

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 1 | DECEMBER 2025 |

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Enjoy / Enrich / Excel

MEET THE TEAM

Meet our careers team and find out how they support pupils with careers

GUEST SPEAKERS

Find out on Page 2 who has visited our pupils this term

THIS TERM

Year 11s – This term we have been focusing on understanding post 16 path choices and applying to college.

Year 10s – Work Experience at the end of April has been the focus for Year 10 this term.

Year 9s – Teamwork has been the skill the Year 9s have been focusing on this term.

Year 8s – “Project Spark” has been giving Year 8s a focus on their interests and passions. They have also been reflecting on their goals inside & outside of school.

Year 7s - After the restart the heart day, the whole of year 7 had an assembly with a volunteer first responder covering how she got into it, what the job entails and the skills you would need.

UNIFROG



Unifrog is a careers platform where pupils can easily explore their interests and options available after they finish at school. They have access to psychometric tests, thousands of career profiles and very informative Webinars on the platform

It allows pupils and staff to record all career related activities in one place along with any extracurricular activities.

Pupils career appointment feedback is uploaded here and this year's Year 10 Work Experience (Wex) is being facilitated through Unifrog.

Please use this link to be able to set up your parent account.

https://www.unifrog.org/parent?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UK-TE%20parent%20accounts%20171025&utm_content=UK-TE%20parent%20accounts%20171025+CID_6b04gc8653cc6f0cfae8e4b446251f9f&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=parent%20login%20page

APPRENTICESHIP FOCUS

What is an apprenticeship?
Where to find apprenticeship vacancies and how to apply.

AND MUCH MORE...

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MEET THE TEAM

Head of Careers – Miss Smith



Miss Smith teaches various careers topics in PSHE. She is our resident expert in Unifrog (the school careers platform) and leads all aspects of careers activities for all years within the school.

Careers Advisor – Mrs Akhtar



Mrs. Akhtar is the school liaison to local colleges, apprenticeship training facilities and employers. She conducts the year 11/10 careers appointments, assists with work experience and supports Miss Smith with any other careers activities.

College Guest Speakers

On 22nd October, we welcomed UTC Portsmouth to our year 11 assembly to talk about the courses they have to offer in year 12. UTC is the local technical college and focuses on STEM subjects for T-levels and A-levels. Closing date for applications is 12th January 2026.



Sparsholt college visited us on 19th November to showcase their college during our year 11 assembly. Set in approximately 450 acres of land near Winchester, the college offers a lot of outdoors based vocational year 12 courses such as equestrian studies, horticulture, forestry & fishery. Closing date for applications is 12th March 2026.



Uniformed Services Event

Our year 10s and 11s were offered the opportunity to attend a presentation from the Royal Air Force and Police Force to talk about a career in uniform.

48 pupils over the two year groups attended.

Yvonne Baker from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary covered routes of entry into the police force, age restrictions and a description of some of the roles available at entry level.

RAF Sergeant Matthew Foster gave a presentation about life in the RAF, the application process and the many varied roles available.

Our young people really enjoyed it and asked some great questions in the Q&A session at the end.





Lets Talk...Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences.

Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices spend at least 20% of their working hours completing classroom-based learning with a college or training provider which leads to a nationally recognised qualification. Many apprenticeships have exams as part of the end point assessments (EPA)

There are 5 levels of apprenticeships – Level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs), & Level 3 (equivalent to A-levels) are the post 16 options for school leavers. Levels 4-6 are for post 18.

Havant & South Downs College(HSDC), South Hampshire College Group(SHCG, includes Fareham, Eastleigh & Southampton Colleges), City of Portsmouth College Group (CoPC includes Highbury, North Harbour and Portsmouth sixth Form), PETA & Steve Willis are among several different providers in the area.

PETA have companies that they provide apprentices for and focus on Engineering, Finance, Business & ICT. Steve Willis focus on Electrical and Gas Engineering and like colleges expect you to secure your place with a company yourself. Many of the colleges in the area hold a list of companies that may be willing to have an apprentice but the onus is on the individual to approach the company direct. The colleges just act as the training provider on behalf of the company. Check out the colleges prospectus or website for a list of subject areas they can offer apprenticeships in.

Having GCSE grade 4 in Maths & English is a basic requirement for most post 16 apprenticeships and competition is fierce. PETA recorded over 4000 applicants for around 400 positions in 2024.

An interest in your chosen field will help with your application. If you want to be an engineer you could get an old bike and do it up, if you want to go into ICT try building your own computer.

Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to earn whilst you learn. Whilst we recommend using the gov.uk website to search apprenticeships, they can also be found on Indeed.com.

Check out the websites below for more information

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.amazingapprenticeship.com

www.careerpilot.org.uk

www.ucas.com





Year 11 College Applications

All year 11s should have applied to at least one college place by Christmas, even if they would like an apprenticeship when they leave school.

College places fill up and should the young person not secure an apprenticeship by September 2026, this will allow them to still attend college. It is easier to have a place at college and turn it down than trying to apply in August. They are more likely to get something they would like to do at this stage than if they wait until after results day.

It is also advisable to have a back up option. We never know what may happen and keeping your options open will help avoid disappointment later on.

Year 10 WEX

Year 10 work experience is 27th April – 1st May 2026. Pupils should have received a letter in September, with all the information about this.

Ask family & friends, speak to local businesses or contact companies you have an interest in.

Obviously its great if you can get a placement that is connected to a career you are interested in but experience in another profession can be as useful should you be unable to secure a placement in your chosen field.

Upcoming events Spring 2026

19th January – HSDC College Year 11 Interviews in school

22nd January – Year 9 Languages Discovery Day at Portsmouth University

11th February – Unifrog Virtual Apprenticeship Fair 4pm-6pm

27th April to 1st May - Year 10 Work Experience

TBC – Marine Careers Event

