

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter includes a feature on talking to your child about their career journey and a look back at some events in January.

Navigating Career Conversations: A Parent's Guide

The world of work is evolving faster than ever. For many parents, the "standard" career advice of a decade ago—focusing solely on traditional degrees and linear paths—no longer covers the full range of opportunities available today. Whether your child is just starting Year 7 or nearing their final school years, here is how to have meaningful, low-pressure conversations about their future.

1. Focus on Skills and Passions, Not Just Job Titles

In today's market, specific job titles can become obsolete, but transferable skills—like problem-solving, digital literacy, and communication—are forever.

- **The Shift:** Instead of asking "What do you want to be?", try asking "What do you want to do?"
- **Identify Strengths:** Notice what they do naturally. If they enjoy organizing a gaming group, they are practicing leadership and project management.
- **Explore Curiosity:** Ask which subjects or projects truly excite them, and help them see how those passions translate into different industries.



2. Pick the Right Moment

Formal "sit-down" meetings can often feel like an interrogation, causing teenagers to shut down.

- **Side-by-Side Conversations:** Research suggests children are often more relaxed and open while engaged in another activity—try chatting during a car journey, while walking the dog, or over their favourite dinner.
- **Use Real-World Prompts:** Use everyday situations to spark curiosity. For example, when visiting a hospital or an airport, discuss the diverse roles—from data scientists to engineers—that keep those places running.



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3. Be a Facilitator, Not a Decision-Maker

Your role is to guide and provide tools, rather than dictating a specific path.

- **Explore Together:** It's okay if you don't have all the answers. Use resources like the National Careers Service or Unifrog to research new pathways like Degree Apprenticeships or T-Levels together.
- **Normalize "I Don't Know":** Many successful professionals didn't find their path until their 20s or 30s. Remind your child that it is perfectly okay not to have a definitive plan yet.



The Bottom Line: the most valuable gift you can give your child is the confidence to explore, the resilience to adapt and the knowledge that you are a supportive partner in their journey.

Useful websites

Please click on the images below to visit some useful websites.



Unifrog

Unifrog is a great resource for researching careers with your child.

Get your child to log-on and explore together.



Work environments profile ✓ Quiz last taken 12 Mar 25	Activities ✗ Recorded at least 10	UK universities 1 shortlist
Quiz profile ✓ 4 of 4 quizzes complete	Skills ✗ Completed all 12	Apprenticeships 1 shortlist
Exploring	Interactions ✗ Missing 3 Interaction types	College / Sixth Form 0 shortlists
Careers library ✗ Careers favoured	Placements ✗ No placements added	Connecting
Subjects library ✗ Subjects favoured	Materials	No tools in this category are tailored to you this year - click 'All tools' to see everything
Know-how library ✗ Guides favoured	CV / Resumé ✗ Write CVs tailored for each roles	Applications
Courses ✗ No courses added		Post 16 Intentions ✗ Plan A and Plan B complete

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Upcoming Events

Year 7 Mini Careers Fair - Tuesday 19th March (P5 and tutor time)

Year 10 Work Experience - Monday 6th to Friday 10th July



Past Events

Speaker Sessions

On Wednesday 21st January we had the latest whole school Personal Development session. Year 11 focussed on careers and had a number of short talks from people in different jobs. The following people came in to share their experiences.

Daniel Faundez – *Simmons & Simmons Law*

Rebecca Bound - *Renishaw*

Mel Homewood – *Gloucestershire University Marketing*

Karina Smith-Reyes - *Marketing*

Hannah MacKenzie-Neville (alumnus)- *Zoo biology animal rescue and rehab*

Leo Daubeney (alumnus) – *Paramedic*

Dan Tierney (alumnus)– *Royal Navy*



Practice Interviews

On Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th January all of Year 10 had a practice job interview with a local business representative.

Interviews are an integral part of preparing pupils for the next steps in their future; being confident in talking about themselves, presenting themselves in a positive light as well as making good first impressions.

The interview will also be a valuable tool for future work experience placements.

Congratulations to all our Year 10s!



If you have any questions or need support, please email careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk