

Careers Plan 2025-2026



Year 7

At the beginning of Year 7, pupils are introduced to the concept of careers education and meet the Head of Careers, helping them begin to understand the importance of planning for the future. To spark curiosity and imagination, pupils take part in a lively and interactive session using Panjango – a Top Trumps-style game that explores exciting jobs of the future. Careers are ranked by fun categories such as ‘cool factor’ and ‘tech rating’, encouraging pupils to think creatively about emerging industries and roles. Building on this, pupils are then challenged to invent their own job of the future. This activity encourages them to consider the skills, qualifications, and knowledge that future employers might value, helping them to connect their interests with real-world possibilities.

The Biology department runs an activity during Green Careers Week that requires pupils to think about green careers of the future and the skills these will require.

In the Spring term pupils complete the Future Skills Questionnaire to give us a base line understanding of their careers based knowledge.

In the Summer Term, pupils take part in the “What does success look like to me?” lesson from Unifrog. This reflective session helps them explore different definitions of success in both life and work, encouraging them to think about personal values, aspirations, and what a fulfilling career journey might look like for them.

Year 8

During the Spring term, pupils take part in the Dragons’ Den Challenge. The event is launched by an entrepreneur, often a former pupil or a local business leader, who shares their personal journey into the world of business. Following this, pupils are tasked with developing a fully costed business plan for a product or service of their own creation. The most promising teams will be invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of ‘Dragons’, who will select the winning team. This challenge is designed to ignite entrepreneurial thinking, foster creativity, encourage problem-solving, and promote effective teamwork.

In the Summer term, pupils will take part in Unifrog’s ‘What Makes a Great Leader’ lesson. This session helps pupils explore the key qualities and skills that define effective leadership. Through reflection and discussion, they will begin to understand how they can develop their own leadership abilities as they progress through their education and beyond.

Year 9

In the Autumn term, pupils will revisit the Future Skills Questionnaire to reflect on the career-related skills and knowledge they’ve developed over the past two years.

They will also take part in the House Entrepreneurship Challenge, where they’ll be given seed capital to launch their own mini-businesses. This activity allows pupils to further develop their entrepreneurial mindset, with the winning team earning recognition for their House and a share of the profits they generate.

In the Spring term, pupils will be introduced to the wide range of GCSE subjects available to them. To support their decision-making, they will complete Unifrog’s lesson ‘Decision Making: Choosing What to Study at KS4’, which helps them consider key factors when selecting their options.

In mid June pupils will have their first experience of a work place as they take in Take Your Child to Work Day with their parents or guardians. At the end of the Summer term, pupils will participate in a Speed Networking event, where they’ll meet professionals from a variety of local and national organisations. This experience offers valuable insights into different career pathways and highlights the skills and qualifications employers look for.

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Year 10

During the Autumn Term pupils will complete the Unifrog Interests questionnaire, helping them identify how the subjects and topics they enjoy could link to future careers. They can then use Unifrog to explore different pathways into these roles.

In the Spring Term pupils will attend two events:

Telford Skills Fair where they'll meet a wide range of local and national employers showcasing opportunities across diverse industries and professions.

GCSE Science Live where they will hear from some of the UK's leading scientists. The event will allow them to better understand what career opportunities are available to those studying science.

In the summer term pupils will have a one-to-one careers guidance appointment giving them the chance to explore their ideas and ambitions in more depth. They will also take part in 16+ Progression Week, which includes visits to two universities, talks from local colleges, conversations with apprentices, and insights into the qualifications and routes available after GCSEs.

Year 11

Year 11 begins with a focus on work experience, helping pupils understand its value and guiding them through the process of finding a suitable placement. Pupils will also explore the wide range of A Level courses available in our Sixth Form, alongside assemblies introducing alternative options such as local colleges, apprenticeships, and the Armed Forces. During this term, pupils will complete the Future Skills Questionnaire, helping us identify any gaps in their careers knowledge ahead of their GCSEs.

In the Spring term pupils will attend our Careers & Education Fair, meeting representatives from over 30 industries, employers and professions as well as universities from across the UK.

At the end of the Summer term, after their GCSEs, pupils will complete five days of work experience. If they are unable to secure a placement they will take part in a virtual work experience programme delivered in school.

Lower Sixth

Careers education begins as soon as Lower Sixth pupils start the academic year. Pupils are introduced to their Unifrog account and encouraged to begin exploring their interests and potential career paths.

Within the first two terms all pupils have the option to book a one-to-one interview with a careers professional to help them understand the decisions ahead and the school's timeline for applications and planning.

All Lower Sixth pupils are expected to complete at least two days of work experience, with more encouraged where possible. A weekly lecture programme covers a wide range of topics, many linked to careers—such as preparing for university fairs, understanding apprenticeships, and financial planning. Pupils also attend the school's Careers & Education Fair, and can join regular lunchtime talks on subjects like Medicine and Engineering.

During Progression Week, pupils come off timetable to focus entirely on their next steps, with sessions on university applications, apprenticeships and gap years and much more. The UCAS application process begins at the end of the Lower Sixth year.

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Upper Sixth

At the start of the Upper Sixth year, pupils focus on UCAS personal statements, preparing for apprenticeship applications and practising for university and job interviews.

All early applicants, those applying to Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry, or veterinary courses, are offered practice interviews to help them prepare.

Pupils who are targeting Apprenticeships are part of a group who are offered additional support such as CV and cover letter writing help and mock interviews to help them prepare.

The lecture series continues with many of them focusing on careers related content such as interview skills.

Upper Sixth pupils also attend the Careers & Education Fair, gaining valuable insights into post-school options. In addition, they can join a series of lunchtime talks on subjects like Medicine and Engineering, tailored to support their chosen career paths.