

Careers Newsletter

Term 1, 2026-27



Welcome to your **Pathways Learning Centre Careers Newsletter** – published every term.

It aims to support students and 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.

Steve Newman, our Careers Progression Adviser, aims to see all Year 11 students by the end of Term 2 for a careers guidance session. This is an opportunity to discuss Post 16 options (Year 12 and onwards) and career aims.

We can also support with:

- applying for college
- finding work experience
- writing CVs
- 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. Please see our contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Guiding you today. Supporting your tomorrow.



Steve Newman

Independent Careers & Transition Coach

NewMango



Rowan Baker

Lead Professional:
Careers Lead and WEX

PLC | Pathways Learning Centre



- We have a **Careers Team** at **Pathways Learning Centre** to guide you through options that are available for you when you leave school and support you with your transition to wherever you decide to go next.



- When you are in **Key Stage 4**, we can also help you to find **work experience WEX**.



- In **Year 11**, you will be offered an appointment where you can **discuss your Post 16 options and plans for your future**. We continue to support you with finding out more about where you can go and can help you to apply for Post 16 education or training.



- If you are **unsure what to do next**, this is an **excellent opportunity to find out about different job sectors and roles**, including the options that are available to you when you leave.



- We are more than **always happy to discuss anything careers related**, so please get in touch.

We're here to help every step of the way.

WE SUPPORT YOU TO:



Explore your options



Plan your next steps



Gain valuable experience



Make informed decisions



Achieve your potential



ONE TEAM



ONE COMMUNITY



ONE PATHWAY



LIMITLESS POTENTIAL



Year 11 to Year 12

How do I get there!!?

All terms are busy, but Term 1 is especially for us!

Not only are we supporting our Year 7 to 11 students with careers related matters, but we are also checking in with those that have moved on to Year 12.

Year on year we have excellent results for our school leavers in their quest to find a suitable Post 16 provision in September. We contact all their intended destinations, be it a college, an apprenticeship or another place of study – to ensure they are where they planned to be. If not, we contact home to see if we can help.

It helps that we have excellent contacts and knowledge of the places available for our students. Not only for those that are hoping to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at Grade 4 and higher, but also those who are unable to get that level of qualification.

We are mindful that most, if not all, of our students are anxious about what happens after Pathways Learning Centre, so we can support students and parents/carers alike to explore suitable and relevant options ranging from **specialist provision** to **sixth form centres**.

Each student who has a careers guidance session will be shown our Careers Booklet that they can keep. This has information about the Post 16 Providers that Pathways Learning Students mostly move on to after Year 11, such as SGS College and City of Bristol College.

It also has information about Post 16 options and Careers Information Websites.

Also included is the below Qualification Levels guide so you can understand what levels are needed for specific college and provider courses.

Your Next Steps: Qualification Levels

Level	What you could study	What you may need	Your next move
Entry	Entry Level Award, Certificate or Diploma; Entry Level Functional Skills	Usually no specific GCSE grades. Each course sets its own requirements.	Build confidence , move to Level 1, further education, supported routes or work.
1	Level 1 Diploma or Certificate; some vocational courses	Often Entry Level qualifications or no formal qualifications. GCSE grades 1–3 are Level 1.	Step up to Level 2, an Intermediate Apprenticeship or work.
2	GCSE grades 4–9 ; Level 2 Diploma; Foundation or Intermediate Apprenticeship	Requirements vary. Many courses ask for GCSEs around grades 3–4. Foundation Apprenticeships have no specific qualification requirement.	Choose your route : Level 3, an Advanced Apprenticeship or work.
3	A Levels, T Levels, Advanced Apprenticeship or Level 3 Diploma	Often around five GCSEs at grades 4–9, usually including English and maths. Check each provider.	Open more doors : university, higher or degree apprenticeships, skilled work or further training.
4	HNC; Certificate of Higher Education; some Higher Apprenticeships	Usually, a Level 3 qualification such as A Levels, a T Level or an Advanced Apprenticeship.	Go higher : Level 5 study, work or progression in a Higher Apprenticeship.
5	HND; Foundation Degree; Diploma of Higher Education; some Higher Apprenticeships	Usually, Level 3 study or equivalent. Entry requirements vary by provider.	Keep progressing : Level 6 degree or top-up study, work or a higher-level apprenticeship.
6	Bachelor's Degree or Degree Apprenticeship	Usually Level 3 qualifications. Universities set their own grades, points and subject requirements.	Launch your career : graduate work, professional training or postgraduate study.

GCSE snapshot

Grades 1–3 = Level 1 | Grades 4–9 = Level 2

Grade 4 is a standard pass. For A Levels or T Levels, some providers may ask for five GCSEs at grade 5 or above, with higher grades in particular subjects. Always check the course details.

There is more than one route to your goal. You can mix academic, technical and apprenticeship pathways as your interests, qualifications and experience grow.



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.

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. 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 this term. 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.



Events Happening This Term

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

Sat 3rd October:

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

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

Sat 10th October:

SGS College Open Event from 10am to 3pm

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

Sat 17th October:

Access Creative College Open Day

<https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/events/october-17th-open-day/>

6th, 7th & 8th October:

Boom Satsuma Open Days from 6pm to 8pm

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



Work Experience

At Pathways Learning Centre we aim to offer two weeks' worth of Work Experience for students from Year 7 to Year 11. This will soon be a requirement for all secondary schools.

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

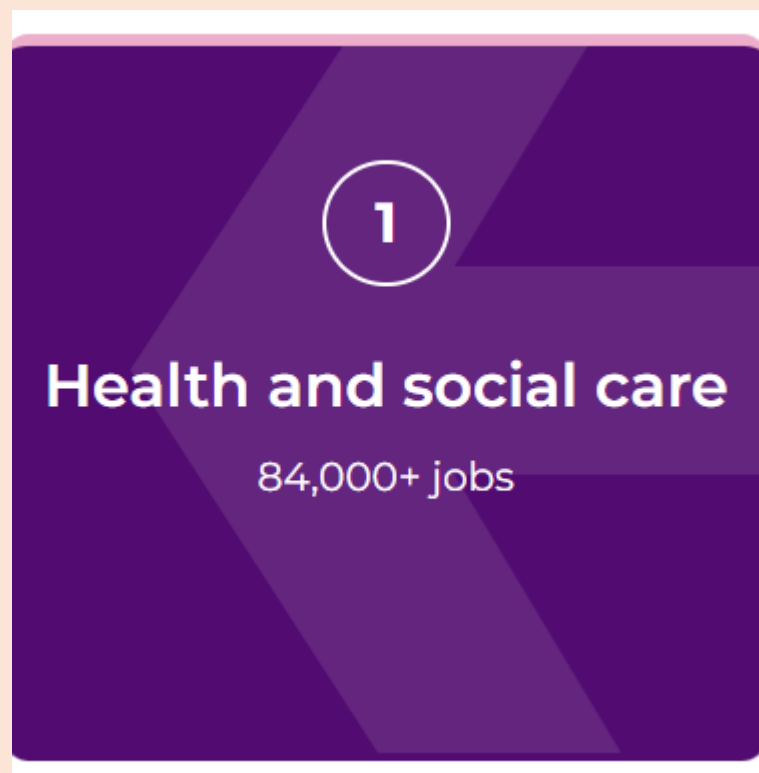
This means the kind of jobs that will be in demand when you leave school and what skills you will need.

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:





Jargon Buster – what does it mean!!!?

Post 16 Providers

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

Intended Destination

The Post 16 provision where a Year 11 school leaver plans to go in Year 12.

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?



Many employers value skills and attitude as much as qualifications when recruiting.



The green economy is creating new careers in renewable energy and sustainability.



Work experience can help you discover careers you may never have considered.

We hope you found this careers newsletter interesting and useful.

Please get in touch if you have any careers related questions



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If

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

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Steve Newman

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