

Careers Programme 2026-2027

Our college has a team of qualified Careers Advisors who are available to all our students. They offer a range of information, advice and guidance services; which are mapped against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Gatsby Benchmarks:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 A stable careers programme | 5 Encounters with employers and employees |
| 2 Learning from careers and labour market information | 6 Experiences of workplaces |
| 3 Addressing the needs of each student | 7 Encounters with further and higher education |
| 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers | 8 Personal guidance |

KEY DATES:

College Careers Week

12th - 16th October 2026

College UCAS Deadline

4th December 2026

Official UCAS Deadline

13th January 2027

National Apprenticeship Week

8th - 12th February 2027

National Careers Week

1st - 6th March 2027

College Careers Week

22nd - 25th March 2027

Activity	Level 1 & below	Level 2	Level 3 (Year 1)	Level 3 (Year 2)	When	Student Engagement	Parent Engagement	School Engagement	Employer Engagement	Gatsby Benchmarks	Delivery Team
Careers Information, Advice & Guidance											
Early Careers Support - Right Learner/ Right Course	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sep - Nov	✓	✓			1 2 3 8	Careers
Group Careers Guidance Sessions	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓					Careers
Progression & College Leaver Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	Feb - Jul	✓	✓			1 2 3 8	Careers

UCAS & Higher Education											
UCAS Preparation: Research			✓		Apr - Jun	✓	✓			1 7 8	Careers Uni Connect Universities
UCAS Preparation: Personal Statements			✓		Apr - Jun	✓	✓			1 7 8	Careers Uni Connect Universities
UCAS Registrations			✓	✓	Sep - Dec Apr - Jun	✓				1 7 8	Careers
UCAS Process for Parents				✓	October		✓			1 7 8	Careers Universities

Activity	Level 1 & below	Level 2	Level 3 (Year 1)	Level 3 (Year 2)	When	Student Engagement	Parent Engagement	School Engagement	Employer Engagement	Gatsby Benchmarks	Delivery Team
UCAS & Higher Education (Continued)											
UCAS Application Checking				✓	Sep - Jan	✓				1 7 8	Careers Universities
Personal Statements				✓	Sep - Jan	✓				7	Careers Universities
Student Finance Advice				✓	Sep - Dec	✓	✓			7	Careers Universities
Student Finance Support				✓	Mar - Jul	✓	✓			7	Careers
UCAS Extra / Clearing Advice & Support				✓	Feb - Jul	✓				7	Careers Universities
Interview Preparation for University				✓	Sep - Apr	✓				7	Careers Universities
Portfolio & Audition Advice				✓	Sep - Dec	✓				7	Universities
University Trips & Visits			✓	✓	Sep - Dec April - June	✓				7	Universities Curriculum Careers
University Fairs			✓	✓	Sep - Dec	✓				7	Universities Curriculum
HE+ Programme			✓	✓	Sep - Dec April - June	✓				7	Universities Careers

WVRXTRA⁺

Employability

Job Applications & Job Search Skills (Labour Market Information)	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓	✓		✓	1 2 3 5	Careers Employers Curriculum
Competitive CV Writing	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5	Careers Employers
Covering Letters & Speculative Letters	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5	Careers Employers
Interview Techniques	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5	Careers Employers
Mock Interviews	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 3 5	Employers Careers

Activity	Level 1 & below	Level 2	Level 3 (Year 1)	Level 3 (Year 2)	When	Student Engagement	Parent Engagement	School Engagement	Employer Engagement	Gatsby Benchmarks	Delivery Team
Employability (Continued)											
Create a Digital Presence	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 5	Employers Careers
Networking	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 5	Careers Employers
Self-Employment Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Programme	WVR XTRA+ ✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 3	Employers Careers
Meet the Experts	WVR XTRA+ ✓		✓	✓	Oct - Jun	✓			✓	1 2 5	Employers Enrichment

Apprenticeships											
Apprenticeship Information	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓	✓		✓	1 2 3 4 7 8	Careers Apprenticeships Employers
Degree Apprenticeships			✓	✓	All Year	✓	✓		✓	7	Careers Universities Employers
Apprenticeship Fairs & Recruitment	✓	✓	✓	✓	Autumn & Spring Term	✓			✓	1 2 3 4 7 8	Careers Curriculum Employers
Apprenticeship & Employability Programme	WVR XTRA+ ✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 4 7 8	Careers Employers

Progression Planning											
Growth Mindset	✓	✓			Oct & Mar	✓				1 3 8	Careers
Goal Setting, Smart Targets & Action Planning		✓			Mar	✓				1 3 8	Careers
Options After Level 3			✓	✓	Apr & Jun	✓	✓			1 2 3 5 7 8	Careers

Activity	Level 1 & below	Level 2	Level 3 (Year 1)	Level 3 (Year 2)	When	Student Engagement	Parent Engagement	School Engagement	Employer Engagement	Gatsby Benchmarks	Delivery Team
Work Readiness & Industry Placement											
Employer Live Briefs	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5 6	Curriculum Employers
Industry Placement	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5 6	Curriculum Employers
Employer Guest Speakers / Masterclasses	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5	Curriculum Employers
Employer Site Trips & Visits	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 5 6	Curriculum Employers
Competitions - WorldSkills / Inter-college	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓			✓	1 2 3 4	Curriculum Employers
Labour Market Information Sessions	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓	✓		✓	1 2 3 5	Curriculum Careers Employers
Social Action / Fundraising	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Year	✓				1 2 3 4	Curriculum

Further Education Progression Support											
Pre-Entry Outreach & Engagement					Sep - Jun	✓		✓		1 3	School Engagement
Open Evenings					Sep - Dec	✓	✓			1 2 3 8	School Engagement Curriculum Careers
Curriculum-led Workshops					Sep - Jun	✓		✓		1 2 3	School Engagement Curriculum
Careers Advice at Enrolment					Aug - Sep	✓	✓			8	Careers
Tailored Transition					All Year	✓	✓			1 2 3 8	Curriculum School Engagement Learning Support
Year 10 Taster Days					Jul	✓				1 2 3 8	Curriculum School Engagement

Activity	Level 1 & below	Level 2	Level 3 (Year 1)	Level 3 (Year 2)	When	Student Engagement	Parent Engagement	School Engagement	Employer Engagement	Gatsby Benchmarks	Delivery Team
Further Education Progression Support (Continued)											
Interview Evening					All Year	✓	✓			1 2 3 8	Curriculum
College Experience Evenings					Dec & Feb	✓				1 2 3 8	Curriculum School Engagement
New Student Welcome Day					Jul	✓	✓			1 2 3 8	Curriculum School Engagement



WVRXtra+ offers a range of enrichment programmes designed to help students achieve their future goals.

Whether planning for university, apprenticeships, employment, or entrepreneurship, students can develop valuable skills, gain expert guidance, explore career pathways, and build the confidence needed for success through tailored workshops, practical activities, industry insights, and dedicated support.

Find out more at: wvr.ac.uk/xtra