

Careers Newsletter

Term 2, 2025-26



Welcome to the Pathways Learning Centre Newsletter - published every term.

It aims to support you and your parents/guardians, when thinking about your future. It includes information about what you can do after Year 11, as well as what you can do whilst at Pathways Learning Centre.

All students can meet with careers staff for individual advice about options and career choices.

We can also support with:

- applying for college
- finding work experience
- writing CVs
- interview preparation
- apprenticeship searches
- and much more

We are keen to include parents and carers in the transition from Pathways Learning Centre and are happy to be in contact by email or phone.



Job Sector of the Term

Job Sector – a group of occupations that are similar to each other.

Each term we focus on different job sectors and the various job roles in that sector.

The Job Sector for this term is: **Health & Social Care**



There are some great career websites such as **Careerpilot**

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/>

These websites list different job sectors and job roles – showing **Labour Market Information (LMI)**. This is information to help you know what kind of jobs will be in demand when you leave school so you can make decisions about your career ideas. You can find out how much you can earn, the skills needed, entry requirements and progression pathways after Year 11.

Here is an example:



Job: Healthcare Assistant

Day to day tasks

- help patients shower and get dressed
- help people eat and make beds
- make beds
- use equipment to lift and move patients
- talk to patients and reassure them

Typical hours worked in a week

37 to 40

How do I get a job as a Healthcare Assistant?

- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role

Entry Requirements

A good standard of literacy and numeracy. Level 2 Qualifications at College.

Average pay a year

£18,005—£24,157

You could work

Evenings, weekends and bank holidays,

Skills and Qualities

*Sensitivity and understanding *Work well with others *Enjoy working with other people *Good communication skills

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/medical/job-profile/healthcare-assistant>

In Bristol and South Gloucestershire, we have some excellent Post 16 Providers who offer courses in **Health & Social Care**.

SGS College and **City of Bristol College** have Vocational Qualifications (BTECS) in Health & Social Care at different academic levels, so they are suitable for most students who have an interest in this sector.

Find out more on their websites:

<https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/study/school-leavers>

<https://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk/school-leavers/>

Many **Sixth Form Colleges** also offer Health & Social Care as a Level 3 course (same level as A Levels, take two years to complete). Some also offer it as a Level 2 course which you can do for a year and then progress on to a Level 3 course the following year.

Each of their websites lists the different courses available and entry requirements needed to get in.



Post 16 Providers

In South Glos, Bristol and the surrounding area, there are a great selection of **Post 16 Providers** that offer everything from **A Levels** and **Apprenticeships** to **BTECs** and **T Levels**. They also have foundation courses which are designed for students who may need extra support to help with issues such as anxiety or learning support.

You may be keen to move on to a **College** or **Sixth Form Centre**, or you may prefer a smaller environment that specialise in a specific vocational area such as Media or Sports.

Post 16 providers offer Open Days which are available throughout the academic year. These are aimed for Year 11 students to visit with parents, carers, friends or whoever you would find it useful to go with. They usually need to be booked in advance, so please check their websites first.

At these events you can find out more about the courses, meet the tutors, have a look around and get a general feel of a place that could be where you decide to go in Year 12.

Details of some are in the **Upcoming Events** section below.

Also, this term, we have invited some Post 16 Providers into Pathways Learning Centre as follows:

Meet The Providers

Post 16 Options for Students in Year 12

Term 2 – Friday Mornings

We have arranged for different colleges to visit Pathways Learning Centre to tell you about what they offer and how you can join.

If you are interested in finding out more about the college, the courses, they provide and the support they offer, then please make the most of this opportunity and meet them - as they would love to meet you!

Date/Time	Post 16 Provider	Visitor
14th Nov 9am-10:30am Math Cots/ English Frome	Access Creative College Media, Music, Computing, Games and Esports courses	Charlie Grier
28th Nov 9am-10:30am Math Cots/ English Frome	SGS College A Levels, T Levels, Vocational courses and a Sports Academy	Ben Johnson Rosin Smyth
5th Dec 9am-10:30am Math Cots/ English Frome	City of Bristol College A Levels and Vocational courses in four different city locations	Sophie Harding
12th Dec 10am-10:30am Math Cots	St Brendan's College A college/Sixth Form Centre for 16–18-year-olds only - offering over 60 different A- level and Level 3 courses	Lori Brown

When you are in Year 11, you can apply for as many courses as you are interested in. You will need to check the individual provider website to check entry requirements and if it looks suitable for you.

If your application is accepted, you may then be offered an interview. This will be a chance to meet department staff. A conditional place will likely to be offered.

You can only do one course, so you should accept any offers of interest and then decide which course you want to do after GCSE Results Day in August. The provider will keep in touch to inform about taster days and start dates.



Work Experience

At Pathways Learning Centre we are keen to offer our students many experiences of work.

This could include activities and opportunities ranging from employers visiting PLC and virtual work experience to work experience at a company either shadowing or completing job tasks. See the **Jargon Buster** section below to find out what some of these terms mean.

Work Experience is a great way to find out more about areas of work you are interested in, which could lead to further opportunities when you leave school.



It can be difficult for our students to leave their comfort zone and try something different, but it can also be life changing.



This is what one student said about their recent experience:

"The bants in that van! I could do that for the rest of my life"

If you or your family know anyone that may be able to offer you something, please let us know so we can contact them to arrange.



Labour Market Information

Labour Market Information (LMI) is finding out about the kind of jobs that will be in demand when you leave school, what skills you will need and what you can earn.

There are many job sectors in the West of England, some of which are experiencing massive growth and others that are in decline.

No matter which sector you choose there are job opportunities available, some of which are newly designed roles and others with vacancies due to employees moving on.

Have a look at this website: <https://www.skillsconnect.org.uk/career-insights/#LMI> to discover more information about each job sector to help you find a suitable career path. It includes a list of the ten top largest job sectors

Here is a clue to the largest job sector:





Upcoming Events

Click on the links below if you want to find out more and to register

17th January:

City of Bristol College Open Event from 10am to 1pm

<https://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk/events/>

24th January:

SGS College Open Event from 10am to 1pm

<https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/events/open-days>

3rd February:

St Brendan's College Open Day from 11am to 2pm

<https://www.stbrn.ac.uk/info/open-events/open-evening-tuesday-3rd-februar/>

Wednesday 11th February:

Pathways Learning Centre – Careers Event

More details coming soon!



Jargon Buster – what does it mean!!!?

Post 16 Providers

The different places you can go after Year 11 including **Colleges** and **Sixth Form Centres**.

Job Sector

A group of careers/job roles/professions/occupations that are similar to each other.

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Information to help you know what kind of jobs will be in demand when you leave school so you can make decisions about your future plans. It explains how much you can earn, the skills needed, entry requirements and progression pathways after Year 11.

T Levels

They are two-year Level 3 qualifications (the same as A Levels) designed for 16–19-year-olds who want to learn valuable employability and technical skills in their chosen job area. 20% of the course is in the workplace. If passed you can progress to university or a degree level apprenticeship.

Work Shadowing

Spending time with an employer to find out what they do without doing any of the tasks. This can often lead to work experience.

Virtual Work Experience

This is online work experience with no visits to the actual workplace. This might involve a virtual tour, and you may be given certain online tasks to do.



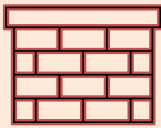
Did You Know?



The UK's green-energy sector is booming?
The clean energy / net-zero economy is growing around three times faster than the rest of the UK economy



The **healthcare and social care** sectors saw the **biggest annual job growth** in late 2024, with a **3.7% increase** in workforce jobs



Most UK employers say experience matters more than qualifications?
Surveys regularly show that employers value hands-on experience, teamwork and communication skills over exam results alone. Apprenticeships give you experience *and* a qualification at the same time — a double advantage.

We hope you have found this careers newsletter useful. Feedback is always appreciated!

If you or your parents/guardians have any questions, then please get in touch.



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