misconceptions about entry paths into the trades.

Suggested Action Items

- Sue to help Joe explore and apply for college courses at Lincoln and North Lindsey (or West Lindsey) Colleges.
- Sue to investigate and arrange potential work experience placements in bricklaying or plastering.
- Joe to consider both college and apprenticeship applications to keep options open.

Empowering Individuals to Make Successful Transitions **COMPLETE CAREERS**

- Sue to provide support with application processes and arrange for college taster days if possible.

Action Points:

- If you need further help, contact Mrs Mather at school or email Sue: sjohnson@xspa.co.uk You can also call in to see Sue on Tues/Weds at first or second break (no prior appointment is needed for this).
- This website can be useful to research more about careers in general as well as your chosen career and is a good starting point if you're looking for career ideas. [Explore by job sector | National Careers Service](#)
- Look at the following web site for careers linked to your subject interests [Option choices | My World of Work](#)

Useful websites

[Top 9 Revision Techniques for GCSEs & A-levels](#)
[Info on exam stress - for 11-18 year olds | Mind](#)
[Your confidence and self-esteem - for 11-18 year olds | Mind](#)
[11 Ways to Overcome Procrastination | Psychology Today United Kingdom](#)

College Open days

ASI (Air and Space Institute) Newark

[Air & Space Institute \(ASI\) Open Day | 22nd November 2025](#)
[Air & Space Institute \(ASI\) Open Day | 5th February 2026](#)
[Air & Space Institute \(ASI\) Open Day | 29th April 2026](#)
[Air & Space Institute \(ASI\) Open Day | 17th June 2026](#)

Lincoln College:

[Lincoln College Open Day | 8th November 2025](#)
[Lincoln College Open Day | 13th January 2026](#)
[Lincoln College Open Day | 7th March 2026](#)
[Lincoln College Open Day | 6th May 2026](#)
[Lincoln College Open Day | 13th June 2026](#)

Newark College

[Newark College Open Day | 19th November 2025](#)
[Newark College Open Day | 5th February 2026](#)
[Newark College Open Day | 29th April 2026](#)
[Newark College Open Day | 6th June 2026](#)

Empowering Individuals to Make Successful Transitions **COMPLETE CAREERS**

YCDS (You can do sport) Newark – Open days not currently bookable. Use this link to contact and register your interest:
[Contact — YCDS Academy](#)

Study/Revision timetable example

Time	Tuesday	Time	Thursday
3:40 – 4:30	Geography revision (school)	4:30 – 5:30	Revision subject 1
5:15 – 7:15	Quick snack at home	5:30 – 6:30	Tea
	Brownies	6:30 – 7:15	Revision subject 2
7:30 – 8:30	Revision or Football with Grandad	7:15 – 7:20	5 min break
		7:20 – 8:05	Revision subject 3

Points to remember when drawing up revision timetable

- 1 include all subjects
- 2 include a revision schedule for every day of the week
- 3 Start by including none school work commitments (e.g. Brownies, visiting grandparents etc – anything that is done at a regular time each week)
- 4 Do not study for longer than 45 mins to one hour without at least a 5 minute break (make yourself a drink, get a biscuit, walk around the garden...) – when you return, make sure you start a different subject.
- 5 Do not have revision sessions that run for more than 3 hours in total. It is ok to do two to three sessions on a weekend, but these should ideally be spread over two days.
- 6 Ensure you include quality 'you' time where you are not revising for extended periods of time. This could be when you are walking the dog, visiting grandparents, Brownies etc.
- 7 Make sure your revision finishes by 8:30 at the latest to allow your brain to recover before you go to bed.

UCAS Tariff Points calculator

A Level Grade	Level 3 BTEC Grade	UCAS Tariff Points
A*	D*	56
A	D	48
B		40
C	M	32
D		24
E	P	16

Can You Help?

Could You Share Your Expertise?

We are always looking to strengthen our careers provision by involving parents, carers and members of our wider community. If you have experience in a particular industry or career path, we would be delighted to welcome you into the Academy to share your insights with our students.

There are several opportunities throughout the year where your contribution would be greatly valued, including:

- Careers Assemblies
- Mock Interviews
- Workplace Visits
- Careers Fayre
- Classroom Talks and Workshops
- Mentoring or Q&A Sessions
- Support with CVs and Applications
- Work experience placements

Whether you can offer a one-off session or ongoing support, your involvement can make a real difference in helping students understand the world of work and make informed choices about their future.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Mrs Mather SMather@srpa.co.uk for further details. We would love to hear from you!



ONLINE SAFETY Q+A SECONDARY PARENTS



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER
6 - 7:30PM
MICROSOFT TEAMS EVENT

Join the Stay Safe Partnership for an Online Safety Event for Parents of Teens

Get the latest insights and practical tools to help you:

- ✓ Understand the most popular social media apps teens use, their risks, and the parental controls that can keep them safe
- ✓ Support your teen in managing harmful content and unwanted contact from strangers
- ✓ Learn strategies for starting confident, open conversations about online safety
- ✓ Ask your questions and get clear answers on trends, apps, and risks

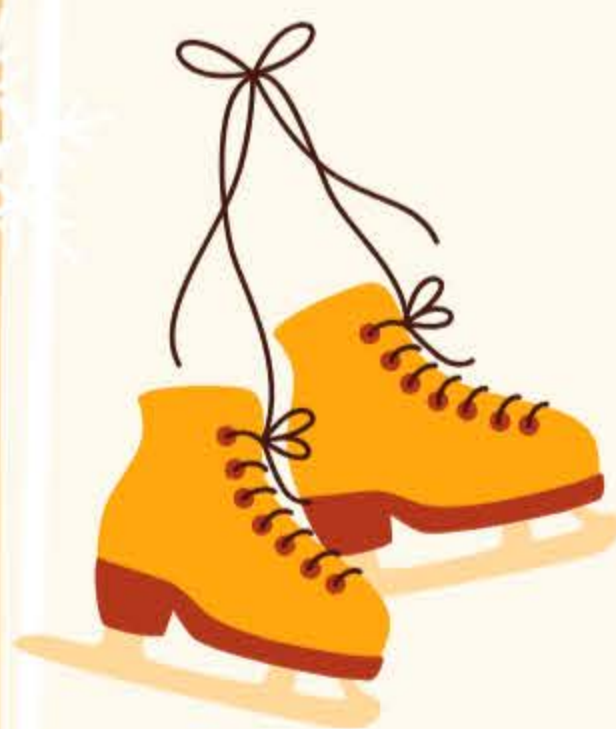
Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills to keep your teen safe while they explore the online world.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1929114>

North Hykeham Town Council

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 29th November
11am-3pm



FREE Ice Rink



FREE Santa's Grotto



plus entertainment by

Rhubarb Theatre

Lots of Stalls & Food

Civic Offices, Fen Lane,
North Hykeham, LN6 8UZ

