



In the newsletter this month



UCL Faculty of Maths and Physical Sciences – Year 12 Conferences



Explore Racing Day – Ascot, 8th May 2026



V-Levels Rapid Read Resource – What are V-Levels?



Apprenticeships at Warner Bros Discovery Webinar -16th June 2026

News updates

Journalism still an obtainable career for young – Press Gazette



This article from the Press Gazette: [Journalism still obtainable career for young as 88% with NCTJ qualification get jobs](#) discusses issues such as the impacts of AI on journalism, including training, qualifications and ethical frameworks, recruitment and retention of young staff and shares positive news of the high volume of young people with a vocational NCTJ Diploma securing jobs (as compared with journalism graduates) and the launch of the NCTJ's [Where Your Story Goes](#) campaign.

University of Bath and Study Group 10-year partnership to support access for international students



The University of Bath and Study Group have agreed a 10-year partnership in line with the university's ambitious international strategy: [University of Bath and Study Group announce partnership to support access for international students](#). An on campus International Study Centre will deliver university degree preparation programmes and English language provision for undergraduate and postgraduate study. You can read more about the partnership and Bath University's offer [here](#).

Teen roofer urging others to 'break the mold' and pursue a career in construction



A teenage roofer has urged other women and girls to pursue construction: [Teen roofer urging others to 'break the mold'](#). Poppy said there is "zero reason" more women can't enter the industry. ONS figures show over 300,000 women work in the UK construction industry, under 15% of the workforce. Separate data from the Chartered Institute of Building found just 2% worked on-site – with many in admin roles.

The CEC has published its annual [Careers Education in England report 2024-25](#) drawing on data from 330,000 young people, 4,863 schools and colleges and 783 employers. Insights cover: how careers education is improving, preparing young people for the world of work and whether employers are engaging and the benefits. The better a school's careers provision, the more likely students feel ready for work and the less likely they are to be NEET. However, gaps continue to exist. Read the report [here](#).

Three ways prospective students are using AI when applying to higher education | WONKHE



This WONKHE article: [Three ways prospective students are using AI when applying to higher education](#) suggests that while limited attention has been paid to how AI might reshape the journey into HE, applicants are now using AI as a research tool for comparison and decision-making. However, research also found applicants still value advice and information gained from staff and students at Open Days and through university websites and that they understand the limitations of AI.

Students as a transport user group – WONKHE



This interesting article from WONKHE: [Better Connected needs to be better connected to higher education](#), discusses the impact of transport funding on students as they increasingly live at or closer to home while studying to mitigate costs. With "close to home" now the fourth most important factor in university choice, Mack Marshall and Jim Dickinson argue that DfT's failure to recognise students as a transport user group is becoming an access and participation problem.

Upcoming Events

Wadham Book Club (27 April - 22 June) - Wadham reads series



Wadham College is excited to launch a free online book club, [Wadham Reads](#), for state school students in Year 12 (or equivalent) interested in studying a literature-based subject at Oxford. Participants will be required to read 1-3 short extracts (provided) ahead of the three sessions. [Register for Wadham Book Club](#).

University of Swansea Summer School 2026 – apply by 3rd May



Swansea University Summer School runs from **5 July – Wednesday 8 July 2026**. In **Medicine, Biomedical Science, Law, Business and Engineering**, Year 12 pupils will discover passions and make connections. The 3-day residential costs £225 pp, including accommodation, activities, and meals. Day passes are £80 pp, which includes workshops and lunch. If cost is a barrier, financial assistance is available for successful UK applicants. **Applications close on Sunday 3 May**, register at: [Summer School - Swansea University](#).

Racing – Explore Racing day, Ascot – Friday 8th May



[Careers in Racing](#) is holding the next Explore Racing day for careers leads, teachers and advisors on **Friday 8th May at Ascot Racecourse**. The day includes: Information on Apprenticeships and Training (Hands on roles), general Job Opportunities, Early Careers Programmes, Non-Horses facing roles, Working on course and work experience, industry talks and a tour of the racecourse, starting approx 11am. Register your interest [here](#).



The [University of Cambridge's upcoming ONLINE events for students](#) this month includes a good range of subject options to help students in their decision-making around UCAS choices and application to one of the university's colleges. Events include: [Christ's Natural Sciences](#) and [Magdalene's Maths](#) tasters on the 18th, [Faculty of Law Open Day](#) on 20th, [Music taster](#) on 21st, [Oxbridge Classics Open Day](#) on 23rd and [Fitzwilliam College's Sciences taster](#) on the 30th March. View all events and register [here](#).

UCL Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences Year 12 conferences: May 2026



Bookings for the May 2026 Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences UCL Schools and Colleges Conferences are now open! Take your Year 12 students to UCL to learn more about subject options in Mathematics and Physical Sciences at 10:30am-3:00pm. Events include: [Climate Action and Sustainability Mon 11 May](#), [AI & Technology in Everyday Life Wed 13 May](#), [Numbers in the real-world Mon 18 May](#), [Women in STEM Wed 20 May](#). Students who meet UCL [widening participation criteria](#) will be prioritised.

Natural Sciences Taster Day - 9 July 2026



Year 12 students are invited to join [UCL's Natural Sciences department](#) for a free **in-person** taster day. Participants for this programme will be selected using the shortlisting criteria found on the [Who we work with](#) Access and Widening Participation webpage to prioritise young people from the least represented groups at UCL. Maybe you're struggling to decide which Science to study, or enjoy thinking about how different sciences can work together? The taster day will take place **in-person** on: [9 July - 9:45am-15:30pm](#).

Brighton Summer School 2026 – apply by 17th May



The [University of Brighton Residential Summer Schools](#) include 3 days of interactive subject tasters, advice and guidance, social activities and accommodation. Subject areas are **Art & Media, Engineering, Health Professions, Humanities, Science, Social Science and Sport**. Students must be 16 or 17 during the summer school to be eligible. Places are limited and are offered to widening participation students. Full details, costs and application at: [University of Brighton - Summer schools](#). Apply by **17th May 2026**.

Escape Studios London – on-campus Taster Day 16th May



[Escape Studios London](#) are running an **ON-CAMPUS Taster Day on Saturday 16th May 10am-1pm** (at 6 Mitre Passage, North Greenwich, SE10 0ER). Explore courses in animation, games, VFX, get hands-on with industry-standard software and experience a real studio environment, offering an alternative to a traditional university path. Graduates worked on every film nominated for the 2026 **Oscar Academy Award for Best Visual Effects**, including **Avatar: Fire and Ash, Jurassic World Rebirth, and Sinners**. Book your place [here](#).

University of Cambridge –Subject Masterclasses May 2026



The University of Cambridge's [Subject Masterclasses](#) programme for May 2026 includes a range of subject to help students in their decision-making and UCAS applications such as: Politics & International Relations, Linguistics, Environment, Law & Economics, Vet Medicine, Zoology & Plant Sciences, History, Cardiovascular Physiology, Chemical Engineering, Psychology, Geography, Music and Foundation Year. For more information, dates and to book your place, see: [Subject Masterclasses](#).



REMINDER: UK University & Apprenticeship Search events for 2025/6 and 2026/7 include: **Russell Group, Red brick** and **Modern institutions**, as well as **Apprenticeship providers** and **Local colleges:** [UK University Search Fairs | UK University Search](#). With events at [Oxford Brookes](#) 17th June, [Emirates Stadium, London](#) 19th June, [Bristol - Ashton Gate](#) 15th October and [Cardiff City Stadium](#) 21st October, the Fairs are FREE to attend and aimed at year 12 students. You can make a group booking by registering your Year 12s and Teachers, Staff and Parents/Carers [here](#).

UCFB Undergraduate Open Events – May-July 2026



UCFB are holding a range of Undergraduate Open events between May and July 2026. With both in-person events at Wembley and Manchester, online events and covering Business and Media and Coaching degree courses, it is easy to find a date to suit. Register to attend an Open event at: [UCFB events](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

University of Oxford – new website and resources



Having launched their [new website](#) recently, the University of Oxford has also created some great new resources aimed at prospective students, their teachers and advisers and parents or carers. These include: the [Supercurricular hub | Oxford University](#) and [Guide for applicants](#), as well as the [Applying for Teachers | Oxford University](#) - which includes a link to [Information for parents, carers and families | Oxford University](#).

FutureSmart Careers March Blog: Foundation Year courses (Year 0 or IFP – Now live



Our FutureSmart Careers blog [Foundation Year courses in the UK - A Guide for 2026](#) is now LIVE! Covering Year 0 options for UK students and IFP/IFY options for International students, the blog delves into topics such as: What is a Foundation Year, Where and How to Search, Specialist Pathway Providers, Subject areas, Entry Requirements, Fees, Finance and Funding and Sources of information and support, its your go-to guide. Access all our blogs at [FSC Blogs](#).

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships vacancy listing – Amazing Apprenticeships, April 2026



The new Higher and Degree Apprenticeships vacancy listing is now published: [Higher and Degree Listing - Amazing Apprenticeships](#). Explore **950+** Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies in the **April 2026 mini-edition** of the Higher and Degree listing. Discover vacancy details from **38** employers, including GXO, KPMG, Devon and Cornwall Police, British Army, ARUP and many more. There is an accompanying poster resource: [Higher & Degree poster 2026](#) Access the April 2026 listing [here](#).

V-Levels Rapid Read resource 'What are V-Levels' explains brand new qualification



[V Levels](#) are brand-new level 3 vocational qualifications designed for young people aged 16-19, that will be available from September 2027. Find out more in the new [Rapid Read](#) from Amazing Apprenticeships, including: who they're for, how they compare to other qualifications, what subjects they cover, what they include and when they will roll out. Check out the Rapid Read from Amazing Apprenticeships [here](#).

Celebrating Women in Sport – This is her Game



UCFB, one of the UK's Sports Education Higher Education institutions, has been celebrating International Women's Day through [This is her Game](#), championing women making their mark across sport. Featuring UCFB alumni [Darcie Panayiotou](#) and FIFA Assistant Referee [Sophie Dennington](#), insights from [Ellen White](#) and [Dr. Ella Tagliavini](#), and collaborative events for staff and students – the campaign has paved the way for tomorrow's sports trailblazers.

UCL Health and Wellbeing events for students



UCL has a great page to promote their Health and Wellbeing events and resources for students: [Wellbeing events and resources | UCL](#). Their events give all UCL students the chance to try something new, make friends and develop skills for university and beyond. Including monthly Therapy dogs sessions, termly wellbeing campaigns, blogs and an exam season toolkit, all inspirational strategies for the wellbeing of students. Find out more at: [Wellbeing events and resources | UCL](#).

CEC regional LMI slide decks & sector films



As part of the suite of digital, adaptable [Apprenticeship and Technical Education \(ATE\) resources](#), created with the Careers and Enterprise Company, a new set of regionalised LMI presentations have been added. These slide decks contain key information about opportunities in the nine regions of England, support to share local labour market information and advice on how best to regionalise the presentations. View the slide decks and resources [here](#). For LMI in Wales, see: [Labour Market Information | Careers Wales](#).

UCAS Discovery: Your essential post-event guide



With the right follow-up, a UCAS Discovery event becomes a meaningful step in each student's decision-making journey. **77% of students who attend a Discovery event go on to apply to higher education**, showing just how powerful ongoing engagement can be. This article from UCAS Adviser, gives manageable actions to keep the momentum going and turn that post-event curiosity into clear progression: [UCAS Discovery: Your essential post-event guide | UCAS](#)

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Foundation Level 2 – Equine Groom Apprenticeship – Careers in Racing



For those with some experience, or beginners, aged 16-24 the [Foundation Level 2 Equine Grooming | British Racing School](#) is split: Level 1 diploma at the Racing School for 18 weeks, followed by a full-time job with Level 2 training. Weight limit is 11 stone or 69kg, height 5'11" or under. You need to be hard working, enthusiastic, love horses and keen to work in the racing industry. Tuition is free for UK residents, cost of £950 for accommodation and meals for 18 weeks. Next intakes are 11th May and 15th June, apply [here](#).

Specsavers Bright Stars Scholarship 2026



At [Specsavers](#), optometry is about more than glasses. It's a chance to work with cutting edge technology, diagnose eye health conditions and a long-term medical career that can lead to owning your own store and becoming a Specsavers partner. Introducing the [Bright Stars Scholarship](#): a university scholarship for optometry students, offering £10,000 towards university costs, spread over 4 years. Includes paid part-time work experience, networking, protected clinical time and ongoing mentorship. [Find out more and Apply](#).

Apprenticeship at Warner Bros. Discovery – webinar 16th June, 6:30pm



Your career at Warner Bros. Discovery starts here. You don't need a degree to work in TV, Film, or Tech. Warner Bros. Discovery will show you the apprenticeship route. Join their **free** ONLINE event on **Tuesday 16th June**. The event will cover: day-to-day working life at WBD, application tips and talks from current WBD apprentices. Register to attend [here](#).

Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship – Devon & Cornwall Police



Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship – Devon & Cornwall Police

REMINDER: the [Police Constable Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship \(PCDA\) with Devon & Cornwall Police](#) closes for application on **7th May 2026**. Locations include: Exeter, Plymouth, Cornwall, Devon, with a starting salary of £31,164, with the possibility to earn up to £50,256 within seven years of joining. Entry requirements are: Level 2 in English & Maths (grade C/4 or higher) and Level 3 (32 UCAS points) **or** 18 months service as a PCSO / Call handler / Special Constable. [Apply here](#).

KPMG Apprenticeships – Bristol, Reading, London and Watford



KPMG UK are inviting applications to their Audit, Business Services, Digital & Technology and Tax [apprenticeship programmes](#). With a five-day induction, dedicated study time and a tutor, on-the-job learning and collaborating with colleagues. You could even become part of our KPMG Digital Ninja programme. In five years, you will be professionally qualified for a long-term career. Starting salary of £25,500 – £28,000. [Find out more and apply here](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

ProjectROUTE – Youth Advisory Group opportunity for students aged 15-25s



Project Route is seeking enthusiastic, open-minded young people (aged 15–25) from across the UK to join a virtual Youth Advisory Group. The Group will bring together diverse voices, helping shape the future of careers in the transport industry. A unique chance to develop new skills, build confidence, and collaborate with industry professionals while contributing to a real-world project, no prior knowledge or experience in transport is needed. [Apply here](#).

Valuing Careers – report now available



In May 2024, YouGov carried out a survey of 5,004 UK adults on behalf of the CDI, exploring their perceptions of their life and career to date, their career aspirations and barriers and their experiences of gaining career development support. The full [Valuing Careers report](#) is now available to view on the [CDI website](#). For the Executive Summary, see page 5, with Key Findings on page 6 and Recommendations on page 7.

Five ways to support care leavers applying to university



Applying to university can be an exciting but daunting time for any young person, but for care-experienced students there are extra things to consider, such as financing university, accommodation during holidays and available support. This article [Five ways to support care leavers applying to university](#) from UCAS Adviser news covers: support at universities, signposting to become, guiding students through entry requirements or contextual offers and encouraging them in their application.

T Levels Week 2026 date announced - Monday 19th – Friday 23rd October 2026



T Levels Week 2026 will be running from Monday 19th – Friday 23rd October 2026: [Save the date - T Levels Week](#). The week focuses on continuing to raise awareness of the many T Level subjects now available and showcases the success of the programme. Amazing Apprenticeships have a fantastic range of resources, suitable for all audiences, including posters, guides, quizzes, classroom activities and more. Access the resources [here](#).

Career Development Institute – new Research Directory



The [Career Development Institute](#) has created a new [Research Directory](#) for members. Keen to see policymakers and practitioners use the best available evidence to make decisions and support their clients, the Research Directory contains links to key papers, reports, theses and articles from the academic literature, government and policy bodies and commercial institutions that both make the case for careers guidance and inform best practice. Access the Directory [here](#).

From Scoping to Vision - VET2050: The future of Vocational Education and Training in England



[VET2050: The future of Vocational Education and Training in England](#) is a Scoping paper and project. Funded by the Youth Futures Foundation and delivered by the Institute for Employment Research and SKOPE, University of Oxford, the project is planning a series of workshops involving practitioners, policymakers, employers and learners, with the aim to look at long-term challenges and opportunities, including the impact of AI, technological change, geographic and other inequalities. Find out more and register your interest [here](#).

NAW2027 planning webinars – June 2026



[National Apprenticeship Week](#) is the BIGGEST week in the apprenticeship calendar – and in 2027 will celebrate its 20th anniversary! Join Amazing Apprenticeships and the Department for Work and Pensions for **free webinars in June** to begin preparing for NAW 2027. To register for a June NAW 2027 planning webinar, see: [Schools & Colleges: NAW2027 Planning Webinar](#).

Get in touch

Helpline



Kyley Houghton, our Helpline Manager and our team welcome enquiries from schools, parents, and students. The helpline is staffed between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday at helpline@futuresmartcareers.co.uk.

FutureSmart Essentials for schools

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FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly. Our FutureSmart Essentials package includes:

- Suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

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- Workshops, talks & assemblies
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We pride ourselves on offering a variety of unique careers services and we will work with you to create a tailored service to meet the needs of your students.

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We'd love to hear from you!

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