

# Careers Newsletter

## Autumn Term 25



### A great start to the new term

As a careers team, we've been busy meeting with our Year 11 and Year 13 students during this important stage in their education. With so many crucial decisions to make about their next steps—whether that's sixth form, college, apprenticeships, university, or entering the world of work—it's vital they feel supported and informed. We're here to help guide them through these choices, and we encourage all students to reach out for support at any time if they have questions or need advice.

### Year 11 Careers Fair

We recently held a successful Careers Fair for our Year 11 students, which was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore a wide range of post-16 options. A variety of educational providers attended the event, including sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and training organisations, all keen to share the exciting opportunities they have on offer. The event was well attended, and we received some excellent feedback from both students and parents/carers, who found the fair informative and helpful in supporting decision-making for the future. It was great to see so many students engaging in meaningful conversations about their next steps.

### Year 10 Careers Meetings

We have now started our careers meetings with Year 10 students, recognising that the next two years are not only important academically but also a key time to begin thinking about the future. As a careers team, we believe it's essential to introduce students to the wide range of pathways available after GCSEs, from sixth form and college to apprenticeships and vocational training. By starting these conversations early, we aim to help students explore their interests, understand their options, and begin setting goals for the future, so they feel confident and motivated in the choices they make moving forward.



### What does a careers meeting involve?

A careers meeting is a one-to-one session between a student and a member of the careers team, designed to help the student explore their future options and make informed decisions. During the meeting, the student can discuss their interests, strengths, and any ideas they may already have about their future. The careers adviser will provide information about different pathways—such as sixth form, college, apprenticeships, university, or employment—and help the student understand what qualifications or skills may be needed. They may also offer guidance on choosing GCSE or post-16 subjects, writing CVs, applying for courses, or gaining relevant experience. The aim is to give students tailored support so they feel confident and prepared to take their next steps.

## YEAR 11 APPLICATION PROCESS

### Week beginning 3<sup>RD</sup> November

Students will be given their individual login for the PS16 application portal. They will begin to fill in all of their details and work on their applications and personal statements within Lifeskills lessons.



About our prospectus  
Welcome to PS16,  
your Online Careers  
Gateway.

### What is a personal statement



A personal statement is a short written essay where you showcase your passion, skills, and experiences relevant to a specific course. It's a crucial part of the application process and allows students to stand out from other applicants by highlighting their unique qualities and motivations.

### Can I apply for more than one college/educational provider?

We always encourage students to apply for multiple colleges. They do not have to make their final decision until they have received their GCSE results. If student wishes to apply for an apprenticeship they will do this directly with the provider but as a team we also strongly advise that they apply for a college course as a back up option.



### What happens once I have completed my application?



Once your application has been completed it will be checked by your Lifeskills teacher before you send it. As a careers team we are also on hand to support you, so if you would like us to take a look at your application we are happy to do so. You can access your PS16 account at home so parents/carers can support you too. Do not panic if you are still unsure where to apply to. In this instance please email Mrs Norton to request a further careers meeting to discuss your options further.

### What now?

Once you have clicked to send your application, the careers team will receive a notification and release the application to the educational providers you have selected. All providers will acknowledge your application through the PS16 portal and will then continue to contact you with further information to your personal email address which is why you MUST make sure this is on your application form. It is important that you regularly check your emails for any instructions from the colleges you have applied to.



## Year 11 Mock Interviews

In December, our Year 11 students will be taking part in mock interviews as part of their careers preparation. We're fortunate to have a number of volunteers from various professional backgrounds coming into school to conduct these interviews. This is a valuable opportunity for students to practise their interview skills in a realistic setting, gain confidence, and learn more about what to expect in a real interview situation. The experience helps them understand how to present themselves, communicate effectively, and reflect on areas for improvement—all of which are essential skills for their future pathways. The students will have the opportunity to prepare for the interview during their Lifeskills lessons.



## Year 11 November Careers Fair

On Monday 10th November the careers team will be holding another careers fair on campus. This will be for students only and will take place between 9 and 11am. Students will be allowed out of lesson to meet the various educational providers that attended our evening careers fair plus a few others. This event is designed to provide an opportunity for those who were unable to attend our previous careers fair held in September to meet with providers. It will also give students who did attend this event a chance to follow up and ask further questions. We encourage all students to take advantage of this session to explore their options and gather valuable information for their future pathways

## A heads up for year 10 work experience

We would like to give an early heads-up regarding the upcoming work experience opportunity for our Year 10 students, which will take place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th of June 2026. While these two days are the designated dates, students who are able to secure a full week's placement are welcome to do so, and this can be authorised. Students will be responsible for finding their own placements, but the careers team is always on hand to offer support and guidance throughout the process. Last year, students secured placements with a variety of local businesses, as well as through family connections, and we received excellent feedback from both the students and the employers involved. Many students described it as a valuable and enjoyable experience, and employers spoke highly of their enthusiasm and professionalism. Taking part in work experience also strengthens college applications, making it a worthwhile opportunity for all students. All placements will be authorised through the Unifrog platform, students will be given information on how to complete this process.



### MIX IT UP

Keep your brain active by mixing up your topics or subject every hour or so. Switching your work around will help you stay focused.



### START EARLY

Mornings are the best time to revise. You'll get your day's work done much quicker and will have time to relax in the evening.

# TOP TIPS FOR REVISION SUCCESS



### EAT & DRINK REGULARLY

Keep your brain fed and watered so that it can work efficiently. Try to stick to healthy options if possible.



### GET PLANNING

Planning is key to exam success. Prioritise your tasks then break your revision down into bite-size chunks and map out a plan.



### TEST YOURSELF

Check what you know. You can do this with friends and family or on your own. It will focus your revision time and highlight any gaps in your knowledge.



### TAKE A BREAK

Avoid information overload by taking regular short breaks. Move around if you can, give your mind a rest and get some fresh air.



### PUT YOUR PHONE DOWN

We all like to be connected but getting distracted by your phone will seriously hinder your revision. There are lots of apps to help if you can't bring yourself to turn it off!



### STAY CALM

Be positive and, most importantly, stay calm. Exams can be stressful but you won't revise - or perform - at your best if you're stressed.



### FIND A QUIET SPACE

Find a good place to revise, ideally somewhere quiet where you won't be disturbed or distracted and you have space to spread out.

## POST GRADUATE LEVEL

Master's Degree (second degrees), PhD, Professional Accreditation, BTEC Advanced Professional, NVQ Level 5

## LEVEL 7 & 8



## Post 16 Options After Year 11 GCSEs



## Post 18 Options



## What are your child's options after GCSEs?

Sixth form qualifications fall into two categories: academic or vocational. Academic qualifications are subject focused and largely theoretical, whilst vocational qualifications are usually more hands-on and pertain to industry and the world of work. The better grades your teen achieves at sixth form, the more options that will be available to them. They're likely to improve their outcomes when they're studying both something they enjoy learning that is presented in a way that appeals to them. In broad terms, those who like coursework and prefer "doing" will enjoy taking BTECs, T Levels or apprenticeships. Students that prefer listening and taking exams will enjoy the traditional A level approach.

# P16 Open Day/Evening Events

Visiting colleges is incredibly important for Year 11 students as it gives them a first hand look at what life after GCSEs could be like. These visits allow students to explore different courses, facilities, and learning environments, helping them to make more informed decisions about their next steps. Seeing the campus, meeting teachers and current students, and asking questions in person can clarify what each college offers and whether it suits their interests and goals. This experience helps reduce uncertainty, boosts confidence, and ensures students choose a pathway that aligns with their aspirations and strengths. Please find below QR codes to book a place on any open day/evening events. BGLC does not require you to book a place please feel free to just come along.

BGLC P16 Open Evening



Leicester College



Loughborough College



Academy Sixth Form



College



City Sixth Form

## Useful Websites

**Careers Pilot** - All the information and tools you need to explore your future career

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

**BBC Bitesize Careers** - Whether you're deciding what to study, planning your future career or just curious about the world of work, we're here to help with advice from experts and from young people who've found a path that suits them <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

**Government Apprenticeship Website** - Use this service to search and apply for apprenticeships in England

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

**UCAS** - Applying to university involves knowing how and when to apply, checking deadlines, entry requirements, and writing a personal statement

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university>

**Unifrog** - Helps students compare every university course, every apprenticeship, and Further Education courses - then apply successfully

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

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