



8 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Careers & Work-Related Learning Bulletin, Year 11 and 13 Leaving Day Arrangements, Royal Garden Party

Welcome to my end of week update letter.

I hope that you all managed to enjoy the bank holiday weekend. In my experience, four-day weeks are all well and good, but five days of work still needs completing in the time available.

The examination season has now formally begun. Best of luck to all our Year 11 and 13 students. With two weeks to go until May half term, this is a vital period where the effort and time you put in now will benefit you later. There are many breakfast revision sessions, intervention groups and support mechanisms. Use them all as the examination series progresses.

Careers & Work-Related Learning Bulletin

Please find attached our latest edition.

Year 11 and 13 Leaving Day Arrangements

We will publish these details as soon as possible to aid families in planning for the afternoon of 22 May.

Royal Garden Party

On Wednesday, I spent some time at Buckingham Palace representing the Academy at the first Royal Garden Party of the season. I have known since early in January that I had been nominated by the Department for Education to attend, apparently for my outstanding contribution to the education sector. It was certainly an experience and one for the memory books, especially being up close with the King, Queen, Princess Royal and Duke of Edinburgh.

I will keep it short this week. I will sign off with a quote from Sun Tzu's 'The Art of War', which is a super book. It also offers advice for life which is both simple and easy to apply – "Plan for what is difficult while it is easy, do what is great while it is small."

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 2026
Term 5

Welcome and Key Dates

Welcome to the Careers and Work-Related Bulletin for Term 5

As examination season begins in earnest, students in Year 11 and Year 13 are finalising their choice of destinations for their next steps. As ever, we are delighted by the ambition and range of destinations that our students have made applications to. We wish them all the very best of luck.

Key Dates

Wednesday 20 May 2026 – Personal Development Day 5
22 – 28 June 2026 – National Alumni week
Wednesday 1 July 2026 – Personal Development Day 6
Wednesday 1 July – SRPA Careers Fair

Careers in Lincolnshire

As part of my role as Director of Careers, I am fortunate to be able to visit a wide range of businesses. Recently, I was able to attend a meeting at Vaculug in Grantham.

Established in 1950, Vaculug is Europe's largest independent retreader producing high quality off-road and truck retread tyres for fleets across the UK and Europe.

As visitors, we were able to tour the factory to see the process of retreading the tyres and learn the importance of sustainability in their work, in addition to meeting many of the staff from the factory floor to the managing director, Jorge Crespo. I would encourage students who are seeking apprenticeships to consider companies such as Vaculug who are committed to expanding their apprenticeship offer in areas such as marketing and finance.



Vaculug Grantham

Apprenticeship opportunities

At the time of writing, there are currently 17 apprenticeships (at varying levels) available within 10 miles of our Academy. These include Accounts Administration with JCT 600, Dental Nursing with BW Partnership and Pharmacy Assistant at 3Sixty Health Care LTD 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](https://www.gov.uk/find-apprenticeship)

Job of the Week



Week 1: MECHANICAL ENGINEER
[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #150 - MECHANICAL ENGINEER](#)

Week 2: NAVAL ARCHITECT
[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #151 - NAVAL ARCHITECT](#)

Week 3: OPTOMETRIST
[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #152 - OPTOMETRIST](#)

Week 4: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #153 - AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER](#)

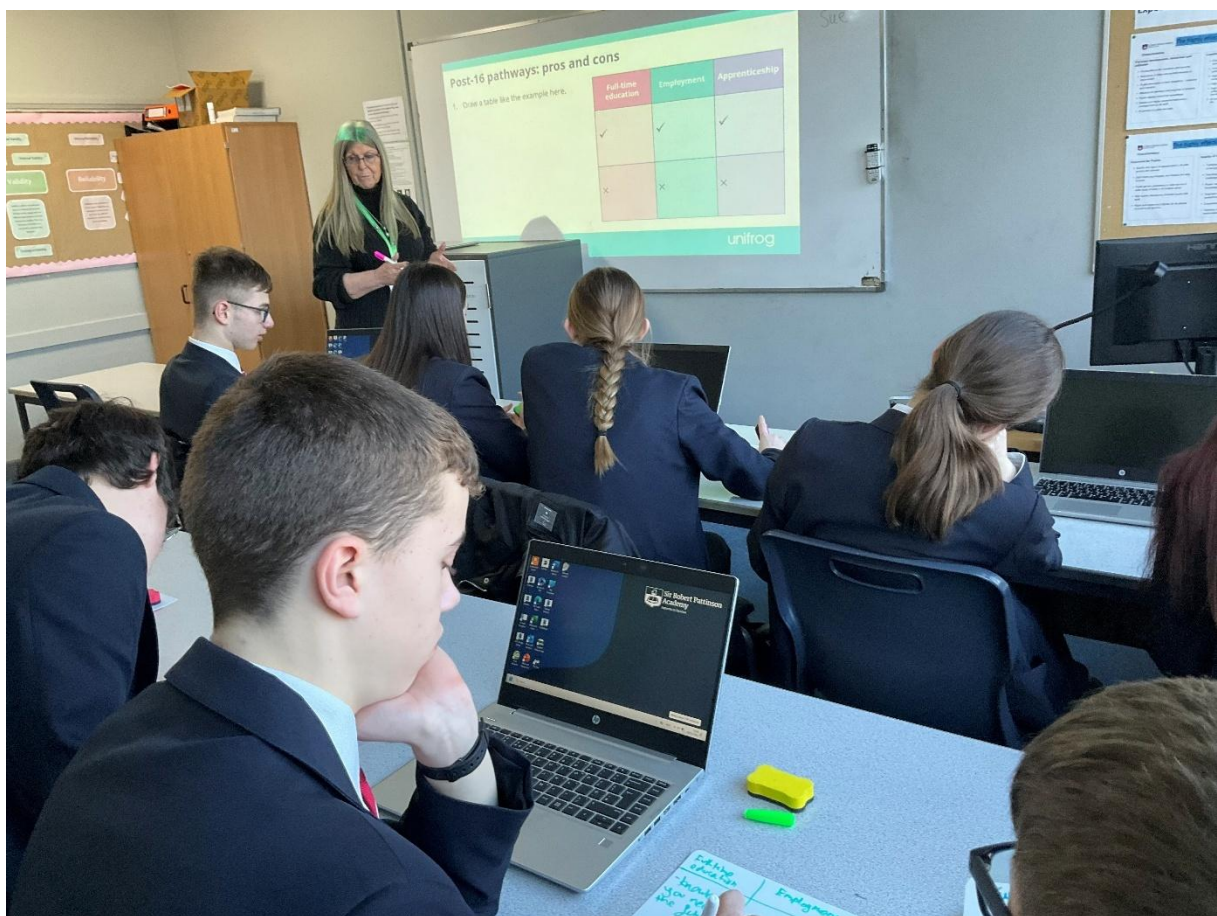
Week 5: CIVIL ENGINEER
[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #154 - CIVIL ENGINEER](#)

What's happening in careers at SRPA this term

Term 5 – Aspirations Clinics

The Year 7 Aspirations Clinics ended this week. We should like to express our thanks to Mrs S. Johnson and Mrs R Wills for leading such enjoyable sessions. The students have all been able to meet with them and discuss their aspirations and dreams for the future.

During the Aspirations Clinic, we talked about different careers and different skills we would need in future jobs. We also spoke about decision-making and easier ways to make decisions. In addition to this, we also discussed different types of contracts and where we would use them. (Charlotte - Year 7)

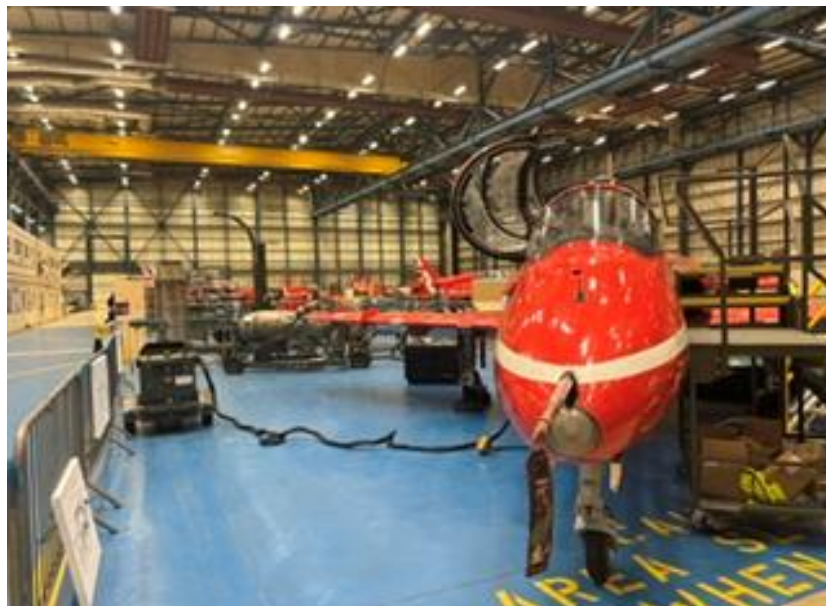


Mrs Johnson and students during a Careers Aspiration Clinic

Junior Chef Academy

We are proud to see the second cohort of our junior chefs graduate from the Junior Chef Academy. After ten weeks of dedication, attending extra sessions at Lincoln College after the end of the Academy Day, two of our students (Caleb and Olivia - Year 11) were able to invite their teachers and families to a gala dinner at RAF Waddington, where they were also able to tour the famous Red Arrows planes!

The students have worked hard and learned lots about being a chef from some of Lincolnshire's most proficient chefs. We were delighted to learn that another of our students (Jack Year 10) has been chosen to participate in the next Junior Chef Academy. We wish him well.



Junior Chef Academy Gala Dinner 2026



The Junior Chefs



Junior Chef Academy 2026

Alumni visitor

On 1 April, the Year 10 Geography students were delighted to welcome Amy Davies into their lesson. Amy is a former SRPA student and served as Head Girl in 2002–2003.

During her visit, Amy spoke to the group about her career as a Town Planner, sharing her career path and offering valuable insights into what a typical day in her role looks like. This was particularly beneficial for the students, as town planning directly supports their preparation for Paper 3, where they are required to evaluate development proposals, make justified decisions, and apply many of the skills used by professional planners.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Amy for giving up her time to support our students, and we look forward to welcoming her back later in the year for our Careers Fair.



Amy visiting Year 10 Geographers

Fundraising trip to Rainforest Ward

On Wednesday 1 April, four Sixth Form students from the Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT) headed to Lincoln County hospital, with Mr Griffiths and Mrs Lewis, armed with a feast of arts and crafts materials and books, for the children's Rainforest Ward.

Olivia, Sophie, Katelyn and Tabitha are part of the Community team in RP6th, and spear-headed a project to raise funds for children in hospital. Having experienced some time during her childhood in Rainforest Ward, Olivia was determined to lead a project to help support other children and 'give back' to the staff and hospital.

£220 was kindly donated by families of students at Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, which were then used to purchase arts and crafts items and books. In addition, parents, carers, students and staff brought in arts and crafts donations.

Ben and Linda from the United Lincolnshire Hospitals Charity welcomed the students, along with Jayne, one of the Trust's Executive Directors. They helped to deliver the items to the Playroom within Rainforest Ward. The children who were in the Playroom at the time had first choice to select either a book or craft.

Linda explained that the Charity raise £1million yearly to support good causes with the 4 Lincolnshire hospitals (Lincoln, Boston, Grantham and Louth), and this September is the charity's 30th birthday. The Academy's Community team hope to support some of the upcoming events.



SSLT Community Team visit The Rainforest Ward



Fearne, Marissa, Saoirse and Archie, our SSLT Aspiration Team



10 March – Year 12 Universities and Apprenticeships fair

On 10 March, Year 12 students visited Leicester Tigers Stadium to attend the UK Universities and Apprenticeships fair. It gave students a chance to start thinking seriously about their future paths after Sixth Form. The visit offered a valuable opportunity to meet representatives from a wide range of universities and training providers.

Throughout the day, we were able to walk around exhibition stands, collect prospectuses, and speak directly with university staff and current students.

This has helped me to understand where next steps could take me, and what grades I need to achieve it.

Overall, the trip was both informative and inspiring. What a great trip!' (Fearne, Deputy Head student)



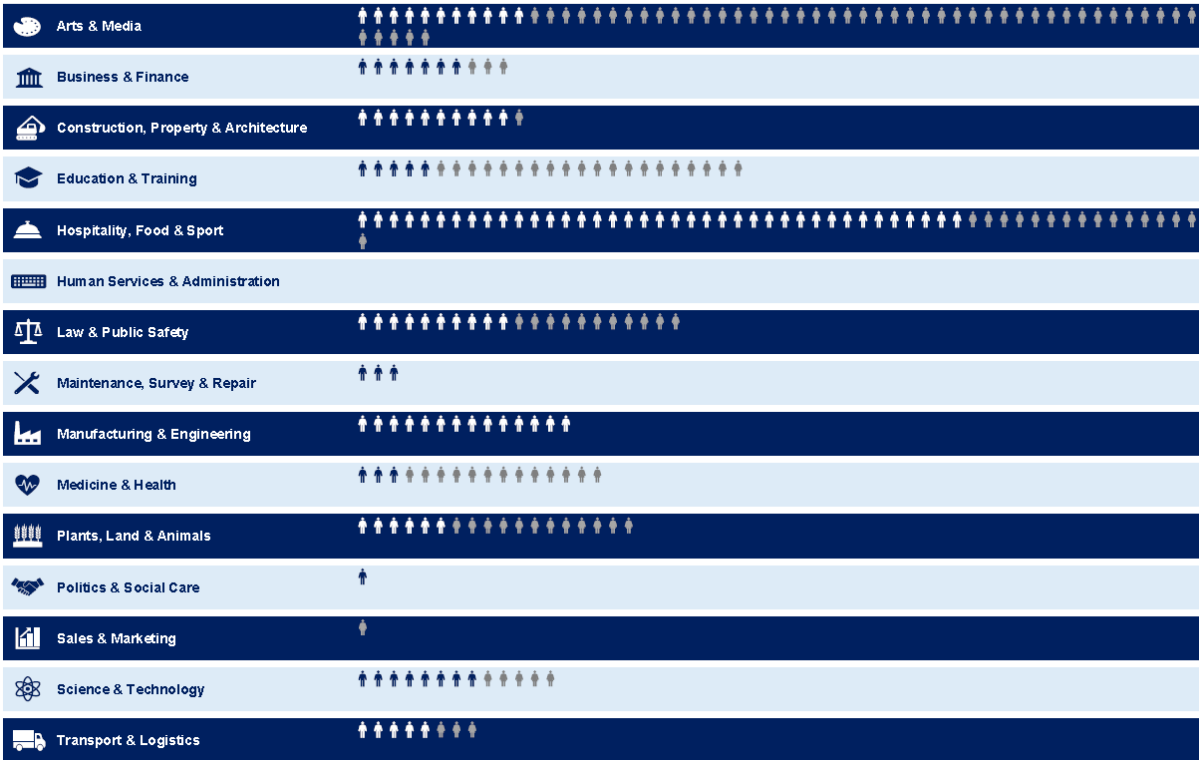


SRPA students at the Universities and Apprenticeships Fair

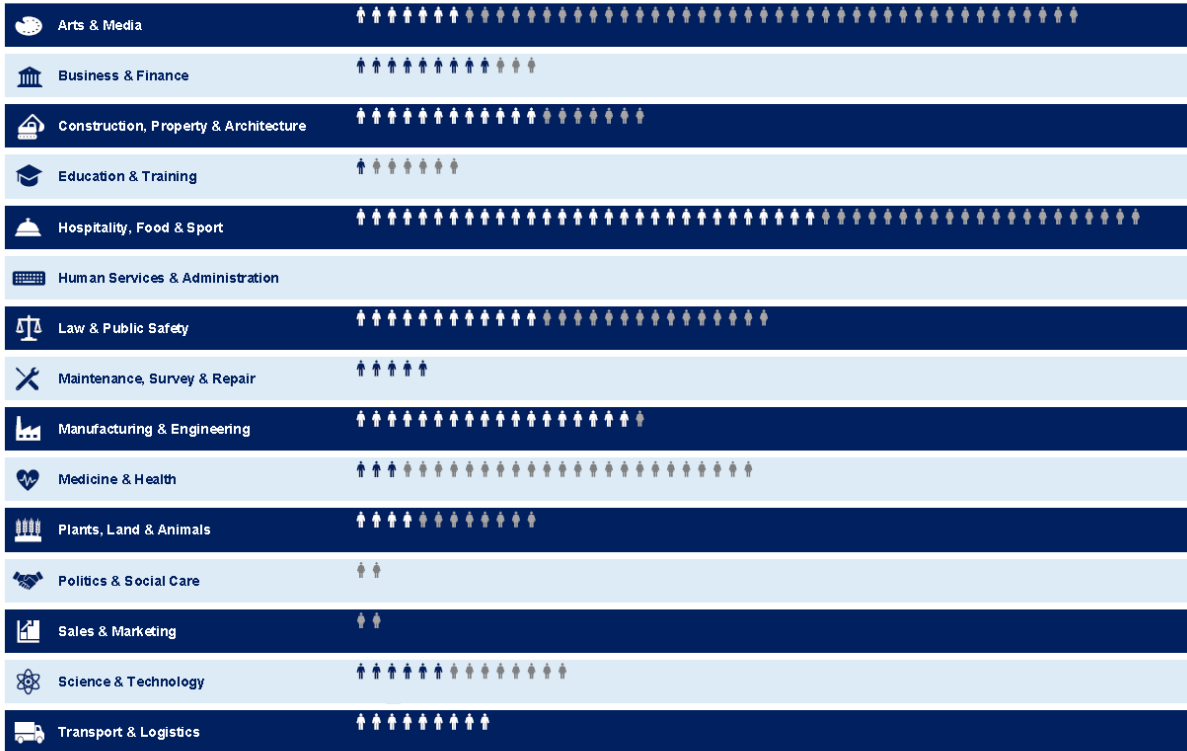
Student Aspiration

We have recently updated our aspiration walls. Students in all year groups discuss their future aspirations with their tutors and the information is collated to help us plan lessons / opportunities according to interest. It is great to see such a wider range of interests and aspirations from our students.

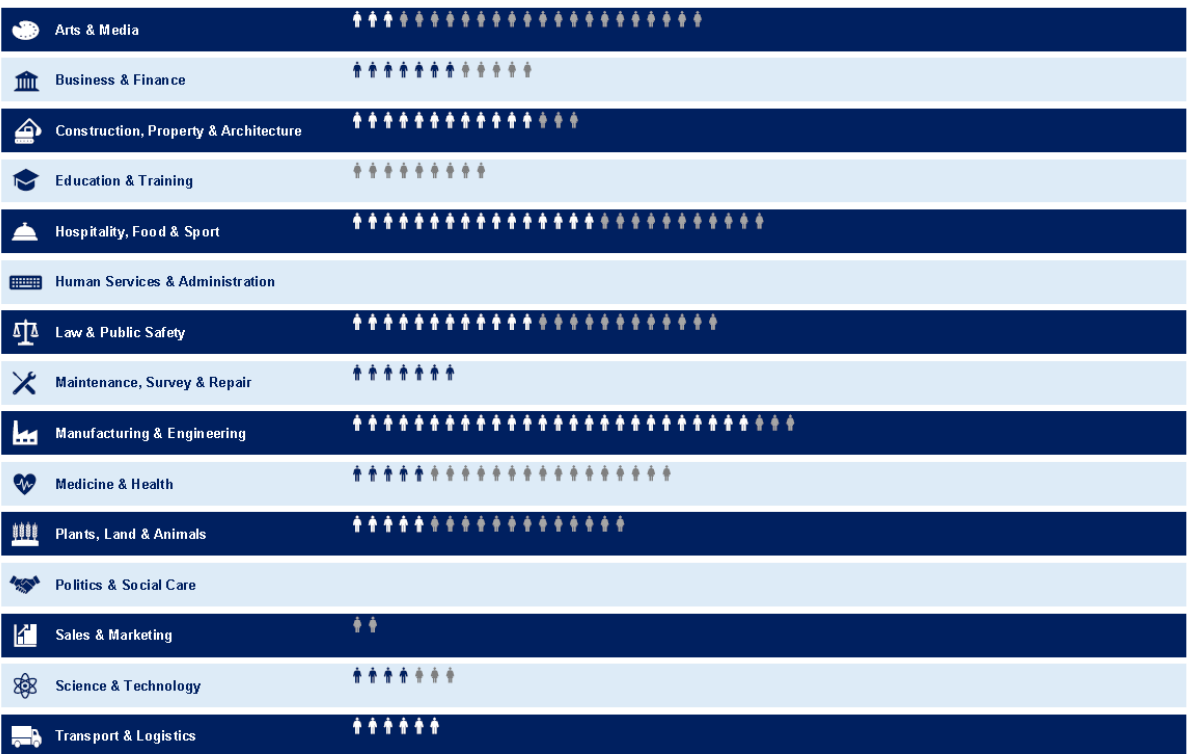
Year 7 Career Aspirations - April 2026



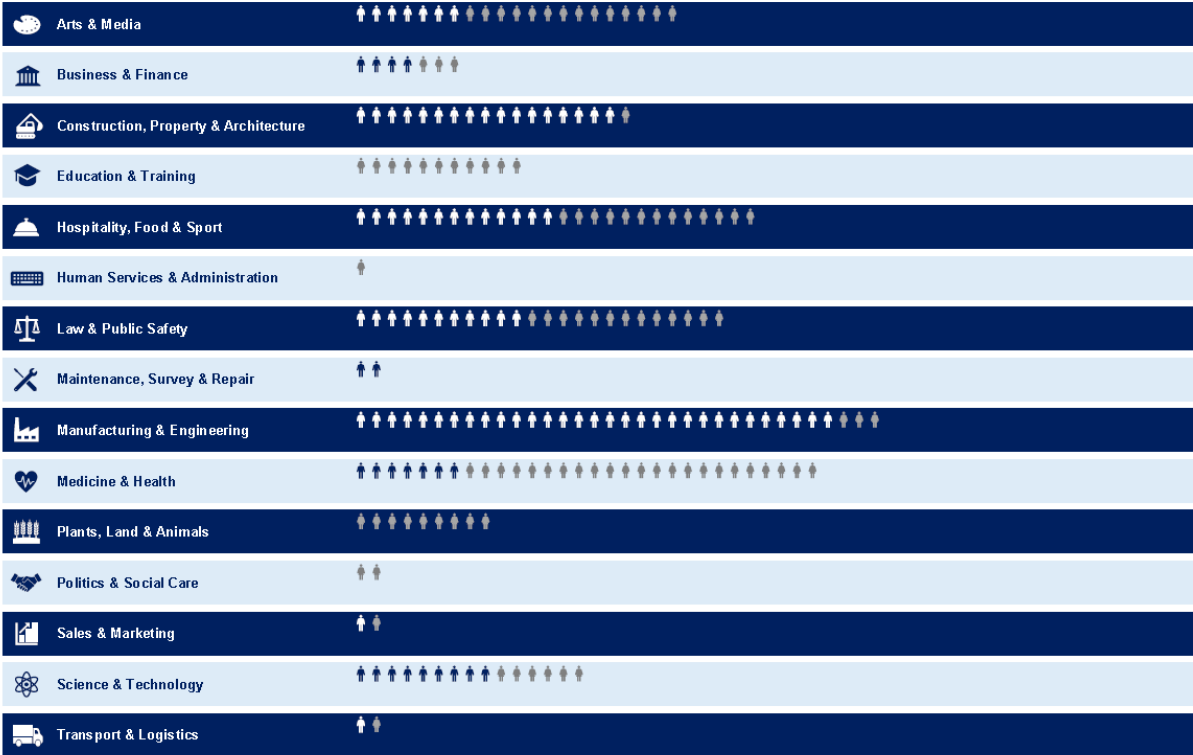
Year 8 Career Aspirations - April 2026



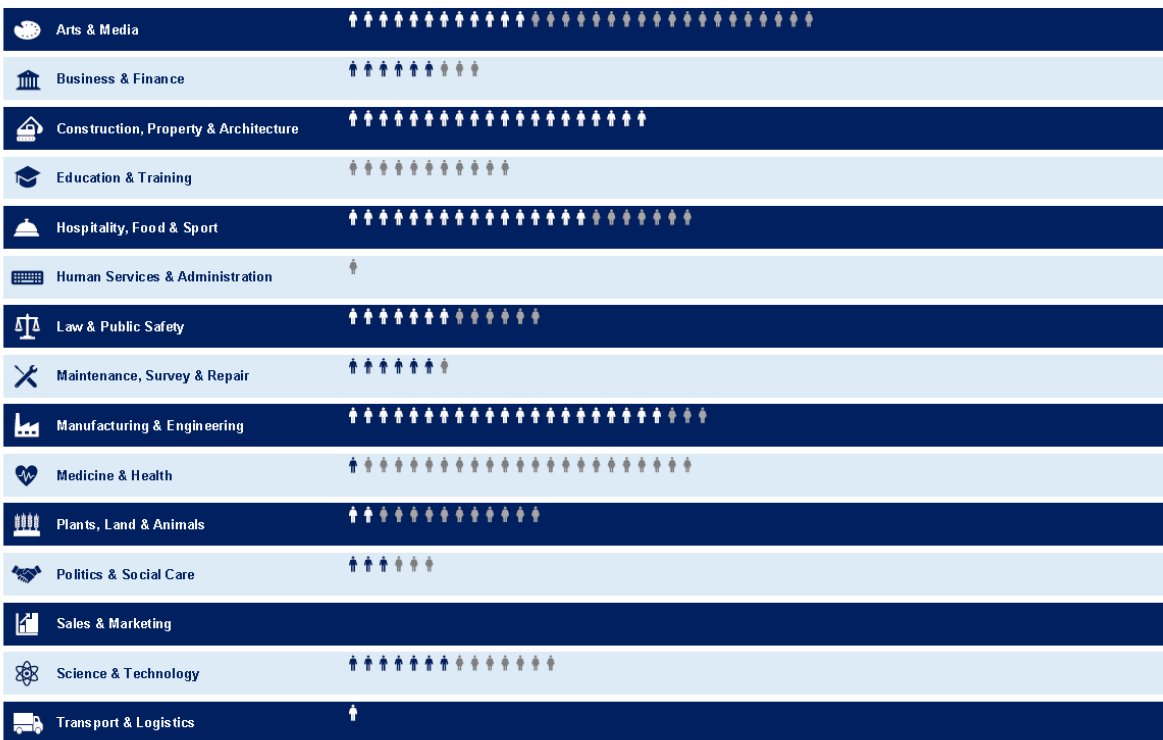
Year 9 Career Aspirations - April 2026



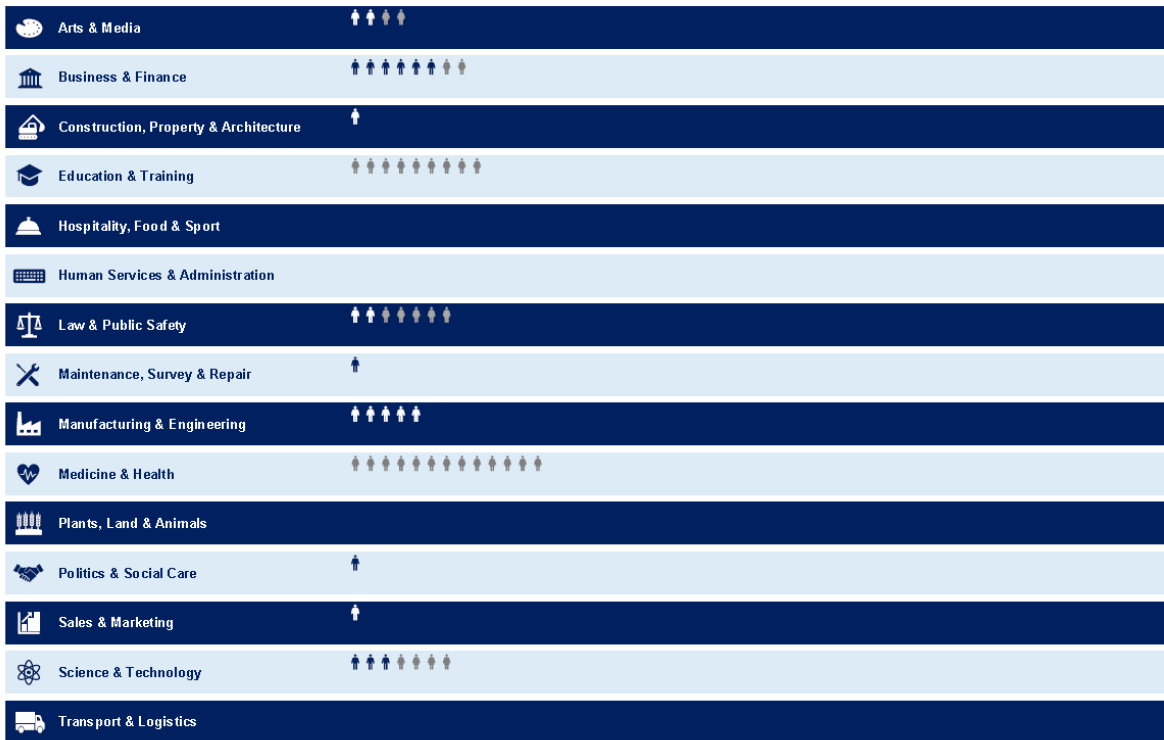
Year 10 Career Aspirations - April 2026



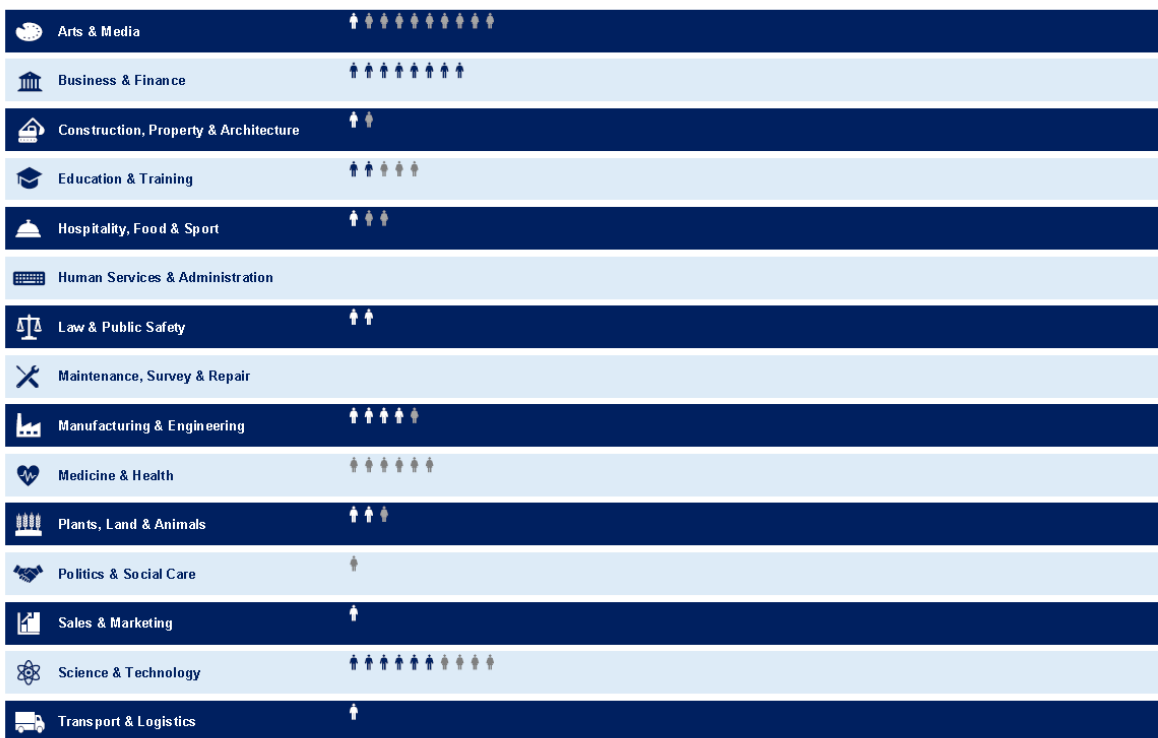
Year 11 Career Aspirations - April 2026



Year 12 Career Aspirations - April 2026



Year 13 Career Aspirations - April 2026





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 also. However, some webinars are open to the public. Please see below, for some examples:

Our events are completely FREE! Just sign up below and we will email you a link

[Routes into business and finance : Unifrog Event](#)



Routes into business and finance

Students Virtual

Are you considering a career in business and finance? Join this webinar to hear from professionals about their roles, career journeys, and what a typical day looks like! Gain practical tips on skills, applications, and deciding if the world of business and finance is the right fit for you.

When Monday 11 May @ 16:30 UK time

Duration 45 mins

[Careers in business \(modern work experience\) : Courses](#)

Careers in business (modern work experience)

Starter level. This is a new course.

Suitable for: Y13, Y12, Y11, Y10, Y9, Y8, Y7

copy url

Share



Get a real-world look into careers in business. From what it's like to work as a CEO, to entrepreneurship and business analysis, find out what different roles are really like, and how to start preparing for a successful future in business.

What you'll get out of it

By the end of this course, you'll have a clearer picture of the career opportunities in business, how to prepare for them, and which might suit you best. The skills you'll use include: analysis, decision making, communication, planning, and independence.

Useful prep

Think about what kind of business roles interest you, whether it's running your own company, working with numbers, leading teams, or developing creative ideas.

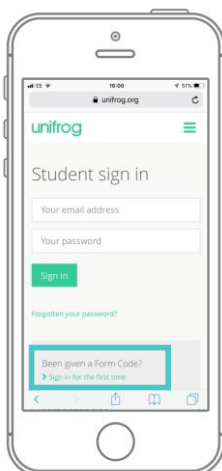
Who it's for

This course is for anyone curious about a career in business, whether you're currently studying business or economics, or you're simply interested in how the business world works.

How long it takes

We recommend allowing about 2 hours to complete the course.

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:

SRPparent

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 blooming this term as students have been exploring all things plants and flowers! We've been growing new plants from trimmings, experimenting with hydroponics, and using coloured water to observe how water travels through a plant – even changing the colour of flower petals along the way. These hands-on activities have truly helped curiosity take root and allowed students to leave each session with new knowledge. If you like practical science and want to watch ideas sprout, STEM Club is the place for you!

Subject spotlight

Spotlight on Careers in Business Studies



Computer Science Careers

Year 11 Computer Science students explored careers within a session around their programming and cybersecurity sessions exploring pathways into the career based on their qualification itself, they worked in groups and created fact files around different employment options within the world of Computer Science. Fact files are attached separately below.

Software Developer Careers

For this role we explored different job articles from Unifrog and job adverts for software developers on sites such as Indeed.

Daily Tasks Include:

- Talking through program specification with clients
- Technical design and progress meetings
- Writing code and fixing code
- Testing software and fixing bugs
- Recording the software development process, any changes made and the resulting output
- Carries out trials of code and checks the quality before release

There are two main specialist areas of software development:

Front end: These developers work on the interface and visual design of software (the part the user interacts with)

Back end: These developers work on the 'behind the scenes' parts of the program, like underlying systems and databases

Typically Needed Qualifications:

A bachelor's degree in computer science or software engineering

Knowing at least one major programming language well

Understanding of basic concepts data structures, algorithms and database systems

Communication and problem-solving skills

Ideal Qualifications:

Professional certificates from companies like AWS, Azure or Google

Experience with different software tools

Experience with cloud computing

A portfolio of projects

Average Salary:

£25,000 – £35,000 at entry level - £70,000 experienced

Forensic Computer Analyst

What will I be doing?

- Analysing crimes such as:
- Hacking, online scams, and fraud.
- Political, industrial, and commercial espionage.
- Terrorist communications.
- Possession of illegal pornography.
- Theft of sensitive company information.

Skills required

- Excellent technical skills, including an understanding of operating systems like windows mac, iOS, and android
- Excellent problem-solving skills
- Critical thinking skills to analyse evidence, interpret data and solve cyber crimes
- Attention to detail, including the ability to spot trends and patterns in large amounts of data

Working hours and environment

The number of hours you work will depend on the type of investigation and how complex it is. In some cases, you may have to work overtime

Most of your work will be office-based, but you will also meet with colleagues and other agencies working on the case. You may also go to court to give evidence as a technical or expert witness.

You will need to spend a lot of time sat at a computer, and you will work on your own most of the time.

You'll then use forensic methods and specialist computer programs to:

- find, recover, and copy data from disks that may have been hidden, encrypted or damage
- reveal digital images that have been altered
- carefully document each stage of your investigation
- between individuals or groups
- identity of a place or person
- analyse mobile phone records to trace devices to a particular location
- follow electronic data trails to uncover links present technical findings to managers, law enforcement organisations, and clients

Future Study Opportunities



Virtual Work Experience with Springpod

Are you 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.

One of our Year 10 students recently tried out a Springpod course. Read his opinion of the course below:

👉 <https://www.springpod.com/>

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

PROMOTED

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Hospitality Work Experience

Marriott Bonvoy

This virtual experience gives you a behind-the-scenes look at the hospitality industry

Virtual-to-Reality

Get more info Start now +25

PROMOTED

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

A Future Connected: Virtual Work Experience with CityFibre

CityFibre

Planning, Design, Installation and Support Roles with CityFibre

Get more info Start now +25

Personal Guidance Plan for Term 5

Personal Careers Guidance – Supporting Individual Pathways

We should like to welcome Mrs R Wills to our Careers Team. She will be joining Mrs Johnson to help provide more careers guidance appointments for our students. We hope that she will enjoy working with us.



In Term 5, 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 our Year 12 potential Oxbridge students to meet with Mrs Wills to have an aspiration session where they will discuss possible careers.

- Appointment notifications will be sent via email approximately one week in advance.
- Students will meet in small groups to complete the aspiration clinic

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.

