

Careers Newsletter

Term 1, 2025-26



Welcome to the Pathways Learning Centre Newsletter - published at the start of each 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 always keen to include parents and carers in the transition from Pathways Learning Centre and are always happy to be in contact by email or phone.



Job Sector of the Term

Job Sector – a group of occupations that are like each other, such as **Hospitality and Catering**

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

The Job Sector for this term is: **Media, Games & Performing Arts**



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 future plans. It tells you how much you can earn, the skills needed, entry requirements and progression pathways after Year 11.

Here is an example:



Computer Games Developer

Computer game developers create video games for phones, tablets, PCs and consoles.

Salary: £27,000-£71,000

4.3% ↑
Job growth by 2029



Careerpilot

careerpilot.org.uk

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/design/job-profile/computer-games-developer>

In Bristol and South Gloucestershire, we are fortunate to have some excellent Post 16 Providers who specialise in the Creative Industries.

SGS College and **City of Bristol College** have Vocational Qualifications (BTECS) in all of these areas at different academic levels, so they are suitable for most students who have an interest in this sector. Courses such as:

Creative & Digital Media

Games Design

Esports

Photography

Performing Arts

Find out more on their websites:

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

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

Bath College and **Weston College** also offer similar courses.

Some **Sixth Form Colleges** also offer courses in the creative industries, including A Level subjects such as **Media Studies** and **Photography**

The following Post 16 Providers offer creative courses:

Access Creative College <https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/courses/>

Boom Satsuma <https://www.boomsatsuma.com/>

Bristol School of Acting <https://bristolschoolofacting.com/college/>

Circomedia <https://www.circomedia.com/the-btec-course/>

The Big Act <https://www.thebigact.com/>

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 specialises in a specific vocational area.

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. These usually need to be booked 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!

We will pass on a list of open events during Term 1. Details of some during this term are in the **Events Happening This Term** section below.

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 it looks suitable for you.

If your application is accepted, you will then usually be offered an interview. This will be a chance to meet department staff and have a one to one appointment. 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 one 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

From the start of this academic year, all schools are required to offer two weeks' worth of Work Experience for students from Year 7 to Year 11. At Pathways Learning Centre we are keen to offer this to our students.

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.

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

This means the kind of jobs that will be in demand when you leave school and what skills you will need.

There are many 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 bit of a clue to the largest job sector:





Events Happening This Term

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

4th October:

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

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

11th October:

SGS College Open Event from 10am to 1pm

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

18th October:

Access Creative College Open Day from 11am to 2pm

<https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/events/open-day-18th-october-2025/>

21st – 23rd October:

Boom Satsuma Open Days

<https://www.boomsatsuma.com/open-days-college/>



Jargon Buster – what does it mean!!!?

Post 16 Providers

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

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

Two year qualifications that you can do after GCSEs as an alternative to A levels or an apprenticeship. They are Level 3 qualifications (the same as A Levels). 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 work place. This might involve a virtual tour and you may be given certain online tasks to do.



Did You Know?



You can start an apprenticeship at any age from 16 (after your GCSEs)!



The UK tech industry is growing 2.5x faster than the rest of the economy.



There are over 800 different types of job roles in the NHS.

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

If you or your parents/guardians have any questions, then please let us know.



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