# Careers@CVEA

Our careers programme is progressive from Year 7 to Year 11 and has been designed in line with the 2026 Statutory Guidance for Careers Education, the updated Gatsby Benchmarks, the Career Development Institute (CDI) Learning Outcomes and the Department for Education's Work Experience Guarantee. It is designed to ensure every student develops the knowledge, skills, experiences and confidence needed to make informed decisions about their future.

This document should be read alongside our Careers Policy, Provider Access Policy, Personal Development (PAL) Programme and Work Experience Strategy, which together set out our whole-school approach to careers education and preparation for adulthood.

Throughout the programme students develop:

**Ambition** through exploring future opportunities and raising aspirations.
**Determination** by building resilience, confidence and employability skills.
**Respect** by challenging stereotypes, celebrating diversity and valuing different pathways.
**Responsibility** by making informed decisions, reflecting on experiences and taking ownership of future career planning.

**Intent**

Our careers programme aims to:

- Inspire **ambition** by raising awareness of the wide range of education, training and career opportunities available.
- Develop **determination** by equipping students with the knowledge, skills and resilience to make informed decisions and overcome challenges.
- Promote **respect** by challenging stereotypes, celebrating diversity and ensuring equality of opportunity for all.
- Encourage **responsibility** by helping students take ownership of their future, understand the importance of lifelong learning and make well-informed career choices.

- Provide high-quality, independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance.
- Create meaningful encounters with employers, further and higher education providers, apprenticeship providers and training organisations.
- Provide meaningful experiences of workplaces and the world of work.
- Develop the essential employability skills required for future success.
- Prepare every student for successful transition into further education, employment, apprenticeships or training

| Year 7<br>Who am I? | Year 8<br>What opportunities exist? | Year 9<br>How do my choices affect my future? | Year 10<br>What is the world of work really like? | Year 11<br>What is my next step? |
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| **Intent**<br>To inspire curiosity about the world of work, develop self-awareness and introduce the wide range of future opportunities available.<br><br>**Learning Outcomes**<br>Students will:<br>• Recognise their own interests, strengths, skills and qualities.<br>• Begin to understand how learning links to future careers.<br>• Explore a wide range of jobs, sectors and workplaces. | **Intent**<br>To broaden aspirations, challenge stereotypes and develop understanding of different education and employment pathways.<br><br>**Learning Outcomes**<br>Students will:<br>• Explore careers linked to their interests and strengths.<br>• Understand the skills employers value.<br>• Use labour market information to explore future opportunities. | **Intent**<br>To prepare students to make informed GCSE option choices by understanding how these can influence future pathways.<br><br>**Learning Outcomes**<br>Students will:<br>• Understand how GCSE choices can support future progression.<br>• Set ambitious but realistic goals.<br>• Develop employability | **Intent**<br>To prepare students for the workplace through meaningful employer engagement and work experience.<br><br>**Learning Outcomes**<br>Students will:<br>• Develop and demonstrate employability skills.<br>• Prepare for and complete meaningful work experience. | **Intent**<br>To support every student in making informed and ambitious post-16 decisions.<br><br>**Learning Outcomes**<br>Students will:<br>• Understand the full range of post-16 and post-18 pathways.<br>• Research and compare progression routes. |

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| • Understand that there are many different education and career pathways.<br>• Recognise how our values of **Ambition, Determination, Respect and Responsibility** support future success.<br>• Begin recording and reflecting on their careers journey. | • Challenge stereotypes and appreciate equality and diversity in the workplace.<br>• Understand different routes including apprenticeships, college, sixth form, university and employment.<br>• Reflect on experiences to help shape future aspirations. | skills including teamwork, communication and problem solving.<br>• Understand employee rights, responsibilities and workplace expectations.<br>• Explore careers linked to curriculum subjects.<br>• Make informed decisions using reliable careers information. | • Reflect on workplace experiences to identify strengths and areas for development.<br>• Understand recruitment and selection processes.<br>• Develop a positive digital identity and understand responsible use of technology.<br>• Explore future education, training and employment opportunities. | • Develop an action plan for their next steps.<br>• Produce a professional CV and prepare for interviews.<br>• Receive personalised careers guidance.<br>• Make informed decisions leading to a positive destination. |
| **Key Careers Experiences**<br><br>Careers Module Lifeskills<br><br>CVEA Careers Fair | **Key Careers Experiences**<br><br>Careers Module Lifeskills<br><br>CVEA Careers Fair | **Key Careers Experiences**<br><br>Careers Module Lifeskills<br><br>CVEA Careers Fair | **Key Careers Experiences**<br><br>Careers Module Lifeskills | **Key Careers Experiences**<br><br>Careers Module |

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| PAL assemblies<br><br>Employer encounters<br><br>Experience of the Workplace (visit)<br><br>HEI visit<br><br>Unifrog<br><br>Careers in the Curriculum (careers links in subject areas)<br><br>Careers Tutor sessions<br><br>SkillsBuilder<br><br>*Careers Insight Talks*<br><br>*Access to a L6 Careers Advisor*<br><br>*Careers Ambassador Leadership Programme* | PAL assemblies<br><br>Unifrog<br><br>Workplace Visits<br><br>VWEX<br><br>Careers in the Curriculum (careers links in subject areas)<br><br>Careers Tutor sessions<br><br>SkillsBuilder<br><br>Who Cares? (Careers in the NHS – workshop)<br><br>National Careers Week Activities<br><br>*Careers Insight Talks*<br><br>*Access to a L6 Careers Advisor* | PAL assemblies<br><br>Unifrog<br><br>Workplace Visit (linked to aspirations)<br><br>Careers in the Curriculum (careers links in subject areas)<br><br>Careers Tutor sessions<br><br>SkillsBuilder<br><br>*Careers Insight Talks*<br><br>*Careers Ambassador Leadership Programme*<br><br>*Access to a L6 Careers Advisor*<br><br>*Workplace visits*<br><br>*HEI visits* | CVEA Careers Fair<br><br>Sunderland College Visit<br><br>Work Experience<br><br>Mock interviews<br><br>PAL assemblies<br><br>Unifrog<br><br>Careers in the Curriculum (careers links in subject areas)<br><br>Careers Tutor sessions<br><br>SkillsBuilder<br><br>*Careers Insight Talks*<br><br>*Access to a L6 Careers Advisor*<br><br>*Careers Ambassador Leadership Programme* | CVEA Careers Fair<br><br>Careers guidance session<br><br>PAL assemblies<br><br>Unifrog<br><br>Careers in the Curriculum (careers links in subject areas)<br><br>Weekly Careers Tutor sessions<br><br>SkillsBuilder<br><br>National Careers Week Activities<br><br>*Careers Insight Talks*<br><br>*Next Steps Student and Parent Information Evening* |

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| *Workplace visits*<br><br>*HEI visits*<br><br>*FEI visits* | *Careers Ambassador Leadership Programme*<br><br>*Workplace visits*<br><br>*HEI visits*<br><br>*FEI visits* | *FEI visits* | *Next Steps Student and Parent Information Evening*<br><br>*DWP Support for Schools – CV, Interview Preparation Support*<br><br>*Workplace visits*<br><br>*HEI visits*<br><br>*FEI visits* | *DWP Support for Schools – CV, Interview Preparation Support (Weekly Sessions Half terms 1-4)*<br><br>*Workplace visits*<br><br>*HEI visits*<br><br>*FEI visits* |

**Measures**

Students will:

- Access a progressive careers programme from Year 7-11.
- Meet employers from a wide range of sectors every year.
- Experience workplaces through visits, projects and work experience.
- Encounter colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and training providers.
- Receive personal guidance from a qualified Level 6 Careers Adviser.
- Use Unifrog to record, reflect on and plan their careers journey.
- Develop employability skills through the Skills Builder Framework.
- Understand Labour Market Information and future employment trends.
- Be prepared for successful transition into education, employment or training.
- Leave Year 11 with a positive intended destination.

*_Italics_ show optional / additional careers activities which students can engage with.