



23 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Options, RP6th Application Deadline, PD Day 3, Year 12 Work Experience, Careers & Work-Related Learning Bulletin, National Teaching Awards

Welcome to my end of week update letter.

Mock examinations for Year 13 are now at an end, whilst Year 11 continue on. Generally speaking, I have been really impressed with how seriously the year group have been taking them and I hope this continues until the end of the examination series. In other news, it was so disappointing that the weather ruined our plans for House sports competitions on Wednesday. This will now be difficult to rearrange with our existing commitments before half term so we will have to rely on the results from the basketball, which did go ahead, and the non-sport competition for this half term.

Year 9 Options

Next week, Year 9 students will begin to choose their courses for Key Stage 4. Prospectuses and further information are available via our website under [Our Curriculum | Year 9 Options](#) where you will find all correspondence, an e-copy of the prospectus, access to the subject microsite and the full curriculum offer for September 2026. Next Wednesday evening is also options evening for Year 9, where you will be able to hear more about our option blocks and meet subject staff to hear more about their available subject specialisms. Students will also receive an assembly on Monday where we will share hard copies of some paperwork.

RP6th Application Deadline

Applications remain open and will close on 2 February. We have listened to our students where some subject clashes have come to our attention and will publish our response to this very soon. Mr Griffiths and his team will try to catch up with anyone who wanted to discuss potential clashes to discuss how they may be affected, but students in Year 11 can visit the RP6th Hub to talk this through with the team in any event.

PD Day 3

Wednesday 28 January marks our third Personal Development Day this year. All year groups, bar Year 12, will be participating.

To raise awareness of Safer Internet Day, Years 7 to 11 will receive a range of age-appropriate topics covering internet safety. All year groups will also undertake a challenge linking to our Academy value of aspiration.

In Year 7, students will also undertake the Warburtons challenge, an enterprise activity run by our Technology department around product design and marketing. Students will also learn about how to respond in a medical emergency, including some first aid techniques.

In Year 8, students will learn about the functions of parliament in the United Kingdom, as well as their rights to take action for social change. This will be followed by an introduction to university and the pathways a degree can lead you to. Students will also explore the importance of insurance and where it is needed.

In Year 9, students will be exploring further first aid techniques, followed by an introduction to CV and cover letter writing. In the afternoon, students will be exploring the different demographics living in North Hykeham and why empathy for their neighbours is vital for everyone's wellbeing.

In Year 10, students will explore the process of becoming an MP, followed by an introduction to life in RP6th. Students will then explore methods to improve their skimming and scanning techniques when reading, as well as reviewing the different types of financial risk and how to avoid them.

In Year 11, students not sitting their mock examinations will receive revision sessions from their mathematics and English teachers in the morning, followed by a review of different democratic principles. Mock examinations will continue in the afternoon.

In Year 13, students continuing onto university will receive a talk on student finance and accommodation, whilst those following other pathways will receive a talk on the world of work. Students will also undertake a budgeting workshop, followed by enhancing their culinary skills in the afternoon.

Year 12 Work Experience

Most of Year 12 are out next week having fun in the workplace. If you have any questions in this regard please contact our Director of Careers, Mrs Mather via smather@srpa.co.uk.

Careers & Work-Related Learning Bulletin

Please find attached our latest edition.

National Teaching Awards

I have an extremely talented staff body and there are many who could be nominated for all sorts of awards. The National Teaching Awards are now open for anyone to nominate a teacher or member of support staff. If your child has a teacher or learning support assistant who really goes the extra mile for them or whose lessons they love, you can nominate a colleague here: [Home - The Pearson National Teaching Awards](#)

I have learnt a lot about myself in the past two weeks, as well as being prodded by circumstance to reflect, slow down when I can and tell those around me that they really matter.



It is a time to lead, to be there for others and to progress forwards quietly with integrity and resolve. I sign off this week with the words of American singer Johnny Cash, who said “Every morning I wake up, I remind myself that no promise was made for today. That’s where gratitude begins – in knowing this moment is a gift I didn’t earn but still get to live.”

Look after yourselves and have a good weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster





Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Careers Work-Related Learning

Bulletin 2025

Term 3

Welcome and Key Dates

Welcome to the Careers and Work-Related Bulletin for Term 3

After the excitement of the Christmas holidays, January arrives with gusto. The Year 13 and Year 11 students are busy revising for and sitting mock examinations, whilst also juggling their applications for their next steps. It is lovely to hear that many of our Year 13 students have received offers from universities and that Year 11 are confidently submitting their applications to RP6th, Further Education or apprenticeships.

We continue to adapt our Personal Development curriculum to reflect the needs and interests of our students, hopefully equipping them with the skills they require to investigate and take those next steps.

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

- Week commencing 26 January 2026 – Year 12 Work Experience week
 - Wednesday 28 January 2026 – Personal Development Day 3
- Week commencing 9 February 2026 – National Apprenticeship week
 - Week commencing 2 March 2026 – National Careers week
 - 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

TALENT ACADEMY

Inspiring Futures : Informing Careers

Please see below for some opportunities which students may be interested in.

Many of our students express an interest in working in healthcare. If they are interested in attending any of the Talent Academy's Aspiring Programme please see the link below for courses, dates and application forms.

[Work Experience | Lincolnshire Talent Academy](#)



Find us at
32 Clasketgate, LN2 1JS / 01522 456 982

access
creative college

UNLOCK YOUR
**CREATIVE
CAREER**

Book an open day

COURSES IN GAMES / MEDIA & DESIGN / MUSIC

**Join us for
an Open Day**

Sat 24th January 2026	11am - 2pm
Sat 21st March 2026	11am - 2pm
Sat 27th June 2026	11am - 2pm

The poster features a central image of three students: a male student in the foreground holding a camera, a female student in the background singing into a microphone, and another student in the foreground wearing headphones. The background is dark with white lines suggesting a network or creative process.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

At the time of writing, there are currently 93 apprenticeships (at varying levels) available within 10 miles of our Academy. These include Volvo Trucks, Automotive Glazing, Civil Engineering and Dental Nursing to name a few. If your son/daughter is interested in finding an apprenticeship, please see the link below which will allow you to search according to your own post code.

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#)


National Apprenticeship Week 9 - 13 February 2026

This is a week dedicated to all things apprenticeships. Students will receive information during the week. If parents/carers would like to find out more about apprenticeships in Lincolnshire and supporting your son/daughter through research and applications, you may wish to join the webinar below.

Parent & Carer Webinar

 **Date:** Wednesday 11th February

 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

 **Format:** Online Webinar

What to Expect:

Parents and carers can explore apprenticeship opportunities for their children, hear from current apprentices and ask questions directly.

to register for the Webinar: [Greater Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Webinar - Pathway CTM](#)

Lincolnshire Police Apprenticeships STUDENT SIGN UP



Apprenticeships at Lincolnshire Police

The Apprenticeship Academy - Apprenticeship vacancies application process for 2026 is now open.

The closing date for all applications is **12 noon on 13th February 2026**.

Here is the link to the application process.

Lincolnshire Police Website – [Apprenticeship Academy - 2026 - Lincolnshire Police](#)

Job of the Week



Week 1: ZOO VETERINARIAN

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #138 - ZOO VETERINARIAN](#)

Week 2: ACTOR

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #139 - ACTOR - YouTube](#)

Week 3: BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #140 - BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER - YouTube](#)

Week 4: CAREERS ADVISOR

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #141 - CAREERS ADVISOR](#)

Week 5: DENTAL HYGIENIST

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #142 - DENTAL HYGIENIST](#)

Week 6: ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #143 - ELECTRICAL ENGINEER](#)

What's happening in careers at SRPA this term?



William, Jack and Thomas, our SSLT Aspiration Leads

January is the time of year when Year13 SSLT begin to wind up their duties and present the outcomes of their projects to Mr Hardy and Mr Griffiths. Once again, the students blew staff away with the care and dedication that they put into presenting their projects. During their tenure as SSLT, students have developed many of their employability skills, often with the benefit of receiving coaching from Mr Hardy and other senior members of staff. We are sure that these skills will prepare the students well for their next adventure, whatever it may be.

As we say thank you to the outgoing SSLT, especially to our Aspiration Leads Jack and Thomas, we also begin to welcome the new SSLT from Year 12. Applications and interviews are now underway, and I look forward to introducing you to the newly appointed Aspiration Leads shortly.



We should like to thank Mrs Sandra McKenzie from The Environment Agency who visited the Academy to speak with Year 13 students who have not applied to university. She spoke about the work of The Environment Agency, along with the opportunities for apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships.

If any students are interested in finding out more about careers with The Environment Agency, please see the link below:

[Working for EA - Environment Agency - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/working-for-the-environment-agency)

Unifrog Spotlight



Unifrog has regular webinars and updates linked to academic subjects studied here at the Academy. By creating a Unifrog account, parents/carers are able to access these resources. Some webinars are open to the public. Please see below for some examples:

[What's it really like to be a nursing student?: Unifrog Event](#)



What's it really like to be a nursing student?

For students

Join Edge Hill University to hear from current nursing students about how their degree is helping them to develop the clinical skills and knowledge to become outstanding nurses. They'll also share the ways their degree builds the empathy, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence nurses need. Whether you're just beginning to explore a nursing career or already thinking about applying, this session will help you understand the heart behind the profession.

When Tuesday 3 February @ 17:30 UK time

Duration 45 mins



The economics and politics of crime: lessons from the Louvre robbery

For students

How did the theft of millions of pounds worth of jewellery from the Louvre become a case study in human behaviour? In this interactive webinar from Northeastern University London, an economist explores how criminals weigh up risk and reward, while a political scientist examines how the heist became a political crisis shaped by the media. Through live polls and a podcast-style discussion between the two lecturers, see how economics and politics offer insights into real-world events.

When Wednesday 4 February @ 16:30 UK time

Duration 45 mins

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:

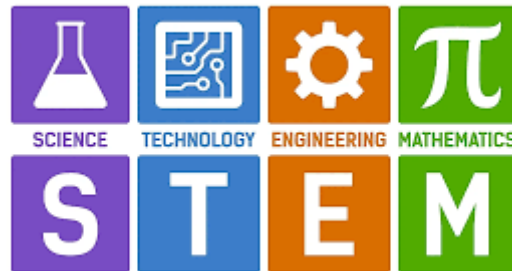
SRPARENT

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

unifrog

Our Curriculum and Careers

STEM



STEM Club has been buzzing with activity this academic year as students have taken part in a wide range of practical science and engineering challenges designed to build curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Recent sessions have included hands-on engineering projects such as designing and testing structures under real-world constraints, alongside exciting science experiments that encourage students to think like scientists and engineers. STEM Club offers a welcoming space for students to work collaboratively, try new ideas and explore how the skills they use in school connect to future study and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

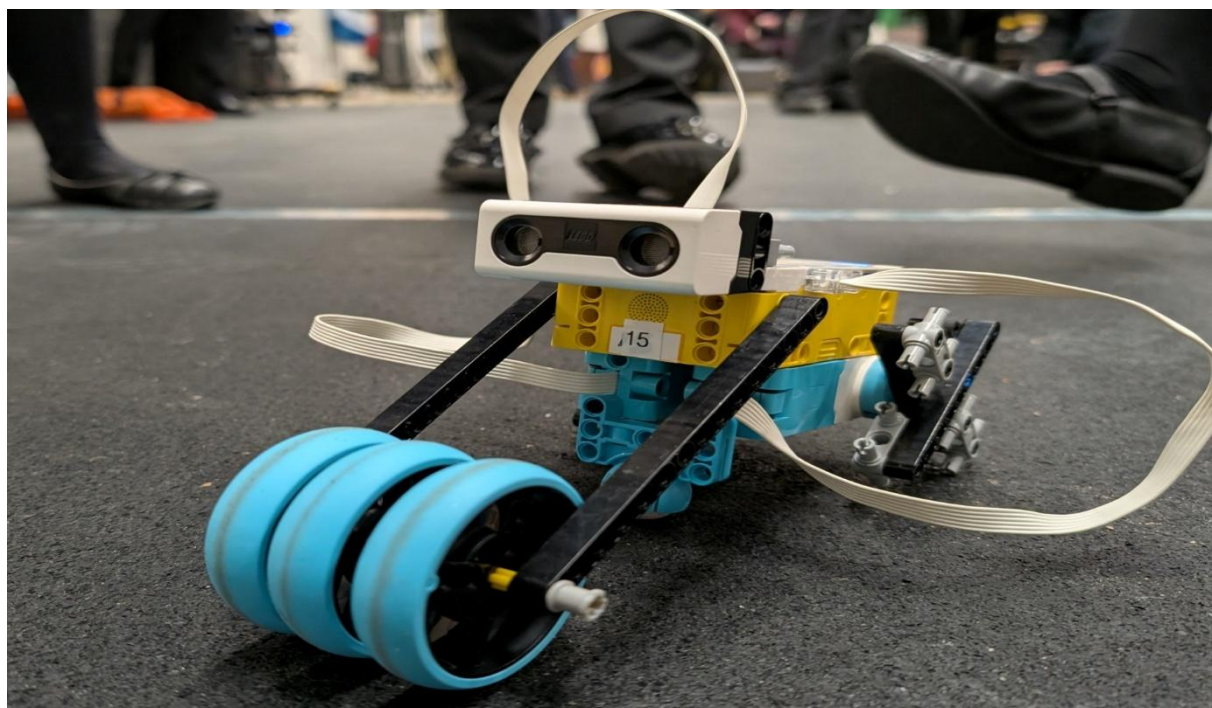
This term, STEM Club will turn its focus to Biology and Environmental Science, with activities that explore the living world and our impact on the environment. Students will design and build bug hotels to learn about habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystems, as well as take part in a chemical clean-up challenge, where they will model pollution and investigate different methods for removing contaminants safely and effectively. STEM Club is open to all interested and inquisitive students and takes place every Monday after school in S14. New members are always welcome, so if you enjoy practical science, teamwork and hands-on challenges, come along and give it a try.

A team of eleven Year 8 students took part in an exciting engineering competition at RAF Waddington in November, bringing their own zipline-launched aircraft to life. After weeks of design, wiring and coding, the team's model successfully deployed two egg-drop capsules mid-flight; A feat of precision electronics and creative aerodynamics, even if the "eggs" didn't quite make the target this time!

The event began with a 'Dragon's Den' style pitch, where each school presented their engineering process to RAF engineers and industry judges. Our students explained their aircraft design, the custom control electronics they had built and the teamwork that brought it all together.

Beyond the competition, the day was packed with STEM experiences. Pupils tried their hand at drone flying, with members of the RAF Model Aircraft Association, took a virtual flight in a Lancaster Bomber thanks to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight team and joined a LEGO Spike robotics challenge, designing, building, and coding a robot capable of carrying out a remote rescue in a simulated disaster zone.

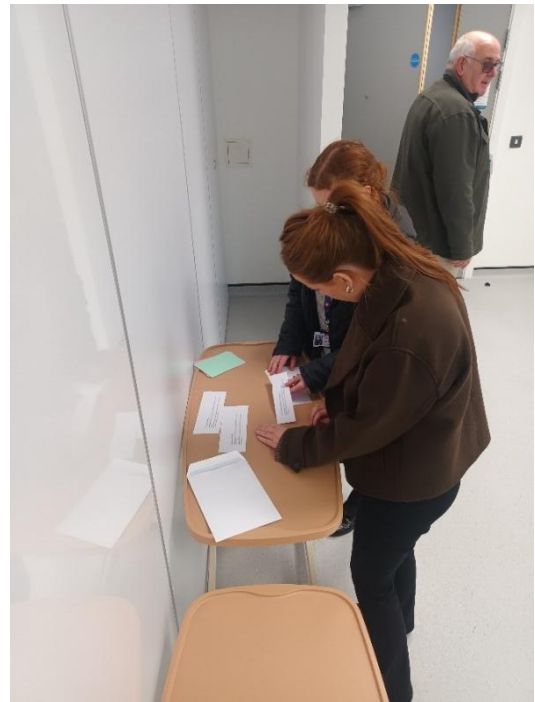
The trip celebrated the creativity and problem-solving that sit at the heart of science and engineering. Our students came away inspired, confident and made the Academy proud.



Med/Vet/Dent

There have been some exciting developments in the Med/Vet/Dent Society over the last term. The Year 12 Health and Social Care students went to the University of Lincoln on 19 November, for the Health and Care Careers Fair. Students had the opportunity to speak with working professionals in a whole host of health and care-related fields. Students were able to ask questions and get an insight into the many different careers. They were also informed about all the different routes into those careers, including apprenticeships and university courses. Students also took part in a Care workshop, which focused on the importance of a person-centred approach to care, followed by a workshop on midwifery, where students learned what a midwife does day to day, entry requirements and the different roles of a midwife during a woman's pregnancy and labour.





Our wonderful Year 13 students have gone through mock medical interviews, in preparation for their Medical School Interviews. We wish our students who have been successful in securing interviews good luck!

We have also started termly mentoring for our KS4 students, in Years 10 and 11, who want to pursue a career in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry. These meetings provide an opportunity, on a one-to-one basis, to focus on ensuring students understand and work towards the knowledge and experiences they need to have a successful university application, when the time comes. Academic progress, work experience and extra-curricular activities are all discussed in these meetings and students have been set targets based on these key areas.

It has also been wonderful to see the numbers of students in KS3, particularly our new Year 7 students, sign up to make the most of the support on offer, to help them pursue their aspirations. Their enthusiasm is infectious and it is very exciting to be able to capture and encourage this energy, so that they can make the most of every opportunity available to them as they pursue their educational careers at SRPA.

Our first meeting of 2026, which all Med/Vet/Dent students are invited to, will focus on extra-curricular activities and how they are not only important as an activity that students complete simply because they enjoy it, but how they also develop a series of "soft skills" which are essential for a career in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry. At this meeting, students will also have an opportunity to get their Med/Vet/Dent Passports signed and mix with students in other year groups, to discuss all things Med/Vet/Den.

Subject spotlight

Why I want to be a midwife

I would love to be a midwife because I am very passionate about helping others and making people feel seen and understood. I have always admired the journey of motherhood and pregnancy and knew how important it is in women's and their families' lives. Midwifery to me stood out as it means that I could help women through a very challenging and important time in their life, making them feel empowered and supported, as well as helping them and their babies in times that may not always be so positive. I also love the opportunities that come with midwifery, such as the opportunities to specialise and learn more about motherhood and babies, travel opportunities such as humanitarian work and the chance to go into different environments such as hospitals and community roles. You can find out about careers in midwifery here: [Midwifery | Health Careers](#)

Kimberley M - Year 12



Why I want to be a radiographer

I would like to be a radiographer because the science used in the practice is very fascinating and it allows me to employ analytical skills and knowledge in a way that can help people to name and treat health issues. The technology is always advancing and the world of discovery in this sector is very wide, so it opens many opportunities of participating in research and further education to expand the effectiveness of care worldwide. I also think, that with any role in health and social care, the privilege of supporting people in difficult times is very important and rewarding, and any support that I can offer can make a big difference in patients' lives and contribute positively to the world. You can find out about careers in radiography here: [Radiographer | Explore Careers | National Careers Service](#)

Esmee J - Year 12









Future Study Opportunities

FUTURES FOR ALL



Discover Careers Calendar

6 Opportunities for your hardest to please students!

 Remote WEX Creative Industry Insight with Creative Chimps Explore 16 th - 17 th Feb 2026 10 am - 5 pm 2-day 16-19 yrs Application deadline - 19 th January 2026 Industry - Music Promo/ PR/ Podcasting	 Remote WEX Create an awesome Campaign with Crustacean Compassion Explore 17 th - 18 th Feb 2026 10 am - 2.30 pm 2-days 14-19yrs Application deadline - 27 th January 2026 Industry - Charity/ Campaigns/ Politics	 From Idea to Screen - Your Creative Career Starts Here with Gorilla Gorilla! Explore 4 th -6 th March 2026 9.30 am - 1.30 pm 3-days 16-19yrs Application deadline - 3 rd February 2026 Industry - Video/ animation	 Remote WEX From Pitch to Profit - with Ballistic Ballers Explore 9 th -10 th March 2026 9.30 am - 2.30 pm 2-days 14-19yrs Application deadline - 13 th February 2026 Industry - Sports/ Business	 Insight Day Step Inside the Music Industry - UK Music Insight Day Explore 4 th - 5 th March 2026 10 am - 3 pm 1-day 14-19 Application deadline - 13 th February 2026 Industry - Music/Media/ Film	 Remote WEX Operation Ascension: Join QinetiQ's 3-Day Defence Simulation Explore 6 th - 8 th July 2026 10 am - 3 pm 3-days Restrictions apply Application deadline - 11 th June 2026 Industry - Military and Security
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Click on the picture above and you (and your students) will go to the live link where you can click through to all the separate “explore” areas.

If you have an issue with this, please note the separate URLs are here, as well as a description:

Creative Chimps - <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/0F89D881-AC95-494E-97D4-08DE39878F56> CLOSING SOON – 19th January

This two-day virtual placement introduces students to real-world work in the creative industries, with a focus on music promotions, public relations, and podcast production. On day one, students step into the world of music PR, learning how artists and releases are promoted across key media channels and working in teams to develop and present a campaign. Day two is a practical podcast creation workshop, guiding students through the full process of turning an idea into a published episode, from planning and recording to editing and launch.

Crustacean Compassion - <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/C61B748A-C4A8-4AF8-8340-08DE04A598DF> – CLOSING SOON – 27th January

Join the Crustacean Compassion team for an immersive two-day remote work experience exploring how science, ethics, and advocacy shape public policy and protect animal welfare. As one of our returning employers, this is also one of the most popular placements we have run. The placement is particularly well suited to students interested in biology, environmental science, and animal welfare, offering insight into how scientific research is used to influence

legislation and improve treatment standards for marine animals. Through interactive sessions and a real-world project challenge, students will hear from professionals working across research, campaigning, media, and policy, and see how evidence and empathy come together to create meaningful change.

Gorilla, Gorilla! - <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/2DB34810-1DDE-4403-0143-08DE2363587C>

Are you 16 to 19 and thinking about a creative career in video or animation? This three-day remote work experience introduces how ideas are developed, shaped, and pitched within the video and animation industry. Students explore the full creative process, from initial concept to presenting an idea for screen, with guidance from Creative Directors, Video Directors, Animators, and Producers working across TV, film, advertising, and digital content. Across live sessions, creative challenges, and feedback, students gain hands-on insight into how creative teams collaborate and turn ideas into real projects, while learning more about career routes within the industry.

Ballistic Ballers CIC - <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/0DC9426D-0A88-440A-C54D-08DE2DA8E8C7>

This placement gives young people the chance to gain real-world experience in sports coaching, event planning, and youth leadership with BALLISTIC BALLERS CIC, a highly engaging host organisation. Focused on empowering young people, particularly from underrepresented ethnic groups, the placement helps participants build confidence, independence, and essential skills for success on and off the pitch. Students get hands-on experience supporting sports sessions, assisting with community event planning, and learning how a sports coaching business operates behind the scenes.

UK Music - <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/0A6C6A4F-7A63-46B9-49A8-08DE21167489>

Are you 14 to 19 and curious about what it's really like to work in music? This remote Insight Day is a perfect taster-length opportunity to explore the industry, whether you are interested in live events, artist management, or the business behind your favourite tunes. Students will hear directly from music professionals, discover the wide range of careers in music, take part in interactive Q&A sessions, and pick up tips on how to start their own music career.

Qinetiq - <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/FF4CE9A8-D79B-4DEE-AB0A-08DE1C5BDD66>

This three-day virtual work experience with QinetiQ, one of the MOD's largest suppliers, gives students the chance to tackle real Defence and humanitarian challenges. Open to all, with priority for Cadets and children of serving personnel, the placement puts you on a mission team responding to a crisis on Ascension Island. Students take part in interactive tasks such as planning an air-drop mission, keeping a storm-damaged ship afloat, and restoring critical infrastructure while countering cyber threats. Alongside these hands-on challenges, you'll meet Serving Personnel and industry professionals from Cyber, Training, and Operations to discover a wide range of careers within Defence. This is a perfect taster-length opportunity to develop problem solving, teamwork, leadership, creativity, and communication skills in a real-world context.

There are still places available on all of the placements above, but please note that application deadlines for Creative Chimps and Crustacean Compassion are fast approaching.

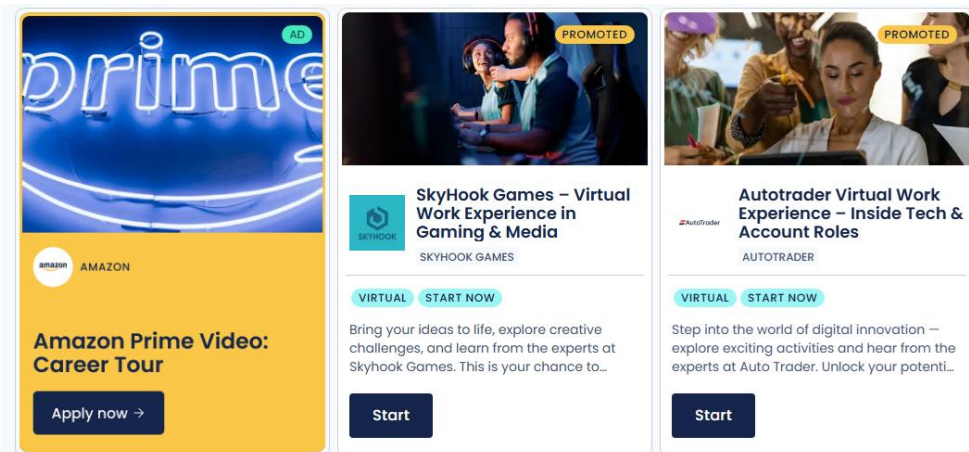


Virtual Work Experience with Springpod

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!



Last year over 10,000 students took part in Sutton Trust programmes, gaining the confidence, guidance and knowledge needed to access leading universities, apprenticeships and competitive careers. Applications for 2026 UK Summer Schools are now open.

The Sutton Trust Summer Schools offer students a free, residential experience of university at one of 13 highly selective universities. Across more than 40 subject areas, students take part in lectures, tutorials and project work while meeting other like-minded learners from across the UK.

Summer schools are open to individuals currently studying in Year 12, have achieved at least five GCSE grades 9-6 and are prioritised if they meet social mobility criteria (e.g. free school meals or care experience).

For further information please see: [The Sutton Trust](#)

Personal Guidance Plan for Term 2

Personal Careers Guidance – Supporting Individual Pathways

In Term 3, 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.

In addition, we also invite some of our younger students with EHCPs to meet with Mrs Johnson to have a taster session, where they will discuss possible careers.

- 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.

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

