



Careers Newsletter

2026

April



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www.waltonhigh.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE CAREERS TEAM

Careers guidance is crucial in helping students emerge from school ready to either continue their studies or ready for the world of work. We provide information, advice and opportunities to allow students to be well informed when making subject and career decisions.

Careers Team –

The Spring Term has been a particularly busy and productive one, with a wide range of Careers activities taking place across all four schools within the 5 Dimensions Trust.

We were also delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the Trust, Miss Hernandez, who is based across the Hazeley and Shenley Brook End campuses but will also support key Careers events throughout the Trust. Our Careers team now works collaboratively across all schools, enabling students to access a broader range of opportunities and engage with experienced and qualified professionals.

This term, students have participated in a variety of enriching Careers experiences. Year 12 students completed their work experience placements, while students in Years 7–10 at Walnut Tree took part in a successful speed networking event with a diverse range of employers.

Students from all year groups can request a Careers appointment through their form tutor or by visiting the Careers Office during break or lunchtime.

Our location:

Brooklands Campus – Office next to the dance studio

Walnut Tree – We are based in the library



National Apprenticeship Week 2026

We started the term with National Apprenticeship Week, all students across the school had a tutor time presentation highlighting Apprenticeships as a future pathway. We shared key information via our social media platforms and emailed key information home to parents.

Below is some information for students and parents to gain a clearer understanding of this option.

What are Apprenticeships? – click [here](#)

Understanding Apprenticeship levels – click [here](#)

The Amazing Apprenticeships website holds lots of helpful information and allows you to hear from current apprentices, you can explore apprenticeships further - [here](#)

FCDO Services

During National Apprenticeship Week we hosted our first 5 Dimensions virtual student and parent engagement session. This virtual evening session hosted by our Careers Team and FCDO Services allowed those participating to find out more about FCDO Services and their live apprenticeship vacancies. With over 80 students and parents from across the trust in attendance we hope to host this event annually for our trust students and parents. Further information about FCDO Services can be found here: [Apprenticeships - FCDO Services Careers](#)



FCDO Services STEM festival Trip – Year 12

Two groups of Year 12 students from our Brooklands and Hazeley campuses were able to engage in the FCDO Services STEM festival in March. The festival focused on the skills and attributes required for a technical career with the government organisations that build, maintain and protect the UK embassies and government buildings across the world. The event allowed students to engage with interactive STEM workshops where they were able to:

- Test their skills in finding technical espionage devices with UK NACE.
- Meet with FCDO Services Technical Engineers and learn some of the skills they need to keep the embassies secure.
- Take part in our STEM Challenge Zone - cracking the code or beat the timed maze!!
- Explored Bletchley Park to discover about the wartime work of the Codebreakers.
- Find out from our current apprentices what life is like as an apprentice at FCDO Services and learn some top tips for applications.



Assemblies:

In February we welcomed a variety of employers and providers to both campuses to speak to our students across all year groups. Our Careers Team also highlighted their offer and spoke to students about pathways available following Year 11. These included Post 16, College to study vocational courses or A levels, securing an Apprenticeships or training with a specialist training provider such as Varsity Nine Football Academy. The Careers Team focused on raising aspirations and working hard within school to have a variety of options available when in Year 11.

Thank you to MK College, Network Rail, Varsity Nine, University of Hull and the University of East Anglia for their continued support.



Careers Fair – Walnut Tree

Our annual Careers Fair at Walnut Tree was once again a highly successful event, welcoming 45 employers, education providers, and organisations from a wide range of industries and sectors. Students in Years 8, 10, 11, and Post 16 were given the opportunity to attend and engage directly with professionals to explore future education and career pathways.

In preparation for the event, students took part in tutor-time activities designed to help them make the most of the experience. They researched attending employers and providers, identified those they wished to speak with, and prepared thoughtful questions to ask throughout the event. This preparation helped students engage confidently in meaningful conversations and gain valuable insight into different industries, qualifications, and career opportunities.

The Careers Fair provided students with the opportunity to learn more about apprenticeships, university pathways, vocational training, and employment routes, while also developing their networking and communication skills. Students were able to explore a broad range of sectors and gain first-hand advice from employers, universities, colleges, and training providers about the skills, qualifications, and experiences needed for success in different careers.



Student Finance Talks – Year 13 University of East Anglia

A huge thank you to the team from University of East Anglia for delivering not one, but two informative talks to our Year 13 cohort in March. Staff visited both campuses to provide students with a comprehensive overview of student finance and the support available when progressing to higher education.

The sessions covered key topics including tuition fees, maintenance loans, repayment processes, budgeting at university, and the range of financial support and bursaries available to students. The talks gave our Year 13 students valuable insight into managing finances as they prepare for life after sixth form and helped to dispel many common myths surrounding student finance.

Students found the sessions extremely useful and appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and gain clear, practical advice to support their next steps.



Glebe Farm Event:



Our Careers Team and Heads of Post 16 recently visited Glebe Farm School to promote the wide range of Post 16 opportunities available across the Trust.

During the visit, staff engaged with Year 11 students to discuss the different pathways and courses on offer, helping them to explore their next steps after GCSEs. Students were able to find out more about the variety of academic and vocational options available, enrichment opportunities, and the support provided to help them succeed in Post 16 education.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to ask questions, gain advice about choosing the right pathway for their future aspirations, and learn more about studying within the Trust. It was fantastic to see so many students showing enthusiasm and interest in the opportunities available to them.

Year 8 – Take your child to work day

In March, Year 8 students from both campuses took part in an exciting “Take Your Child to Work” opportunity, spending the day with a parent, carer, or relative to gain first-hand experience of the workplace.

The initiative gave students valuable insight into a wide range of careers and industries, helping them to develop a greater understanding of the skills, responsibilities, and day-to-day tasks involved in different professions. Students had the opportunity to observe working environments, learn about career pathways, and ask questions about education, training, and employment opportunities.

Experiences ranged across a variety of sectors, giving students an early introduction to the world of work and encouraging them to begin thinking about their own future aspirations. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence, broaden their horizons, and make meaningful connections between their education and future career possibilities.

We would like to thank all parents, carers, and relatives who supported the event and helped make the experience both engaging and memorable for our students.

Year 12 Work Experience:

In March, Year 12 students from both campuses successfully completed their Work Experience placements, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing key employability skills.

Students secured placements across a wide range of industries and professions, including healthcare, education, engineering, business, law, media, construction, and the creative industries. The experience allowed students to explore potential career pathways, develop workplace confidence, and gain a better understanding of the skills and qualities employers look for.

Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to work alongside professionals, take part in day-to-day tasks, and experience the expectations and responsibilities of the workplace. Many students also developed important transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, time management, and professionalism.

Work Experience plays a vital role in helping students make informed decisions about their future education and career plans, while also strengthening applications for university, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities. We are incredibly proud of the positive feedback received from employers regarding our students’ enthusiasm, maturity, and commitment during their placements.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all employers and organisations who supported our students by offering placements and providing such valuable experiences.



One of our Year 12 students had the opportunity to spend his work experience week in Belgium, taking part in the MIDA international diplomacy conference.

He debated topics in Aerospace technology and Human Rights, working through more than 30 articles and voting on amendments.

Ivan also visited the French and Luxembourg embassies, met ambassadors, and toured the Belgium Chamber of Representatives and Egmont Palace.

An incredible in-sight into real-world diplomacy!

Worktree – Speed Networking

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 at Walnut Tree recently took part in the highly successful Career Workout sessions, designed to give students valuable exposure to the world of work and future career opportunities.

The event welcomed over 80 employers and industry professionals from a wide range of companies, sectors and career backgrounds. Students had the opportunity to engage directly with employers through a series of interactive discussions, enabling them to explore different career pathways and gain insight into a variety of professions.

Representatives from industries including healthcare, engineering, business, finance, education, technology, construction, law, creative arts, emergency services, and many more shared their experiences, career journeys, and advice with students. This allowed students to develop a broader understanding of the opportunities available to them and the skills and qualifications required for different roles.

The sessions encouraged students to ask questions, build confidence in speaking with professionals, and begin thinking about their own future aspirations. Events such as these play an important role in helping students connect their learning in school with real-world careers and employment opportunities.

This event will take place in Brooklands in the summer term.



Parental Engagement:

Throughout the Spring Term, our Careers Team attended several key events across Walton High, including Year 11 Parents' Evenings, Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) evenings, and the Year 8 Options Evening. These events provided valuable opportunities for students and families to engage directly with our Careers staff and access personalised support and guidance.

Parents and carers were able to speak with our qualified Careers Advisers about a wide range of topics, including career pathways, post-16 and post-18 options, apprenticeships, university routes, vocational qualifications, and labour market information. The team also provided guidance to help students make informed decisions about subject choices and future aspirations.

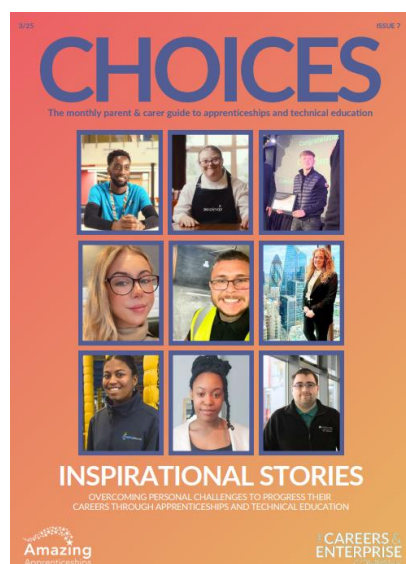
The events encouraged meaningful conversations between students, families, and Careers staff, helping to ensure that young people feel supported as they plan their next steps. Parents were also able to request individual Careers appointments for their children to access further tailored advice and guidance.

The popular sector posters from our Year 8 display can be found here - [Sectors Booklets](#)

The useful "What Next" booklet which holds lots of helpful information about options following Year 11 can be found here - resourcefulcareers.aflip.in/whatnextsouthmidlands2526.html#page/1



Choices Magazine is a monthly parent and carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education; you can access it - [here](#)



School website update: Careers information

We have recently updated the Careers section of the school website to provide students, parents, and carers with access to a wide range of useful information, resources, and guidance.

The updated section now includes information on career pathways, post-16 and post-18 options, apprenticeships, university, labour market information, and employability skills

In addition, the website offers links to external resources and trusted Careers platforms to help students independently research different industries, qualifications, and progression routes. Parents and carers can also find guidance to support conversations about future plans and decision-making at home.

The refreshed Careers pages aim to make information more accessible and ensure that all students can explore opportunities, make informed choices, and feel well supported in planning for their futures.

Click here - [Walton High - Careers](#)

Alumni Engagement:



Thank you to all our Alumni who have engaged with our events this term. This included our Careers Fair at Walnut Tree in January. Your continued support really helps us to inspire our current students.

Thank you to **Theo** Summerfield who spoke to our Year 9 students about his career path since leaving Walton High. His presentation covered his GCSEs, A levels and highlighted his degree apprenticeship recruitment process at Network Rail.



Congratulations to Theo who has now completed his apprenticeship in Digital and Technology Solutions with a 1st class honours degree.

MEARS



We welcomed back two former students to our speed networking events.

Vasi left us back in 2021 to attend MK College, where she studied Business Administration. Vasi has since gone on to achieve great success and is now working as a Financial Data Engineer apprentice at Mears.

Fatuma spoke to our students about her journey from completing her A levels to going to college before securing a Level 4 Business Administration apprenticeship with Mears.

Their journeys are a fantastic example of where dedication, ambition, and the right opportunities can lead. Thank you to Mears for allowing our past students to continue to support their school and help to inspire the next generation.



All students in Years 8 to 13 have free access to Unifrog.

What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a universal destinations platform, a one stop shop for whole school careers guidance.

Our mission is to level the playing field when it comes to students searching for the best opportunities and applying successfully by working closely with our community of students from over 3,000 partner schools and colleges.

Our impartial, user-friendly platform allows students to explore pathways throughout school/college, evidence key activities and competencies, and draft and collate feedback on Personal Statements and CVs to submit the strongest possible applications.

For further information about Unifrog click [here](#) to watch a short video about the platform.



You can create your own parent account where you'll be able to see what your child is doing on Unifrog, including any interactions tagged against their name and any upcoming events we've logged for them. You'll also be able to use all the same tools your child can to support them on their Unifrog journey.

To sign up to Unifrog as a parent please click here - [Parent - Unifrog](#)

You'll also have the option to sign up to Unifrog's parent newsletter to get expert advice and guidance on supporting your child with their next steps.

What is Unifrog and how to get the most out of it - [What is Unifrog? A guide for parents and caregivers : Know-how library](#)

Labour Market Information:

In 2027 there will be some changes to the options available to students following Year 11. These include the introduction of **V levels** – find out more about V levels [here](#).

What are the new post-16 options?



What?

The Government have recently announced changes to the options available to students at the post-16 stage.

Why?

To make sure it is really clear what the options are for you and that you can gain the skills, knowledge and behaviours employers and the wider economy need.

When?

The first new courses are planned to start in September 2027, with different courses being rolled out until 2030/31.

New and existing post-16 options



What's new?

A-levels and T Levels are joined by V Levels at level 3

Two new level 2 pathways (roughly the same level as GCSE) are available to support students into further study or work

New level 1 GCSE qualifications provide a foundation year ahead of level 2 GCSE resit(s)

V Levels - key facts

- Level 3 vocational qualifications.
- Two-year course.
- For 16-19 year olds who would like to explore sectors without specialising.
- Taught in schools and colleges.
- Similar in size to one A-level.
- Multiple V Levels can be taken in combination with other qualifications such as A-levels or level 2 English or maths.
- First subjects available from September 2027 in Education & Early Years, Finance & Accounting and Digital.
- Content based on the skills you need for real jobs - the same framework used for T Levels and apprenticeships.
- Nationally recognised qualification.
- Most of assessment will be non-exam and will be through practical tasks.
- Attract UCAS points.

Further Study Pathway - key facts

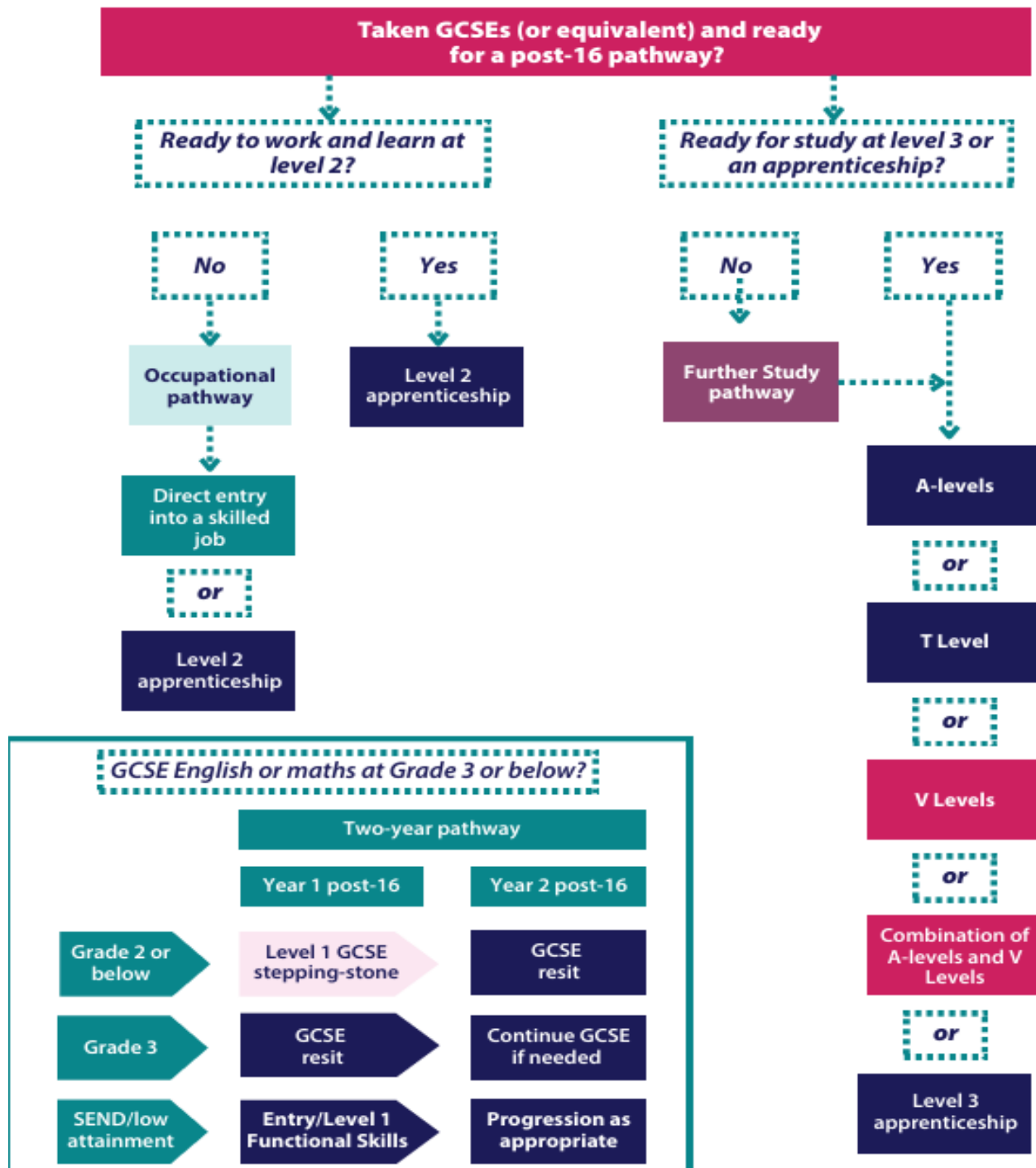
- Level 2, classroom-based option.
- One-year programme.
- For 16-19 year olds who want to and are capable of progressing to further study at level 3 (T Levels/A-levels or V Levels).
- Taught in schools and colleges.
- Includes a Foundation Certificate, a vocational qualification.
- Content includes English and/or maths, enrichment activities and exposure to level 3 teaching.

Occupational Pathway - key facts

- Level 2, classroom-based option.
- Two-year programme.
- For 16-19 year olds who want to enter a particular level 2 occupation and need to develop their technical knowledge and skills.
- Taught in colleges and other training providers.
- Includes an Occupational Certificate, a technical qualification.
- Content includes English and/or maths, enrichment activities, core content and occupation-specific learning

Find out more about T Levels: tlevels.gov.uk

Post-16 pathways from 2027



Upcoming events Summer Term

Walnut Tree – WorkTree Speed networking – Yr7, 8, 9 and 10

Year 10 Work Experience Brooklands and Walnut Tree

Year 12 NHBC trip - Employability Den

Hospitality Connect projects – Walnut Tree and Brooklands

South Midlands
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY


Amazing
Apprenticeships


Bedfordshire
& Hertfordshire
Provider Network

OPPORTUNITIES ON YOUR DOORSTEP VIRTUAL CAREERS FAIR

Opportunities On Your Doorstep – Virtual Careers Fair

Parents, carers and students in Years 10-13 are invited to join a free virtual careers fair exploring local apprenticeship and T Level opportunities across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

Date: Tuesday 12th May 2026

Time: 5.30pm – 7pm

Where: Online via Zoom Events

Families can join short sessions with employers and training providers to learn about programmes, application processes and what helps candidates stand out.

Register by Friday 8th May 2026: tinyurl.com/Opportunities-On-Your-Doorstep