



In the newsletter this month



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News updates

Government launches Youth Matters National Youth Strategy - including careers support



The UK Government has launched its [National Youth Strategy](#) from a survey of 14,000 young people. Fifty Youth Futures hubs will be created offering a range of services including careers support and the 'Good work' strand includes the Youth Guarantee and expansion of Employment Hubs 'to make sure every young person can access high-quality career advice and learning and earning opportunities', including at school or college.

Earning or Learning – interim report on supporting young people



Policy Connect has published the interim report [Earning or Learning - how to support young people into work, education and training](#) from its ongoing Earning or Learning inquiry into supporting young people into secure work, education or training. Emerging themes are early identification and prevention, inclusive and flexible pathways into employment and education, local coordination and accountability, and employer engagement and real opportunities. The final report with detailed policy recommendations will be published in 2026.

UK students to regain access to Erasmus+ scheme from 2027



The UK Government have agreed a deal to [rejoin the Erasmus+ scheme from 2027](#). The deal is part of a wider package of agreements announced between the UK and European Union and creates education and training opportunities not just for HE students, but also for FE, adults learners and apprentices. A UK National Agency will be established to administer the scheme in the UK, working closely with institutions and young people.

Government announces £725m package for young apprenticeships



The UK Government has announced its package of reforms to apprenticeships aimed at young people, with an overall £725m investment. The proposals aim to reduce youth unemployment and NEET rates and connect NEET young people with local employers, as well as fully fund apprenticeship places in SMEs. New foundational apprenticeships will be launched, as well as short courses being introduced from April 2026. The investment is intended to deliver 50,000 new apprenticeship places over the next three years. Read the press release [here](#).

Report on workforce planning for the clean energy sector – House of Commons



The House of Commons Energy Security and Net Zero Committee has published its report into workforce planning to meet the demand of the clean energy sector: [Workforce planning to deliver clean, secure energy](#). The report shows demand for skilled labour with barriers remaining. They also highlight that careers in clean energy and retrofit need to be much better promoted – including through careers guidance and clear career pathways – especially to under-represented groups.

Upcoming Events

University of Cambridge – VIRTUAL events for prospective students, starting on Tues 20th Jan



The University of Cambridge and the colleges are running 'virtual events for prospective students' from Tuesday 20th January: [Upcoming events | Undergraduate Study](#). Beginning with the Women in Computer Science seminar series 20th-20th Jan, 5-6pm and including webinars on Theology, Religion & Philosophy, History, Psychology & Behavioural Science, Law, Economics: Think Strategically – Intro to Game Theory and Discover & Discuss: Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic in January alone, students can register [here](#).

Oxford University – upcoming events and competitions for students: Jan, Feb, March 2026



Oxford University student competitions and events are back, with colleges offering ways to show your unique selling point: [Academic competitions | Oxford](#). Events include **Keble College Subject Taster Days - Physics, English, Law and Chemistry** – *deadline 27th January, 12th-17th February*; the **Peter Cane Legal Reasoning Prize** for year 12 and 13, *deadline 1st February* and **Tower Poetry Competition 2026 for UK 16-18s**, *deadline 19th February*, there is something for everyone; including their [2026 Oxford ONLINE Student Conference](#) 16-19th March...register your interest [here](#).

British Racing School - taster days, short courses and longer qualifications: Jan and Feb 2026



The British Racing School offer Taster Days this January and February for those with an interest in careers in Horse Racing. Some exciting possibilities are - the 5-day FREE Senior Equine Groom Level 3, 1-day Pony Racing Training at Levels 1 & 2 and 3, Introduction to Environmental Sustainability (1-day), half-day Clipping, Mane pulling and Equine Health and First Aid and a 1-day Horse-handling course. View the range of options, further information and prices [here](#).

Get Into Medicine and Dentistry Conferences – Medic Mentor, January, February and March



Medic Mentor are offering their FREE Get-Into Conferences in January, February and March to year 10-12 students. **Get Into Medicine conferences** are on **Saturday 24th, Saturday 31st January and Sunday February 1st 9:00am-1:30pm** and **Get Into Dentistry** on **Saturday 1st March 9:00am-1:30pm** and cover skills, extra and super-curricular activities needed, applications, personal statements, interviews and UCAT Entrance Exam as well as access to Work Experience and Scholarships. Sign-up at: [Get Into Medicine](#) or [Get Into Dentistry](#).

Think Cambridge webinar series – starts Wed 4th February 2026, 5-6pm



The 'Think Cambridge' webinar series is starting on Wednesday 4th February 5-6pm: [Think Cambridge | webinars](#). Aimed at UK or international students in Year 10, 11 or 12 (or equivalent), Think Cambridge provides an introduction to Cambridge for those who haven't attended other events. Also open to teachers, advisors and parents/carers, you can hear stories about student life from current students, from admissions tutors and lecturers and get advice on preparing to apply. Book your place [here](#).

Ignite your Creativity with Netflix - National Youth Theatre, 16th- 20th February 2026



IGNITE is coming to Somerset. Supported by [Netflix United Kingdom](#), this scheme is open to young people aged 16-25 (up to 30 if neurodivergent, hearing-impaired or disabled), with a passion for TV, film and theatre. Learn from industry professionals in filmmaking, producing, sound, lighting, camera, editing and design and visit backstage theatre and TV studios! Find out more and apply at: [Ignite Your Creativity with Netflix - National Youth Theatre](#).

Smallpeice Trust 2026 STEM Programme Engineering courses



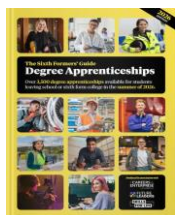
The [Smallpeice Trust](#) offer a range of Engineering courses across the UK to students interested in Engineering and STEM careers, including Girls Into Engineering options. Applications are now open for students in Year 8 and 9: [Engineering Experience \(Wales\)](#), [Girls into Engineering - Loughborough Uni](#), [VIRTUAL Engineering Experience](#). With hands on challenges, critical thinking skills and support from STEM specialists, Smallpeice Trust give insight into STEM Careers and encourage students to ask about funding if needed.

UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fairs – spring/summer 2026



REMINDER: A fantastic opportunity for students in Years 12 & 13 considering their future career and education pathways, the [UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fairs](#) of spring/summer 2026 will be attended by Russell Group, red brick and modern institutions, as well as Apprenticeship providers. With events in [Surrey](#), [Bristol](#), [Brighton](#) and [London](#) during spring term, it's worth a visit. Register a group [here](#).

The Sixth Formers Guide to Degree Apprenticeship booklet



Produced in association with the **Careers and Enterprise Company, Future Leaders and Skills for life**, this excellent guide covers 3,500 degree apprenticeships available to summer 2026 school and college leavers: [The Sixth Formers' Guide to Degree Apprenticeships](#). With sections on earn as you learn, what is a degree apprenticeship, applying, employer profiles and an A-Z of Degree Apprenticeship employers, this is your go to for making informed decisions on Degree Apprenticeships. Access the guide [here](#).

University of Cambridge: Exploring Law 6-week taster course – FutureLearn MOOCs



FutureLearn and the University of Cambridge have a 6-week [Exploring Law](#) course starting Monday 26th January. Innovative, open-access, ONLINE and designed for 16 to 18s considering studying law at university in the UK; it will help students decide whether law is right for them. Learn the basics, explore key questions in depth and hear from current students and inspirational legal figures. Register immediately, or at any time before 9th March, [here](#).

Future Jobs 2026: Roles That Will Have the Most Vacancies - LinkedIn



This LinkedIn article [Future Jobs 2026: Roles That Will Have the Most Vacancies](#) gives insight into the roles that will have the most vacancies in 2026. Including roles in AI and Machine Learning, Healthcare, Cyber Security, Green and Sustainability jobs, Skilled Trades, Mental Health & Wellbeing and Robotics & Automation. Read more about future roles [here](#).

'This is my Day' new apprenticeship resources – Amazing Apprenticeships



Amazing Apprenticeships have created some new resources, [This Is My Day](#). Created to help students visualise different apprenticeship workplace settings and starting with Aaron, a chef, and Sarah, a teaching assistant, each resource follows a day in the life of an apprentice using clear and engaging images and wording. Download the resources [here](#).

FutureSmart Careers January blog – Careers in Motorsport: your Guide to Getting Started



The FutureSmart Careers January 2026 blog is now live on our website: [Careers in Motorsport: Your Guide to Getting Started](#). Covering the varied roles in the industry, required skills, education pathways, degrees, apprenticeships and work experience, this is a useful guide for gearing up to a Motorsports Career. Read the blog [here](#).

New NAW2026 Subject-led Resources – National Apprenticeships Week 9th to 15th February



National Apprenticeships Week will be running 9th to 15th February 2026 [National Apprenticeship Week \(NAW\) 2026](#) and the team at Amazing Apprenticeships have created new and updated [Subject-led Resources](#). Suitable for all year groups, with 22 subjects, each pack now features two classroom activities, updated resources and the activities designed to encourage students to explore how apprenticeships link with favourite subjects. Access the resources [here](#). The Apprenticeship Quiz and Apprenticeship Arcade have also been updated for [National Apprenticeship Week 2026](#).

How to prepare students for careers fairs – UCAS Adviser article, 16th Dec 2025



Careers fairs can be transformative for students, if they come prepared. Drawing on a decade of experience, James Wilmott shares practical tips to help you inspire your students, engage families and staff, and create meaningful conversations: [How to prepare students for careers fairs | UCAS](#).

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Cornwall Opportunities Bulletin – 16th January 2026



The [Cornwall Opportunities Bulletin](#) for 16th January 2026 includes opportunities such as: Dental Nurse in Falmouth or Newquay, Horticulture in St Austell, Livestock Technician, Farmworker and Equine apprenticeships in Launceston, Roofer, Light Vehicle Technician, Construction Project Manager or Quantity Surveyor in Truro, Joiner in Redruth and Finance Apprenticeship in Falmouth among others. Access the bulletin [here](#).

Virgin O2 Apprenticeships – closing date 26th January



Virgin O2 have some apprenticeships available nationally, including for Field Engineer Apprentice and Network Engineer Apprentice at Level 2 and Level 4: [Virgin O2 - Apprenticeship Schemes](#). There are a range of schemes available and other roles include – Data Analyst, Fraud Agent, Project Management, Quantity Surveyor and Technical Coordinator. Applications are now open and interested students can apply [here](#).

Understanding Future Career Pathways with Lockheed Martin UK - Thurs 29th Jan, 6-6.45pm



Whether you're looking for apprenticeship opportunities, work experience, or graduate programme information, join [Lockheed Martin UK's VIRTUAL Careers talk](#) on Thurs 29th Jan, 6:00-6:45pm to learn more and hear from our current graduates and apprentices as they share their experiences. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Internships at Proctor & Gamble 2026 – Europe



There are some unique PAID internship opportunities available with Proctor & Gamble in 2026: [Careers at P&G](#). The [Sales Summer Internship](#) in Leeds and Harrogate **closes on 30th January**, [Strategic Sales Internship](#) in Paris or Dijon, France takes place in March 2026, [Industrial IT & Network Engineering Intern](#) in Amiens, France, no closing date shown and the [Strategic Finance Internship](#) in Brussels, Belgium which takes place in July 2026.

Apprenticeships with Mars – Closing date 30th January 2026



Mars, based in Slough, are also offering a range of [Apprenticeships](#) with a **30th January closing date**, including: Mechatronics Maintenance Technician, Food and Drink Technical Operator, Engineering Manufacturing Technician and a Digital technology Solutions Professional - IT Consultant in areas such as Melton Mowbray, Plymouth, Slough and Castle Cary (South Somerset). Students can find out more about the application process and get CV tips [here](#).

British Army Life and Learning: Apprenticeships Explained webinar – 3rd February, 4-5pm



Ahead of NAW 2026, join this webinar [British Army Life and Learning - Apprenticeships Explained](#) on Tuesday 3rd February, 4-5pm, to learn about the 40+ different apprenticeship opportunities available, from engineering to healthcare, and hear directly from apprentices about their training, experiences and what Army life is really like. Perfect for young people and those supporting them, with a Parent & Teacher Guide and a River Process Map of applications also planned. Register for your place [here](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships: Discover apprenticeships at KPMG webinar – 5th February 4-5pm



Join Amazing Apprenticeships for the [KPMG Apprenticeships](#) webinar where you'll learn how a KPMG apprenticeship actually works, with options ranging from Audit and Tax to Business Services and Technology. Hear from apprentices about their experiences, the support networks around them and top tips for how the application process actually works. Register for the session on Zoom [here](#).

BAM Construction – Apprenticeship vacancies 2026



[BAM Construction Apprenticeships](#) are open for application. With opportunities nationwide in the Midlands, the North, London, Bristol, East Berkshire, Northampton, Hinkley HPC and Solihull, students can choose from a variety of roles. Apprenticeship roles include: Quantity Surveying, Construction Management, Civil Engineering and Business Administration; though there is scope for opportunity in fields like IT, HR, Legal and Finance too, as [BAM Nuttall](#) (Camberley) is a subsidiary of the Dutch [Royal BAM Group](#). Find out more and apply [here](#) by 31st January.

For Careers Leads/Head of Careers

University of Oxford: Trinity College Teacher CPD – running from January to October 2026



An online CPD programme for teachers from state schools across the UK, Mondays and Thursdays after the school day: [Teacher CPD | Trinity College Oxford](#). Providing up to date practical information and guidance relating to the Oxford application process and the purpose of each stage, for example: student enrichment activities, personal statements, writing teacher references, admissions tests and interviews. Find out more [here](#) and register to join at any time [here](#).

New ATE resources for Teachers and Careers Leaders webinar – 29th Jan, 3:45-4:45pm



Amazing Apprenticeships is working in partnership with The Careers & Enterprise Company to launch an exciting new suite of digital, adaptable Apprenticeships & Technical Education (ATE) resources for schools and colleges: [Introducing new ATE resources for Teachers and Careers Leaders](#). Covering how to use the resources and updating you with relevant sector news and information, you can register to attend the webinar [here](#).

UCAS Adviser – new Scholarships, Bursaries, and Grants tool



Students could be eligible for more funding than they think suggests this handy article from UCAS Adviser [Five ways the UCAS Scholarships, Bursaries and Grants search tool can help you support your students](#). Now, they can explore scholarships, bursaries, and grants matched to their background, achievements, or chosen course, and get support for study and living costs on [ucas.com](#). Find out more [here](#).

New blog: Understanding apprenticeship assessment reforms and what they mean for you



In this [blog](#) by Gemma Marsh, Skills England Deputy CEO, you can find everything you need to know about apprenticeship assessment reforms, including: what's covered, what we've heard already and how you can give feedback, Skills England's role, how we are implementing the reforms and next steps, what the changes mean for assessment organisations, training providers and employers and further information and guidance from The [Department for Education](#) and [Federation of Awarding Bodies \(FAB\)](#).

'Broken' careers service funding model to be reformed – Work and Pensions Committee



The Committee's 'Creating a New Jobs and Careers Service' report said poor funding and badly designed targets had led to the National Careers Service having too little time with clients and low impact interventions. Debbie Abrahams MP, Chair of the Committee, welcomed the response from Government and said, "the job is about finding out enough about people, their ambitions and interests, their skills, the barriers they face, what drives them, their needs". Read the full article [here](#).

New UCAS assembly video



The UCAS Hub has great resources for teachers, careers leads and students, including the new UCAS assembly video, designed to inspire your students at the very start of their careers discovery journey: [UCAS Hub](#). Filmed at the University of Derby, with the support of the School of Humanities, Law and Creative Arts, and starring Performing Arts students, it's a powerful way to show them what's possible. **Watch the new UCAS assembly video** with your students, perfect for classroom inspiration: [UCAS Assembly video](#).

UK Occupations with the highest workforce demand – GOV.uk



Skills England has published its latest [Occupations in demand](#) analysis, classifying occupations as critical, elevated or not in high demand. 62 out of 368 occupations are considered in critical demand, around 15% of the UK workforce. Specialist medical practitioners show the highest level. Elevated demand occupations include care workers and home carers, with health and social care having the highest number of in demand workers, while information and communications (e.g. programmers and software developers) is also high demand.

Record number of 18-year-olds plan to stay at home – WONKHE



This December 2025 article, [What is student financial support for in 2025? | Wonkhe](#), shares UCAS data exposing inequalities by income and location. Jim Dickinson explores what this means for access, and whether financial support is doing what it's supposed to. Key takeaways are the fact that disadvantaged students are 3.5 times more likely to stay at home than advantaged peers and analysis of UCAS's new Scholarships tool. Read the article [here](#).

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials for schools



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

FutureSmart Careers Apprenticeship Support



Since the announcement that the DfE has removed the funding for the ASK programme, FSC are now offering an Apprenticeship Support Package to schools and colleges. We have produced a suite of workshops and talks to include the best bits from the ASK programme, but with the added extras we feel are needed. The Apprenticeship support we are offering is a paid for service, but we are working hard to make it cost effective and flexible to help you support your students. We are also able to work in all geographic areas we cover. If you would like to find out more about this service or book in a meeting to discuss further, Please click on the link to complete the form: [Apprenticeship Support - Expression of Interest Form](#).

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. You can view our menu of services below:

FutureSmartCareers

Bespoke careers advice services

- Workshops, talks & assemblies
- Group sessions
- Parents evenings & options events
- Careers Fairs
- Mock Interviews
- Morrisby assessments
- Specialist SEND provision
- Access to Helpline Service
- Monthly newsletters
- FutureSmart Essentials

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.

www.futuresmartcareers.co.uk