

Careers Newsletter

Term 4, 2025-26



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

This term we are focusing on **Employers and Work Experience**

Our careers event on 11th February was a great success, and we had fantastic feedback from the providers who attended who were mightily impressed by our students. Comments such as:

I wanted to say a huge thank you for allowing us to spend time and deliver to your students. We genuinely enjoyed it so much and came away feeling very inspired by the students and the staff.

We also had some great feedback from some of our students and parents such as:

My (child) who would normally shy away from events like this, fully engaged and took part in all the activities and really enjoyed it. She came out of school excited to tell me all about it.

This is why we host such events!

Such positive feedback matches our aim at PLC to inspire our students with opportunities that can lead to career ideas. We can then work together with students and parents/carers to identify suitable Post 16 plans.

The government's ambition is to guarantee **2 weeks' worth of work experience for every secondary school student**. We at Pathways are delighted to have been chosen as one of the Alternative Provisions in the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) area, to pilot the **Equalex** framework. This is a framework set up with the learning outcome to support high quality, meaningful work experiences.

So, to support such work experiences we need to be in partnership with local employers and training providers, so they can meet our students and offer work related activities – and that's what we're doing!

We work towards the following model:

Employers into school setting to introduce themselves to students = relationship building, easing fear of the unknown →

Small group visits to employer = taking out of comfort zone with employers they have already met →

Meaningful work experience - if not suitable, try another. If suitable, could potentially lead to →

Apprenticeship/Paid work

We are mindful that many of our students may not be able to be involved in such a model, so there are other ways we can offer meaningful experiences of work, such as Virtual Work Experience.

This year several students have done, or are doing work experience placements, in various job roles, such as working in a hospital with the Radiotherapy team to mechanics in a local garage. Families and friends have a big impact in our ability to find suitable places, so if you know of anyone that may be willing to offer work experience to your student or others, please let us know!

Employers Visiting PLC

Guests who have been in, or are due to visit this year include:

Who?	What do they do?
Airbus	Employer: Engineering
Apprenticeships West	Apprenticeships Service
Bowmer & Kirkland	Employer: Construction
Bristol Beacon	Employer and Youth Development Programmes: Music and Events
South Glos Early Years	Employer: Childcare for 0-5 Year Olds
UWE: Green Futures	University & Employment Adviser: Renewable Energy, Engineering
UWE: Unlock Cyber	University & Employment Adviser: Cyber Security
Winvic	Employer: Construction

We have several more companies we are in discussions with too!



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.



Upcoming Events

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

Weds 11th March:

City of Bristol College Open Event from 5:30pm to 7:30pm

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

Thu 30th April:

SGS College Open Event from 5:30pm to 8pm

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

Sat 21st March:

Access Creative College Open Day from 11am to 2pm

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

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

If you have any questions, then please get in touch.



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