



Careers Newsletter

2025

July



careers@mket.org.uk



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 –

As the academic year draws to a close, it's an ideal moment to reflect on our achievements. This year, the Careers Team has made remarkable progress towards meeting the Gatsby benchmarks, achieving our best performance to date. This year, we concentrated on launching Year 12 Work Experience, providing one-to-one career meetings for all Year 11 and Year 13 students, and strengthening our connections with employers. Looking ahead, we aim to further expand the career-related opportunities available to our students and deepen their engagement with the world of work.

What are the Gatsby benchmarks? – [Good Career Guidance | Education | Gatsby](#)

Where is Walton High against the Gatsby benchmarks?

Gatsby Benchmark	% achieved in latest evaluation 
1 - A stable careers programme	100%
2 - Learning from career and labour market information	100%
3 - Addressing the needs of each pupil	100%
4 - Linking curriculum learning to careers	100%
5 - Encounters with employers and employees	100%
6 - Experiences of workplaces	75%
7 - Encounters with further and higher education	100%
8 - Personal guidance	100%

Students from any year group can request a Careers appointment via their form tutor, or by attending the Careers Office during break/lunchtime.

Our location:

Brooklands Campus – We are in the office opposite the ILA

Walnut Tree – We are based in the Library

Parental Engagement:

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



**Parental
engagement**

We are currently reviewing and developing our careers education provision at Walton High. To help us better understand how our Careers programme is viewed from a parent's perspective, we kindly ask you to complete the feedback form below. Your feedback and engagement are greatly valued and appreciated.

Please use this link – <https://forms.office.com/e/AjNEuKXnJM>

Employer Engagement – Year 9 and Year 10

In May, we were pleased to welcome Worktree to deliver a large-scale networking event for our Year 9 and Year 10 students at both campuses. This initiative was developed in response to feedback from last year's Work Experience programme, where employers highlighted that students often struggled with communicating confidently with unfamiliar adults.

The session aimed to better prepare students for their upcoming Work Experience by focusing on essential interpersonal skills such as shaking hands, making eye contact, asking thoughtful questions, and learning about the career journeys of our visiting professionals.

It was fantastic to see students' confidence grow throughout the session, and we hope the experience will support them in making the most of their Work Experience placements in Year 10. This will be an embedded activity in Year 9 and Year 10 over the coming years and we can't wait to run this again next year for these students.

A huge thank you to all the employers who engage with the event.



Feedback from students:

Brooklands – 88% of students agreed that the session helped them to find out about different job roles, and 85% found the session useful.

Walnut Tree – 83% of students agreed the session helped them to find out about different job roles, and 83% found the session useful.

“There was lot of variety in the careers and jobs in the room”

“I enjoyed meeting new people and listening to their experiences of work and different jobs”

“Learning about people's pathways into work. Some had gone to University, done an apprenticeship or taken other route”

Year 10 Work Experience:

In June we saw our Year 10 students go out on Work Experience. This is an important opportunity for students to gain insight into the world of work and explore potential career paths. It allowed our students to step outside the classroom and into a real working environment, whether that was in an office, shop, hospital, or other workplace. During this time, students learned valuable skills such as communication, time management, and teamwork, while also developing confidence and independence. It was a chance to observe how businesses operated, understand workplace expectations, and reflect on future career interests. For many, it was a motivating and eye-opening experience that will help to shape their educational and professional goals.



Employer feedback has been really positive:

MKCCG "Student A's behaviour was impeccable and she quickly learnt how to put people at ease and learnt how to take blood pressure. Student A was a pleasure to have with us for the week."

Code Ninjas "Student B managed to sit with a child and solve a particular issue that the child had in programming without any intervention from the other personnel at the centre."

MK Council "Student C is a natural born leader, Student C has a great positive attitude and was a joy to be around, she helped motivate the group and when being tasked with something new like hosting a meeting she was always the first volunteer. Every member of staff who met her during this experience immediately contacted me afterwards to tell me how professional she was and that she was a pleasure to meet"

University of Buckingham – Psychology – Year 12

On Wednesday, 18th June, students from Walnut Tree with aspirations to study Psychology at university attended Psych Fest at the University of Buckingham. The event offered a variety of sessions designed to give them a real taste of university-level psychology and the different specialisation paths available.

The day began with a captivating keynote speech by Professor David Wilson, a renowned criminologist currently featured in the television series *Footsteps of Killers*. His talk, focused on social media and criminal behaviour, took several intriguing turns, including an in-depth exploration of the Sycamore Gap Tree case that encouraged students to think critically about real-life investigations.

Following this, students attended a session with a trainee clinical psychologist, gaining valuable insight into the profession and learning how to navigate the pathway into clinical training and relevant experience. A hands-on session on perception challenged students to trace a star using only a mirror—an engaging way to explore procedural memory in action.

The day concluded with a session on student life at the University of Buckingham, including helpful advice on choosing the right university and a guided campus tour. Overall, it was an inspiring and informative experience, giving students a clear and exciting glimpse into the world of psychology at university.



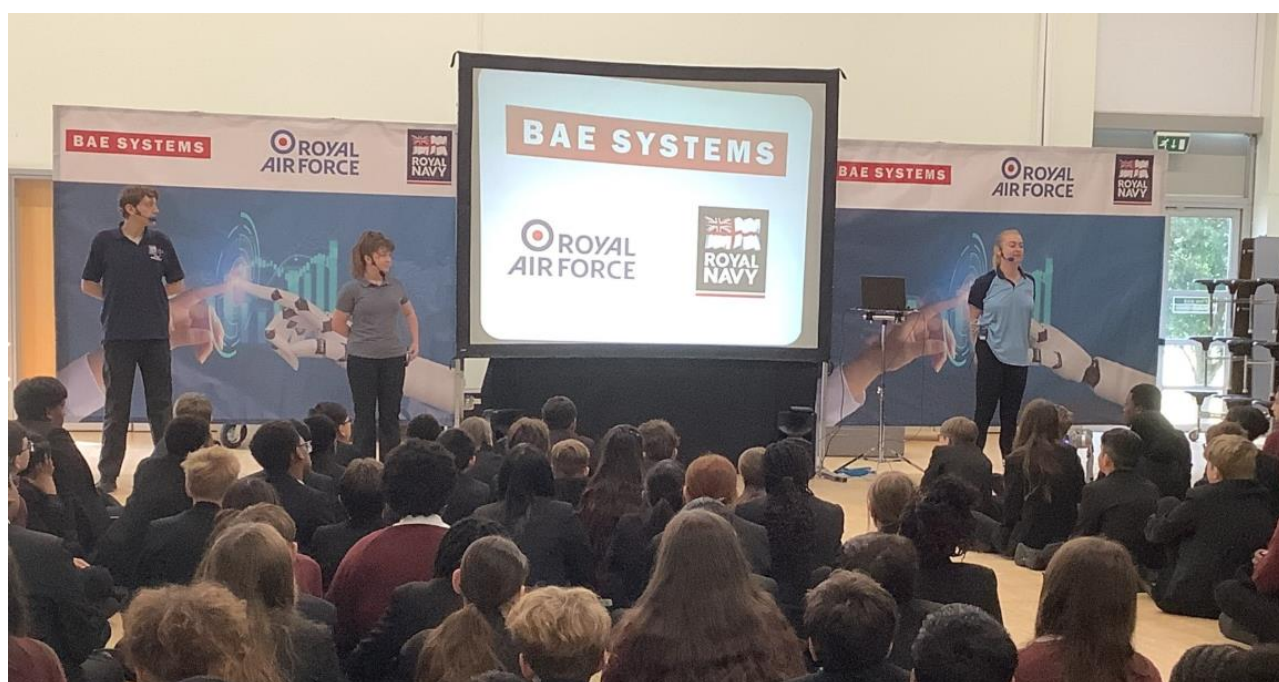
You can explore the University of Buckingham in more detail via the link - [University of Buckingham - Home of the Two-Year Degree](#)

BAE Systems roadshow – Artificial Intelligence – Year 7

Our Year 7 students were treated to a fascinating insight into the world of artificial intelligence when BAE Systems, in partnership with the RAF & Royal Navy visiting our school for an engaging roadshow.

The event aimed to introduce students to AI and its real-world applications, and it certainly succeeded in capturing their interest. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly Fluffy, an AI-powered robotic dog who stole the show with impressive features. Students also got hands-on experience with AI in music and video production. Working together, they used AI to generate an original pop song, selecting random words and musical styles while ensuring their creation adhered to copyright guidelines. They then took their project a step further by producing a pop music video featuring an AI-generated performer singing their newly created song.

Beyond the fun and creativity, the roadshow provided students with valuable insights into the diverse career pathways available in engineering and AI, showing them the depth and breadth of opportunities within the field.



Careers at BAE systems can be explored [here](#)
 Careers with the Royal Navy can be explored [here](#)
 Careers with the RAF can be explored [here](#)

UCAS Fair – University of Bedfordshire – Year 12

Our Year 12 students had the valuable opportunity to attend the UCAS Fair at the University of Bedfordshire. The event provided an excellent platform for students to explore a wide range of universities, apprenticeship providers, and higher education options all in one place. Throughout the day, students engaged with university representatives, gathered prospectuses, and asked insightful questions about courses, entry requirements, and student life. They also attended informative talks and workshops that helped broaden their understanding of post-18 pathways. The experience was both inspiring and informative, helping students take an important step forward in planning their futures.



University open days are now in full swing, use UCAS to find upcoming open days - [Search | Open days and events | UCAS](#)

Can't make it in person why not do a virtual tour - [University Virtual Tours | UCAS](#)

Student Finance information – [Student finance for undergraduates: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

UCAS application cut-off date 2026 (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science only) – October 15th 2026.

UCAS application cut – off date 2026 (all other courses) – 14th January 2026

University of Leicester – Personal statement session

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Anna from the University of Leicester for delivering an insightful personal statement workshop to our Year 12 students. As students begin exploring their options following post-16 and preparing university applications, this session offered valuable guidance to support them in taking their next steps.

Following the workshop, Anna hosted a pop-up stand in our Post-16 Centre, offering further advice and answering individual questions. Her ongoing support has been greatly appreciated, she has regularly attended our annual careers fairs, providing expert insight and inspiration to our students.

The impact of Anna's involvement has been clear. Last year, we saw 83 applications submitted to the University of Leicester, a 62.7% increase from the previous year and 24 firm acceptances, representing a remarkable 200% rise.

The University of Leicester, a respected institution and member of the Russell Group, began engaging with our school after students expressed a desire for more representation from Russell Group universities at our 2023 Careers fair. You can find out more about what the University has to offer here - [A Leading UK University | University of Leicester](#)

What are Russell group Universities? [What Is A Russell Group University? Your Essential Guide](#)





We welcomed the University of Law to both campuses who spoke to students about career pathways to becoming a solicitor or barrister. The session provided an in-depth exploration of these legal roles, outlining the different qualification routes and apprenticeship opportunities available. To reinforce learning, students participated in scenario-based activities designed to test their knowledge and understanding of the law. Thank you to the 23 students that engaged. Find out more about the University of Law here - [The University of Law | Legal & Professional Education](#)



Work Experience opportunities embedded into curriculum learning – Year 12



NHBC – Law Work Experience



Nine of our Law students had the opportunity to visit the NHBC legal department in Milton Keynes, where they gained valuable insights into legal roles and responsibilities within the organisation. During the placement, students engaged in a work-based project, enhanced their CV and LinkedIn profiles, and deepened their understanding of key legal concepts such as insolvency, liquidation, administration, and bankruptcy.

Howden Insurance – Business Work Experience



HOWDEN

Six of our Year 12 students had the valuable opportunity to gain work experience with Howden Insurance. Over the course of the week, they participated in a workplace project that deepened their understanding of the insurance industry. Throughout the week, students engaged with a wide range of departments, including claims, assurance, processing, and technical services. They also heard from experts across the business, gaining insights into various career paths within the industry. In addition to hands-on learning, students received professional feedback on their CVs and took part in an interview skills session—equipping them with essential tools for their future careers. The experience finished with a presentation of their project to industry professionals.



FCDO Service

FCDO Services – IT & Digital Work Experience

Four of our Computer Science and IT students took part in work experience as FCDO Services in July.

On day one they were able to hear from a technical engineering and architecture apprentice sharing their real-life experiences, giving an insight into the work that they do and countries that they have travelled to. They also heard from our cyber security team and how they work across the organisation to keep our platforms secure.

Day two they met with the logistics team and found out about the important work they do globally serving 250 posts across the world. They took part in a business improvement project to teach them how important it is to map processes correctly so improvements can be made, mapping the process of making a cup of tea has a lot more steps than they originally thought. Then they received some top tips from a project manager on the best way to work in a team to support them with the project that they had been given.

On the final day they took part in STEM challenges with an electronic bug hunt with UK NACE and a bridge building exercise with our technical engineering team. Students also got the opportunity to learn about the history of the park. They met with some of our current apprentices networking as part of a speed interviewing exercise.

Over the experience students were put into teams working together to develop a future outreach activity that would inspire future young people to consider careers in STEM and found out more about FCDO Services. This resulted in a very energetic and insightful presentations from each team to the other students and FCDO Services representatives. These ideas will be used to shape future outreach events and activities for the future.



Football & Degree Programme at Varsity Nine

A new offer from Varsity Nine for degree level study.
BA (hons) Sports Coaching with performance Sport

There are two pathways:

1. **Hybrid Route** – Students study *BA (Hons) Sports Coaching with Performance Sport* at Buckinghamshire New University while training and competing full-time through our elite football programme.
2. **Online Route** – Students train full-time with us in football, but instead of attending university in person, they study a *business-related degree* fully online through our academic partners. It's a great option for those who want more flexibility.

You can view the prospectus and find out more via the link here – [Football & Degree Programme — Varsity Nine](#) or by using the QR code below.



Unifrog



All students in Years 7 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.

Parents can sign in to Unifrog [here](#) to create a dummy account to explore this excellent resource.

Parent access code – **WaltonParents**

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



Student feedback 2024/25:



Careers guidance meeting feedback 24/25:

100% of students who responded to the questionnaire stated that they felt their Careers meeting was Impartial. The meeting highlighted all options including Post 16, College, Independent training providers, Apprenticeships, Universities, Gap years and the world of work as options for their future.

99% of students felt their appointment helped them to understand their next steps.

100% of students felt their Careers adviser was able to answer their questions.

Our overall team rating for our Careers Guidance meetings is 4.8 out of 5.



Student comments:

"Amazing person who is very informative and helpful but also honest and direct"

"Mrs Montague was very helpful, kind and my meeting with her was useful helped me get a greater understanding of my career path and the steps I need to take moving forward"

"He was really helpful and was able to guide me through my career options, helping me find a step by step process on how I can achieve my chosen occupation"

"Thank you for the meeting, now I have a better understanding on how to apply for university and I feel like I have progressed my applying process for University"

"It was very insightful and helpful"

"Miss was a great help to me, even though I was so set on one career path after having spoken to her I completely changed this and I'm more than happy with the new career path I'm set on now"

School Student Questionnaire feedback 2025:

Question 5 – My school provides me with information about my next steps.

Year 7 – 66% agreed

Year 8 – 59% agreed

Year 9 – 54% agreed

Year 10 – 47% agreed

Year 11 – 82% agreed



Actions following student feedback:

1. We are currently reviewing PSHE content to ensure this is timely with key decision timescales.
2. We are exploring how we can share information on a more regular basis with students.
3. To engage Careers in the student voice groups to get feedback from students about resources and information they would like to see.



Careers Meetings - During the summer months Mr Tan and Ms Mahmood from our Careers Team will be available for Career meetings. These can either be face to face or virtual and are on offer for students going into Year 11 and Year 13 next academic year. If you would like a Careers meeting over the summer please email careers@mket.org.uk to arrange.

C.V and Interview Prep workshops –

Brooklands – Monday 28th July – 10am – 1pm

Walnut Tree – Tuesday 29th July – 10am – 1pm



Results day support – Both campuses will have a member of the Careers Team available for support on results day.

Brooklands - Mr Tan

Walnut Tree – Ms Mahmood



For our students who are moving on to MK College following Year 11 please see below for some helpful information for results day:

What Happens When I Get My GCSE Results?

Wed 20th August

- Everyone who's applied for College will receive an invitation via email to enroll.
- Check junk or spam folders!

Results Day – Thursday 21st August

- Click on the link in your emails and follow instructions for online enrolments.
- Photo for ID badge and photo of results will be needed.
- After enrolment:
- You receive a confirmation email
- Contacted by tutor to check everyone's on the right level.
- Didn't get the results expected? Book an appointment on Advisory days and have a chat with our tutors.

Advisory Days

- Click on the link in the email and follow the instructions to book an appointment.
- Remember to take results and ID to your appointment.
- Chat to the tutors to check you are on the right level of course.



College contact details – 01908 684444

Further information – College next steps- [Next steps - MK College](#)



Universal Studios – Bedford.

The announcement of a **Universal Studios theme park and resort in Bedford** marks a transformational moment for the region and UK economy. Stated to open in **2031**, the project will create approximately **20,000 construction jobs** and a further **8,000 permanent roles** in hospitality, creative industries, and technical services. Encouragingly, around **80% of these positions** are expected to go to local residents from Bedfordshire and surrounding area. The development is forecast to boost the UK economy by nearly **£50 billion by 2055**, generate **8.5 million from first-year visitors**, and support tens of thousands more jobs across supply chains and related sectors. Through partnerships with local colleges and universities, the resort will offer apprenticeships and training schemes, opening new career pathways for young people in the region.

Growth sectors in Milton Keynes:



Technology: A key area with strong growth.

Logistics and Transport: Milton Keynes' central location drives demand in warehousing, supply chain, and driving roles.

Construction: Ongoing development projects create a need for construction workers.

Healthcare: Roles like carers, nurses, and social workers are consistently in demand.

Retail: A significant sector in the area.

Financial Services: A growing area within Milton Keynes with many national and international organisations with headquarters in MK.

You can find out more about Labour Market information via this site - [Labour Market Information | Jobs Market Information](#)