



In the newsletter this month



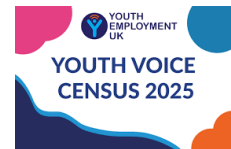
Volunteer it
Yourself
Opportunities for
Young People



Graduate and
Undergraduate
Opportunities with
Network Rail



BP
Apprenticeship
Webinar: Tuesday
21st October 2025



Youth Voice
Census 2025

News updates

Ambitious about Autism



The Education Committee has **published a report called 'Solving the SEND Crisis'** following its inquiry into the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities system. Responding to the Committee's findings, Chief Executive of [Autism Charity | Ambitious about Autism](#) Jolanta Lasota, said:

"As this report identifies, autistic young people and their parents have lost faith in the SEND system. Trust and confidence have been eroded by long delays and failures to get young people with SEND the help they need to achieve in education.

You can read more [here](#).

Asda doubles internship programme for young people with additional needs



Asda marked National Inclusion Week in September 2025 with a major expansion of its industry-leading supported internship programme, reaffirming the retailer's commitment to creating meaningful employment opportunities for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities. Asda doubled the number of interns and stores participating in this year's programme with 119 students expected to start a placement across 22 stores nationwide offering year-long placements that combine real-world experience with tailored education. Read more [here](#).

2025 Youth Voice Census Report shows career experiences are narrowing for young people



Download the [Youth Voice Census Results | 2025](#) by [Youth Employment UK](#) to read the in-depth analysis of 8,200 young voices and what they think about their life, education and work. Only around a third of young people reported having a part-time job, down from 40-42% previously, and, while 76% say they value work experience, only 26% said they undertook any last year.

Yet 55% feel they have skills employers want, though young women, FSM students and

those with additional needs all had lower confidence.

Overall the report found an increase in 'middling' responses to much of the survey – with fewer good and bad responses – considered a sign of fatigue rather than contentment. Support for wellbeing is improving but the levels of wellbeing reported by young people was flat.

School support is improving generally, but careers advice, work experience and employer engagement all declined.

Panorama: Kellie Bright - Autism, School and Families on the Edge



In this BBC documentary, actress Kellie Bright, a mother of an autistic child, explores the struggles families face getting appropriate education support for their autistic children. The program follows three families navigating the process of obtaining an [Education, Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)](#), highlighting the emotional and practical toll it takes and calling for urgent reform. The documentary is available to watch on BBC iPlayer: [BBC One - Panorama, Kellie Bright - Autism, School and Families on the Edge](#)

Careers and Enterprise Company – Final Report from pilot in Primary Schools



The [Careers & Enterprise Company](#) have partnered with Careers Hubs, schools in areas of high deprivation, employers, and Teach First to launch **Start Small; Dream Big**. This pioneering programme set out to investigate how career-related learning in primary schools could broaden horizons, build skills, and create the foundations for opportunity. Our final report from the pilot [has now been published](#). It is both a celebration of what has been achieved and a call to ensure career-related learning continues to be a lasting part of primary education in England. Read the full report [here](#).

Education Business Partnership Supported Internships – Let's Talk Cornwall



Supported Internships help young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) get into work. The internships help young people to learn the skills they need for work and they spend most of the time in the employers workplace. They are also an exciting opportunity to study for qualifications such as English and Maths. Young people get the extra help of a job coach who works with them and their employer. Supported Internships are unpaid but aim to help young people to get into paid work at the end of their internship. To find out more about internships click here: [Education Business Partnership Supported Internships | Let's Talk Cornwall](#)

Skills Connect Network



[Skills Connect Network](#) (formerly the Ways2Work network run by Bristol City Council) is a network that connects people working in employment support with information and resources which will help them deliver support to the (Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset). The network is run as part of the Skills Connect project, coordinated by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. You can join the network if you offer employment support such as training, upskilling and employment opportunities to residents of the West of England. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

The British Racing School Foundation Programme



The British Racing School are offering a foundation apprenticeship programme which will open up exciting opportunities in this fast-paced industry. It is the ideal place to start your career in racing, whether you have some experience with horses or riding, or are a complete beginner, the British Racing School Foundation programme is the perfect stepping stone to turn your love of horses into a career! The course is for 16-24 year olds and is split into two parts: A Level 1 Diploma (which takes place over 18 weeks at the Racing school) and a Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship (where you will work full-time in a horse racing yard and complete an apprenticeship fully supported by the British Racing School). There are upcoming courses this Autumn and various dates in 2026. To find out more click here: [Foundation Course for Aspiring Jockeys | British Racing School](#).

Ambitious about Autism – New course at Brighton MET East Campus: recruiting for September 2026



[Autism Charity](#) | [Ambitious about Autism](#) and [Brighton MET](#) currently have vacancies on a course for learners aged 16-25 who are autistic or who have learning needs that can be met through an autism-specific provision. The three-year course provides enhanced specialist support to enable a smooth transition into mainstream education and to provide learners with the expert support they require to access vocational accreditations alongside mainstream peers. You can explore the opportunities [here](#).

Ambitious about Autism – New Supported Internship at Chartwells, University of Sussex



[Autism Charity](#) | [Ambitious about Autism](#) are offering a new Supported Internship at [The University of Sussex](#) in partnership with [Home | DFN Project SEARCH](#). The internship is for young people aged 18-25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are autistic (or have related learning difficulties). Candidates must be keen to develop employability skills, build confidence, be motivated to secure full-time paid employment and be able to travel independently (or working towards it). To find out more about this internship and other internship opportunities, visit [Supported internships | Ambitious about Autism](#).

Volunteer it Yourself Opportunities for Young People



Volunteering with [Volunteer It Yourself](#) is like a free work experience opportunity. Young people volunteer in a VIY project, renovating a vital community space in need of maintenance or improvement. They are mentored and supported to work alongside professionals tradespeople to complete the project as a team on site, as well as developing life skills and the opportunity to gain [City & Guilds](#) Level 3 accreditations in skills like Carpentry, Painting and Decorating, Health and Safety, Tiling and Brickwork. This opportunity is for young people aged 14-24 who may be NEET or deemed at risk of becoming so, including young people with SEND or a disability. Find out more [here](#).

Opportunities with Network Rail



Network Rail have just launched a range of exciting career opportunities from graduate schemes to summer placements. Whether you're passionate about engineering, IT, business, finance or beyond, there is something for everyone at Network Rail. Discover graduate schemes here: [Graduate Schemes - Network Rails Early Careers](#) and undergraduate schemes here: [Undergraduate Schemes - Network Rails Early Careers](#).

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Volkswagen Apprenticeship Scheme – applications open



Volkswagen

Volkswagen have apprenticeships available in Servicing, Parts and Customer service working in one of their UK retailers, training in world class facilities and learning from experts. To find out more and register your interest visit: [Volkswagen Apprenticeship Programme](#).

Apprenticeships with Lloyds Banking Group



Lloyds Banking Group are recruiting for apprentices in various departments across the group. To watch coverage aimed at parents and tutors, explore opportunities, read FAQ's and to register your interest visit: [Apprenticeships | Lloyds Banking Group Talent](#).

Upcoming Events

BP Apprenticeship Webinar: Tuesday 21st October 2025 6.30-7.30pm



Explore all of BP's school-leaver apprenticeship pathways in:

- **Engineering** – get hands-on with real energy solutions
- **Digital** – data, software, cyber security & innovation
- **Science** – lab-based roles that drive real change
- **Business** – think HR, finance, procurement & more
- **Supply, Trading & Shipping** – dive into fast-paced global markets
- Meet the **recruitment team** — hear what makes a standout applicant

Click here to register: [Register for the BP Apprenticeships Webinar](#)

Discover! Creative Careers month – November 2025



[Discover! Creative Careers Month 2025 - Creative Careers](#) is an industry-led initiative designed to provide young people from England with encounters and experiences of the creative industries through in-school, workplace and online opportunities. There are several ways for individuals and companies to get involved. Find out more [here](#).

Maritime Careers Event: Thursday 27th November 1.30pm – 5pm at Fleetwood Nautical Campus



Are you looking for a career where you can get an honors degree and training with no student debt? Where you can travel the world (even when training), earn good money and get generous time off? Go along to the Maritime Careers Open Event at Fleetwood Nautical Campus, Broadwater, Fleetwood. Find out more here: [Maritime Careers Events | Fleetwood Nautical Campus](#).

Screen Skills Trainee Finder – Applications open for 2026-27



This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in a career in Film and TV. Trainee Finder provides 'set-ready' training to talented individuals who can then apply for placements on UK productions which pay into the ScreenSkills skills funds. Applications for 2026-27 are now open. To find out more and apply, watch this informative webinar: [Watch now: Trainee Finder 2026-27 launch webinar - ScreenSkills](#) or visit: [ScreenSkills Trainee Finder 2026/27 - Pitch - ScreenSkills](#).

SpringPod Online Work Experience in Politics



Interested in a career in politics but not sure where to start? This online work experience programme will help you experience different areas in politics, explore the careers available and learn more about working in each area through a series of workplace projects. You can access the work experience here: [Politics Work Experience | Springpod](#)

Green Careers Week – 3rd- 8th November 2025



[Green Careers Week](#) is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Find out more [here](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

Warburtons & National Schools Partnership: Bake the Most of Life Resources for Students aged 11-16



Warburtons Bake for Life is a free programme for schools and parents. Through a range of curriculum-led teaching resources, Bake the Most of Life helps young people to build the skills and knowledge they need to thrive at school, at home, and in the wider world. Resources are available for Primary school and secondary school aged students. You can access the resources here: [National Schools Partnership — Bake the Most of Life](#).

UCAS Toolkit: Supporting Students with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)



This step by step guide helps SENCO's, ALNCO's, Learning Support teams, pastoral staff, outreach teams (and anyone supporting a student with Additional Learning Needs) who are keen to apply to university but not 100% sure where to start. Access the guide here: [Applying To University With Individual Needs | UCAS](#)

Career Hub Resources: Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly



Access a catalogue of free resources for schools and colleges at the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Careers Hub, including a monthly magazine for SEND departments, a guide to supporting SEND students in mainstream schools, and a wealth of information for supporting students with SEND. Access the resources here: [Resources - Careers Hub](#).

CareersCraft on Minecraft



Explore CareersCraft – a form of Minecraft focused on learning about careers as players explore eight landmarks across Wales. Visit [CareersCraft | Minecraft Education](#) to discover more about how to play and where you can access the game.

Ambitious about Autism – Employment Support and Resources



Ambitious about Autism have produced two new guides:

- External Interview Prep Guide for Careers Professionals working with autistic young people: [external-interview-preparation-guide.pdf](#)
 - Top Tips for Parents & Carers on how to support young people in their search for work: [Top tips on helping your young people get into employment](#)
- You can access a wealth of other resources here: [Employment support and resources | Ambitious about Autism](#)

Careers and Enterprise Company – Understanding the Gatsby Benchmark updates



Access information, guides and toolkits to help educators and employers understand the changes to the Gatsby Benchmarks over the next ten years. You can access the resources here: [Gatsby Benchmarks | The Careers and Enterprise Company](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships – National Apprenticeship Week Resources & Early Planning Webinars



NAW 2026 dates have been announced and will take place from the **9th – 15th February 2026**. Be prepared by accessing free guides, information and promotional resources and by joining the early planning webinars hosted by Amazing Apprenticeships! Find out more here: [National Apprenticeship Week 2026 | Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Amazing Apprenticeships – Higher and Degree Listing, released October 2025



Amazing Apprenticeships have released the Higher and Degree Vacancy listing. Explore 1,600+ vacancies and discover vacancy details from over 50 employers. The Higher and Degree Listing is a bi-annual publication and the next one will be published in January 2026. [Higher & Degree Apprenticeships](#) | [Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Tech She Can – Virtual live lessons



Check out fun and informative online lessons aimed at inspiring children aged 7-14 to consider a career in Tech. It is a programme of free learning materials for use by teachers or parents to inspire the next generation of tech professionals. Explore the resources and online lessons here: [Educational resources - TechSheCan](#).

Sixteen



Sixteen runs a range of employment education and enterprise programmes in and around Bristol, working with a range of partners, practitioners, and providers to deliver better job outcomes for people with learning difficulties and/or autistic people. Access resources for young people and parents/carers here: [Sixteen - Home](#).

FutureSmart Careers Blog: Careers in the UK Finance Sector



This month's blog "Careers in the UK Finance Sector" is an informative guide to help you navigate a career in Finance. Read here: [Careers in the UK Finance Sector](#).

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials Package



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

- A 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, we are delighted to announce that FSC will be 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
We'd love to hear from you!