

FutureSmartCareers



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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News updates

Ambitious about Autism – Families share their experiences of the Autism Diagnosis System



Lonely, brutal and painful are just some of the words used by families to describe the Autism diagnosis system. With support from [The Autism Centre for Education and Research - University of Birmingham](#) (ACER), Ambitious about Autism have conducted research and written a report on Autism assessment and diagnosis, which you can read [here](#).

Theo Paphitis steps into the role of Vice President of the British Dyslexia Foundation



Former Dragon's Den judge, Theo Paphitis, is now the Vice President of the [British Dyslexia Association](#) after serving as their Dyslexia Empowerment Patron for the last two years. Theo Paphitis says: "Dyslexia has shaped every aspect of my life, making this cause very close to my heart and to the over 1 in 10 people in the UK who have dyslexia. I have shared a few thoughts on dyslexia in my latest Paphitis Perspective Newsletter." Find out more here: [Theo Paphitis Appointed Vice President of the British Dyslexia Association — Theo Paphitis](#).

Ambitious about Autism partner, Stephenson Harwood, won 'Neurodiversity: Best Initiative of the Year Award.'



[Autism Charity](#) | [Ambitious about Autism](#) partner, law firm Stephenson Harwood, won 'Neurodiversity: Best Initiative of the Year' at the Legal 500 Awards for their involvement in the Employ Autism programme. Through this partnership, Stephenson Harwood are helping autistic young people access inclusive internship opportunities and two interns are now working in full time roles at the firm. Learn more about the Employ Autism programme here: [Autism employment opportunities | Ambitious about Autism](#).

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act is now law



Measures to support the cost of living become law, including free breakfast clubs, extended free school meals and limits to branded uniform. Alongside tangible cost of living measures to make families' lives easier, the Act also represents the most ambitious piece of legislation in a generation. The Act underpins the government's schools white paper, which sets out further action to halve the attainment gap between disadvantaged young people and their peers, including generational reforms for children with SEND. You can read the full report here: [Children's reforms become law - GOV.UK](#).

CEC Youth Advisory Group Member shares her journey as a young person with SEND



Layla Nisic, CEC Youth Advisory Group Member, shares her journey through careers education as a young person with SEND. She describes how her school careers guidance often felt limited and surface-level. Without clear, tailored support, she had little understanding of workplace expectations or what support might be available to her. Layla highlights how simple, practical support and upfront information about adjustments could have made a significant difference to her confidence and experience. Read the blog post here: [From uncertainty to confidence: Preparing young people with SEND for work | CEC Corporate Web](#).

Upcoming Events

ERIC is launching National Freelancer Week, 8th – 12th June 2026



This is the first ever week-long careers campaign in the UK dedicated to freelancing careers in the creative industries, with an **expected reach of 250,000 school, college & uni students across the UK**. Learn how to start, grow, and succeed as a freelancer through short talks, videos and advice. This is an online event and all resources and information will be available on demand. Find out more: [Freelance-Week — ERIC | Creative Career App](#).

Youth Entrepreneur Pop-Up Market, Saturday 20th June 12pm -5pm at Leadenhall Market, EC3V 1LT



Come down and see the youngest and brightest entrepreneurs showcase their products and services at this inspirational Youth Pop Up. These young entrepreneurs DO WHAT THEY LOVE, make money from it and motivate and inspire their communities. Visitors are free or £25 for young entrepreneurs under 18 who would like to exhibit. Find out more: [Young Entrepreneur Pop-Up Market - Summer 2026 Tickets, Saturday, June 20 • 12 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#). If you'd like to find out more or book a table for your young entrepreneur, please email Kritika info@ultra.education or call 0800 211 8133.

Young Investor Week, 1st – 5th June 2026



A week of bringing schools, investors and entrepreneurs together to shape the future economy. Choose how you want to bring leadership, meaningful relationships with employers, financial literacy and entrepreneurship to your classroom. Find out more and access a curriculum pack here: [Young Investor Week](#).

V&A Innovate National Schools Challenge



V&A Innovate is a National Schools Challenge, asking state-funded secondary school students in years 7,8 and 9 to work in teams of 4-6 to design a solution to a real-world problem. Find out more and register here: [V&A Innovate](#) · [V&A](#).

Tes SEND Event, Business Design Centre, London – 9th-10th October 2026



This event is a significant gathering for the SEND community, offering a platform for networking, learning and sharing best practices. There will be free workshops, keynote panel discussions, CPD certified seminars and the SEND leadership summit. Find out more: [Welcome | Tes SEND Show 2026](#).

The Autism and ADHD Show, Business Design Centre, London 19th- 20th June 2026



Attend this national event for autism and ADHD to immediately access an unrivalled number of informative talks, advice clinics and specialist services. For parents, carers and professionals supporting an autistic, AuDHD or ADHD person in a home or school setting. CPD certified for professionals. Find out more and book your ticket here: [Autism & ADHD Show 2026 - UK's National Event](#).

British Marine and Apprenticeship Evening – Tuesday 22nd September 2026



Do you support someone who is thinking about their next step after school or college or are curious about opportunities in one of the UK's most exciting industries? Join the [British Marine Careers & Apprenticeship Evening from 4pm -7pm](#) at the [Southampton International Boat Show 2026](#). This inspiring event could be a gateway into the marine and maritime sector, bringing together leading employers and training providers ready to offer help in helping young people take their next step. Find out more about British Marine apprenticeships here: [Marine Apprenticeships :: British Marine](#) and wider careers in the maritime industry here: [Maritime and Transport Careers](#)

Planning Webinar for National Apprenticeships Week 2027 – 25th June 2026



Prepare yourself for National Apprenticeships Week 2027 with this fantastic webinar by Amazing Apprenticeships held on the 25th June 2026, 15:30-16.15. The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, taking place across England, will aim to showcase and celebrate apprentices, employers, training providers and those across the country who have benefitted from the incredible opportunities through apprenticeships. Find out more: [Schools & Colleges: NAW2027 Planning Webinar - Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

UCAS New Guide for SEND and Disabled Students



A fantastic new resource from UCAS: [A careers adviser's guide to supporting SEND and disabled young people | UCAS](#).

New Film by Made by Dyslexia



[Made By Dyslexia](#) are proud to unveil their latest campaign and film - "What is dyslexia?" - which aims to hijack the search algorithm for good and change the story for every dyslexic child, worldwide. The film stars Jeremy Irons, Liv Tyler, Jaalan Best, Lee Perry and the wonderful young actress, Hope Day. It's the ONE film every parent, teacher and child should see. Please visit whatisdyslexia.org and Watch, Like, Share & Review this brilliant new film and help get it to the top of every search. The more reviews, the more dyslexic students and parents will see this film.

Virtual Resources and Courses



[Harvard Online](#) training programmes all available for immediate start. Courses range in duration (1 weeks to 12 or more weeks).

[Online Learning Courses and Adult Education - The Open University](#): Free short courses via OpenLearn: Online courses available for immediate start. Introductory to advance level qualifications, can include science, creative arts, languages, education and business, and more.

[Free Beginners Computer Tutorials and Lessons](#) for immediate start with Home and Learn. Courses can range from beginner to advance with courses offering android to Microsoft training programmes and web design.

[Training Courses & Qualifications on Reed.co.uk](#): Free online courses, ranging from interview and CV writing techniques to employment and training courses in subjected areas of interest. These courses are available for immediate start with subject to space availability due to popular demands.

Barclays Life Skills – Free Employability Programme



Free employability programme that supports people throughout the UK to develop the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workplace. Use the interactive tools and explore tips to discover how your interests and skills can help you find your path to success. As well as develop your interview, enterprise and employability skills to help prepare for your next steps. Find out more: [LifeSkills | Developing work and life skills](#).

Skill City: Your Gateway to an AI Advantage



Welcome to your arena for the careers of the future. Navigate an immersive world where your passions become professional power-ups. Engage with Expert Citizens to master AI, build a scroll-stopping brand, and unlock the "insider" secrets of the modern workforce. Whether you're starting out or levelling up, step into the spotlight and lead the way. Find out more: [Skill City – Your gateway to skills of the future](#).

Bring the World Cup into your School with InnovateHer!



Hosted by [InnovateHer](#) and Emma Meehan, the Founder, CEO & CTO of [KinetikiQ](#) this free, 40-minute, pre-recorded event is a great way to bring the World Cup into your school. The event will showcase how technology shapes the world of Football, from the players students know, data on how the game works and insights into working in football and tech. This interactive event launches on the **10th June 2026**, will reach Gatsby Benchmark 5 and is for all students aged 7-17. This is a pre-recorded session and you can

stream this event into your classroom at any point during the World Cup. Secure your school's spot here: [Select tickets – Football Fields: Creativity, Data and Insights – Pre-Recorded Video](#).

Charlie Waller Free Resources to help parents/carers support young people with their Mental Health



CoRAY was a project based at the University of Oxford. In partnership with the Charlie Waller trust, it created a pack of mental health lessons and resources, working with young people, researchers and clinicians to produce evidence-informed advice. This resource helps parents and carers to have open, honest and empathetic conversations with a young person about their thoughts and feelings. Download the resources and parent pack here: [CoRAY resources for parents](#).

Discover how Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Employment and Enterprise can support your next steps!



Employment and Enterprise offers a range of projects designed to help young people, parents, carers, and professionals understand the opportunities available in Cornwall. Many people are not aware of the full support they can access or how much practical guidance is available to them. By exploring their projects, you can learn how Employment & Enterprise can help with skills development, confidence building, careers guidance, training pathways, apprenticeships, and direct links to local opportunities. Each programme is designed to meet different needs, so you can find the support that suits you or the young people you work with. Read more here: [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Employment and Enterprise | Let's Talk Cornwall](#).

Skills for Life – Discover what's possible



Students can explore their next steps with [Skills for Life: it all starts with skills | Skills for Careers](#). Find out about training and qualification options and get career ideas. Find out the options after education and look for apprenticeships and training opportunities.

FutureSmart Careers May Blog: Handling Exams, Results and Next Steps



Watch out for this month's [FutureSmart Careers blog](#) Handling Exams, Results and Next Steps; your ultimate guide to getting through your exams and how to work out your next steps. You can read the blog here: [Handling Exams, Results and Next Steps](#).

Apprenticeship, Work Experience & Internship Opportunities

Work Experience opportunities at Silverstone



The Silverstone work experience programme gives students aged 14-18 the opportunity to go behind the scenes at one of the world's most iconic venues and immerse themselves in the fast-paced world of motorsport, events and innovation. This is a 5-day programme where students will be given the opportunity to collaborate with a team to deliver a live business project, engage in department shadowing, and contribute ideas, research and creative solutions to real-life challenges. Find out more and apply here: [Work Experience Programme - Silverstone](#).

McDonalds have launched the largest in-person work experience programme!



Offering 2,500 paid placements across 500 restaurants, the initiative will help tackle the root causes of youth unemployment, as the number of NEET young people nears 1 million. [A 'blueprint' for tackling youth unemployment - McDonald's CPO on launching UK's largest work experience scheme | Learning & Development](#) Find out more about opportunities near you [here](#) and more about their virtual opportunities here: [Work Experience](#).

The Kings Trust Virtual World of Work



The Virtual World of Work is a flexible, immersive, and interactive experience that helps to build young people's confidence, raise aspirations and equip them to make informed choices about their future. Through real employee stories, realistic workplaces and guided activities, learners explore what work looks like and feels like, discover a wide range of roles and begin to imagine their place in the world of work. Virtual World of Work Experiences are delivered by approved Achieve Delivery Partners. To find out more click [here](#).

Ambitious about Autism Supported Internships



Ambitious about Autism are proud to announce that their Supported Internships programme won at the [DFN Project SEARCH Awards](#). This win is a testament to their partnership with [Chessington World of Adventures Resort: UK Theme Park & Zoo](#), who won Host Business of the Year and [Achieving for Children](#). Their Supported Internships programme is expanding and from September 2026, they'll be partnering with another [Merlin Entertainments](#) attraction, [LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort](#). If you're an autistic young person aged 16–25 with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan and want extra support into paid work, find out more about supported internships here: [Supported internships for autistic young people](#).

Military Preparation College – Rifles Camp, Gloucester



This programme includes physical exercise (50% of the course) and personal development, building teamwork and communication skills as well as Maths and English and NVQ Level 2 in preparation for the Military. The course is free of charge and no entry qualifications are required, with academies across the country. To find out more email help@learningcurvegroup.co.uk or visit: [Gloucester - MPCT](#).

British Army Work Experience for students



British Army work experience gives students hands-on exposure to teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and confidence-building in a structured, supervised environment. They offer a free four-day residential work experience for 14-18 year olds. A one day work experience is also available and may be offered if the four-day is booked up or not available due to training on site. Teachers and parents can visit this page: [Army Work Experience for Students | BASE](#) to discover what a placement involves, how students are supported and how the activities on offer support Gatsby Benchmark 6 by providing meaningful encounters with workplaces.

Cornwall NHS Supported Internship Programme



Kick-Start Your Future with the Cornwall NHS Supported Internship Programme. If you are a young person with an EHCP and want to build confidence, gain real work experience, and move towards paid employment, the Cornwall NHS Supported Internship Programme could be the right next step. Delivered by United Response in partnership with the NHS, this programme offers hands-on experience within NHS settings across Cornwall. This programme is designed to help young people grow in independence, strengthen their CV, and prepare for the world of work at a pace that works for them. It focuses on individual strengths and long-term goals, helping participants take meaningful steps towards a positive future. To find out more, or to explore whether this programme is right for you or someone you support, contact: supportedinternships@unitedresponse.org.uk

Apprenticeships with SoftCat - Starting October 2026



Technology company Softcat, have various Level 3 apprenticeship vacancies starting in October 2026. There are opportunities available in Financial Solutions, Marketing, Sales and Auditing in Marlow, (Bucks) Bristol, Manchester, Leeds and the South Coast. Find out more here: [Early Careers](#) | [Internships & Apprenticeships](#) | [Softcat](#).

Supported Internships with Amazon



Amazon's supported internships help young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to learn on the job, build skills, and grow their confidence in a real work environment. To apply for a supported internship programme with Amazon via national charity DFN Project Search, contact info@dfnprojectsearch.org ahead of the company's September intake. You can also find out more about the scheme here: [Amazon supported internships: Everything you need to know - About Amazon UK](#).

Springpod Virtual Work Experience Opportunities



Springpod offer free opportunities to gain virtual work experience with top companies and employers. The latest opportunities include:

- Amazon Prime Career Tour
- Met Office Careers: Data Science & Meteorological Phenomenon
- City Fibre Sprint: Scheduling Maintenance

Explore opportunities here: [Springpod Virtual Work Experience Search](#) | [Springpod](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

Sharing T Level and other ATE options with your students webinar – Monday 6th July 2026



On **Monday 6th July**, careers leaders, teachers and careers advisers are invited to join Amazing Apprenticeships to discover practical strategies for explaining T Levels, apprenticeships and the wider technical education landscape to students in a way that is accurate and engaging. Register for the webinar here: [Sharing T Levels and other ATE options with your students - Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Apprenticeships & Technical Education (ATE) Resources



Are you planning assembly schedules for the new academic year? Make sure you plan in a slot in to deliver the digital, adaptable Apprenticeships & Technical Education (ATE) resources created in partnership with Amazing Apprenticeships and the Careers & Enterprise Company. These brilliant resources help schools and colleges to expand and enrich their careers education activities through slide decks, LMI information and films. You can access the resources here: [Apprenticeships & Technical Education \(ATE\) Resources - Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

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

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

- 1:1 Careers advice & guidance
- 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