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Dear Year 10 and Year 11 Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find in this newsletter information regarding some excellent work experience opportunities for both Y10 and Y11 – Please do have a read as there are some fantastic opportunities that our students need to be apply for.

I have also highlighted those post-16 providers that have open days scheduled for January / Feb and also those whose closing dates are coming up... Y11 please do not miss a school's closing date as they WILL NOT accept applications once it has passed.

If you have any questions please do get in touch [vmartin@severnvaeschool.com](mailto:vmartin@severnvaeschool.com)

Kind regards,

*Virginia Martin*, Careers Leader

# Apprenticeships

For information on how to find an apprenticeship you can either search via local college apprenticeship vacancy pages, individual company vacancy pages, via the national [Find an Apprenticeship](#) website or via Unifrog.

A good starting point is via the national apprenticeship search engine - [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) On this website you can search by Job Title or Employer and narrow it down by putting in your location and how far you are willing to travel.

## Find an apprenticeship

Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England

The screenshot shows the 'Find an Apprenticeship' search form. Annotations with arrows point to specific fields:

- Search by Job Title or Employer:** Points to the 'Keywords (optional)' section, which includes a dropdown menu set to 'All' and a text input field containing 'Business Administrator'.
- Put in your home postcode:** Points to the 'Your location' section, which includes a text input field containing 'GL4 8AX'.
- How far are you able to travel for work?:** Points to the 'Within' section, which includes a dropdown menu set to '5 miles'.

Other visible fields include 'Apprenticeship level' with a dropdown set to 'All levels'.

While vacancies might not come up until Spring 2023 it good idea to have a look at what type of apprenticeships are being advertised so that you can have a think about which ones you might be interested in applying for. **If you are interested in having an apprenticeship, I would recommend you do the following ASAP.**

- 1) If you do not have a personal email account, you will need to create one. Think about what name you are using, for example does [gameboy99@.....](#) really give the right first impression to an employer?
- 2) Please register on Find an Apprenticeship and sign up to have email / text 'alerts' when apprenticeships that you are interested are advertised.
- 3) You will need a CV to apply for any apprenticeship – a good starting point is to visit Unifrog and use their CV / Resume drafting tool [Sign In - Unifrog](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Drafting application materials' interface on the Unifrog website. Annotations with arrows point to specific sections:

- CV / Resume drafting tool:** Points to the 'CV / Resume' section, which includes a 'Start >' button.

Other visible sections include 'UK Personal Statement', 'Academics', 'Subject References', and 'Writing tool'.

# Understanding Post-16 Qualifications

There are 4 main choices on how to study Post-16: T'levels, A'levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships and to make it even more complicated within BTECs and Apprenticeships there are different levels of qualifications ranging from Level 1 to Level 3. GCSE estimated grades will give Y11 students some guidance on which of the course might be the best one(s) for them to consider and I would always recommend students have an 'aspirational choice' and a 'safe choice' (similar to how university choices are done).

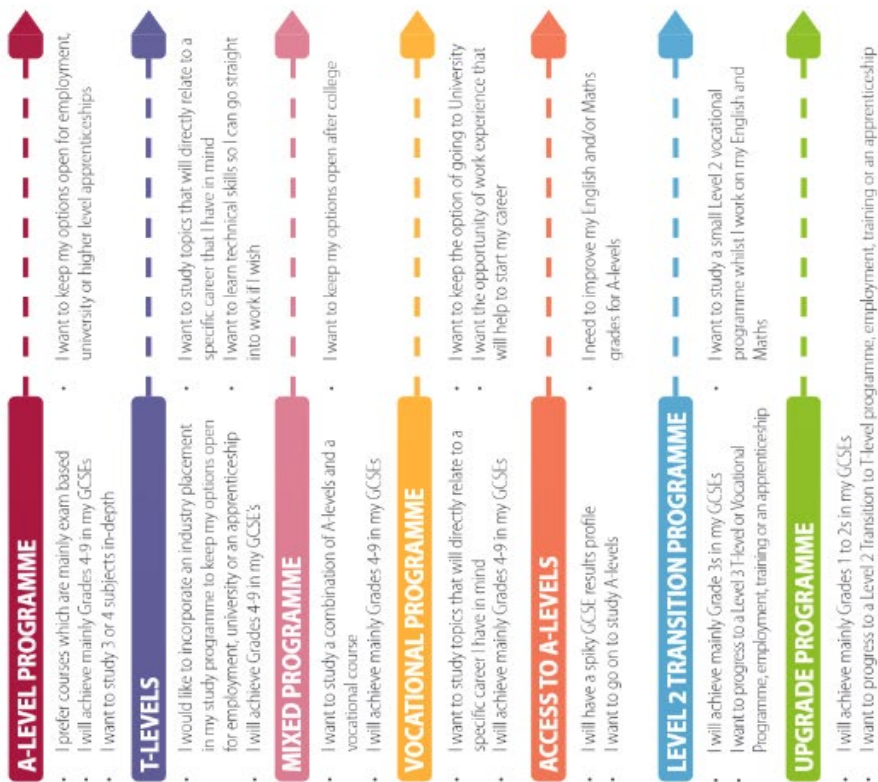
**T'levels** – Gloucestershire's Cirencester College has been at the heart of these pioneering qualifications. They are a 2 year technical study programmes designed in partnership with employers that combine class room training and a 45+ day industry placement. Cirencester Collage and Gloucestershire College both have a selection of T-levels that include subjects as diversity as Floristry and Garden Design to Adult Nursing and Events and Venue Technicians. These courses have been devised in close contact with employers to ensure that students have the practical skills to ensure they are 'work ready'.

**A'levels** – are Level 3 qualifications, are studied across 2 years and students normally study 3 A'levels plus an additional qualification like EPQ or completing DofE Gold etc. Some university courses will expect students to have studied certain subjects at A'level and as a rule of thumb it would be beneficial to have a 6+ at GCSE in order to study a subject at A'level.

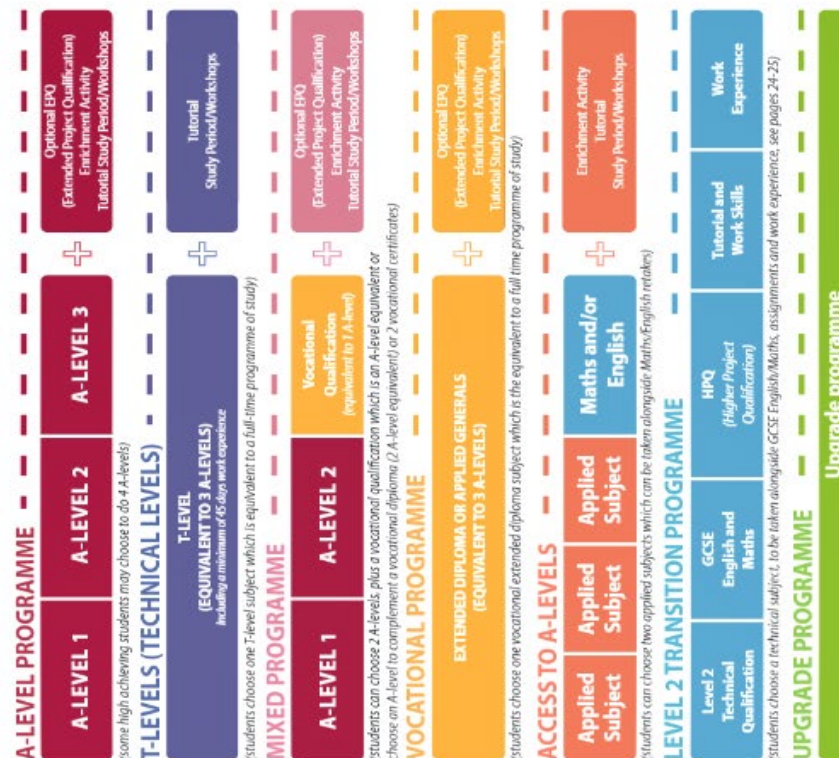
**BTECs** – are practical-based, vocational qualifications. They can be studied at a college or some schools and they provide the opportunity to gain hand-on experience in a field or subject. BTEC Level 1 & 2 are equivalent to GCSEs and Level 3 is equivalent to A'levels. Students can progress from a L1 through to a L3, normally over a 3 year period.

In addition to the above, colleges like Cirencester college offer Access courses (meaning students may spend 3 years rather than 2 at the college) e.g. Access to A'levels, is a foundation year getting students ready to take A'levels and the T-level Transition Programme (see below for more information)

# WHICH COURSES ARE RIGHT FOR ME?



# BUILDING YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME



We are extremely lucky in Gloucestershire to be served by a wide variety of colleges, all of which have different strengths and focuses. From Hartpury's countryside management course through to SGS's Sports Journalism BTEC, no matter what your passion there are Post-16 courses to aid you to get your dream job. Please click on the below college name to be taken to their website. Below you will also find up-to-date information on college open-days and taster sessions.

During the summer holidays Y10s need to research the different colleges and decide if they are interested or not in any of the courses they have to offer – please note not all of Gloucestershire College's courses are in Gloucester and some of SGS's courses are in fact in Bristol!

Colleges offer students the chance to study different qualifications –T-Levels (Gloucestershire College and Cirencester College), A'levels (Hartpury College & Cirencester College) and BTECs (all of the below)

[Cirencester College](#) – You will need to book onto their open days and register to find out about set courses – Applications opened In January 2023 for the March Open-Day. Applications for joining CC are open now.

<b>Cirencester College</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>10am-3pm</b>
<b>Cirencester College</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>5pm - 8pm</b>
<b>Cirencester College</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Evening TBC</b>

[Gloucestershire College](#) - Please apply for Gloucestershire College by March at the latest as while they will accept applications after this date they have a cut-off for guaranteeing venues – e.g. you may end up being offered a course in Cheltenham rather than Gloucester.. remember this is GLOUCESTERSHIRE college and they have sites in Forest of Dean, Gloucester and Cheltenham.

<b>Gloucestershire College - Gloucester Campus</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>5pm-8pm</b>
<b>Gloucestershire College - Apprenticeship Open Evening</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>5pm-8pm</b>

[GET](#)- Gloucestershire Engineering and Training Centre

[Hartpury College](#) – Any Year 10s who are interested in going to Hartpury College please note that you will need to book onto their open-days in June 2023 (when you are in Year 10) for open-days for September 2023 onwards – by the time you come back for Y11 in September most of Hartpury College Open-days for 23/24 will already be fully booked.

Hartpury College	Saturday	21st	January	2023	From 9am	Fully Booked
Hartpury College	Saturday	11th	February	2023	From 9am	Fully Booked
Hartpury College	Saturday	11th	March	2023	From 9am	Fully Booked

[MPCT](#) – Military Preparation College

[Stage Door Learning](#) –

[South Gloucestershire & Stroud \(SGS\)](#) –

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS) - All sites	Saturday	28th	January	2023	10am
South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS) - All sites	Thursday	27th	April	2023	5.30pm

**Remember you can have a number of applications accepted at a number of post-16 venues and you do not need to decide which place you are going to take up until GCSE results day.**

**Also remember that the offers are ‘conditional’... meaning you will only get the place if you attain the GCSE grades that they require – e.g. if your offer is for 5 x GCSEs at Grade 4 and above... you will need to get this or higher in order to be accepted on the course.**



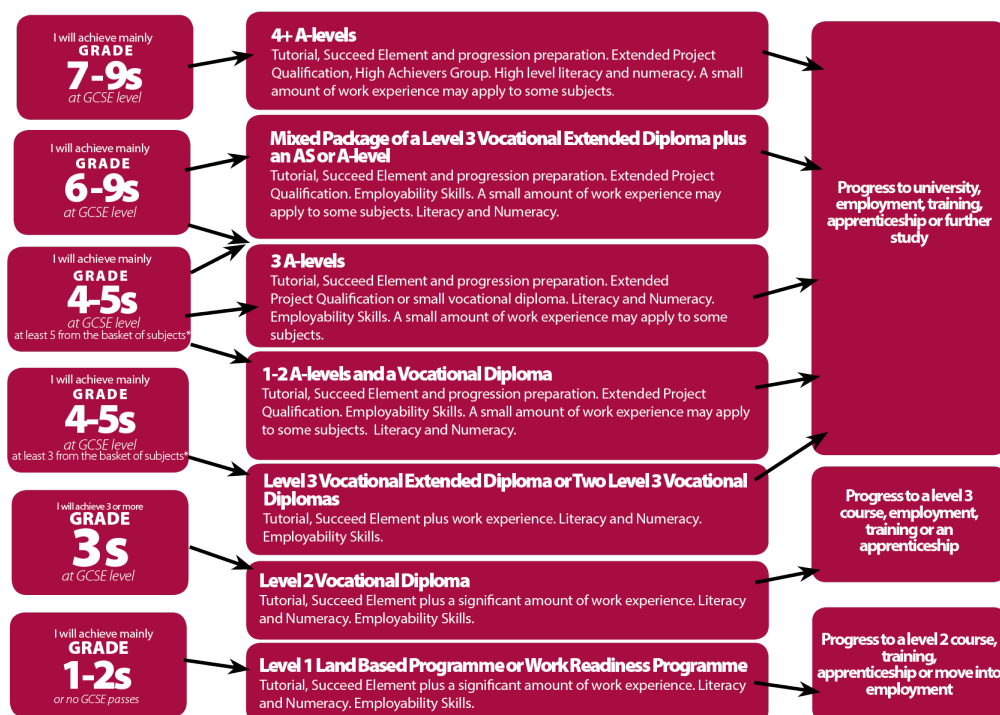
# One-to-One Careers Appointments



Independent and unbiased careers guidance is provided by Mrs Georgie Blackburn, a professional careers advisor, who visits the school once / twice a week during term time to meet with students individually and to give group talks. We try to arrange at least one appointment during KS4 for every Severn Vale student.

If you would like to book a careers appointment please email [noakey@severnvaletschool.com](mailto:noakey@severnvaletschool.com)

This guide will give you an idea of the types of qualifications you should be considering depending on your GCSE estimated grades – PLEASE NOTE THIS IS JUST A GUIDELINE



# Sixth Forms

Just as Gloucestershire has a wide range of colleges it also has a wide range of Sixth Forms, each one having its own strengths and offering unique opportunities. Not all sixth forms are the same, and therefore please make sure you visit as many open-days as possible. Please click on the below Sixth Form name to be taken to their website and below you will also find up-to-date information on their open-days and taster sessions.

[All Saints Academy](#) -

[Archway School Sixth Form](#) -

[Balcarras School](#) -

Balcarras School	Open Evening	12th	January	2023	7pm-9pm
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[Cheltenham Bournside School](#) -

Cheltenham Bournside School	Thursday	26th	January	2023	Evening TBC
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[Chosen Hill School](#) -

[Churchdown School](#) -

[The Crypt School](#) - **Closing Date is the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

[Denmark Road Sixth Form](#) - **Closing Date is the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

Denmark Road 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	Thursday	26thth	January	2023	Evening TBC
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[Holmleigh Park Sixth Form](#) -

[Katherine Lady Berkley School](#) -

[Marling Sixth Form](#) - **Closing Date is the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

[Pates Sixth Form](#) -

Pates Grammar School	Tuesday	24th	January	2023	5pm-8pm
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[Ribston Hall Sixth Form](#) -

[Sir Thomas Rich's Sixth Form](#) -

Sir Thomas Rich Grammar School	Thursday	2nd	February	2023	7pm-8pm
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[St Peter's RC High School](#) -

[Stroud High School Sixth Form](#) - **Closing Date is the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Stroud High School	Wednesday	18th	January	2023	5pm-8pm
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# The Crypt Vs Marling

This is just an example but I wanted to highlight the difference in offers a student might get from somewhere like the Crypt vs somewhere like Marling (I am only using these two schools as examples and they below is only to point out a technicality and NOT to recommend a student favours applying to one school or the other).

## For The Crypt

- Students will need **6+** GCSEs at **grade 6** or above
- **Maths and English Language** GCSE at **grade 5** or above

## For Marling

- Students will need **38 Points** across their **best 6 GCSE** grades (grade 7 is 7 points, grade 6 is 6 points etc..)
- **Maths and English Language** GCSE at **grade 5** or above

This means if a student got the below grades they would probably NOT get into The Crypt as they do not have 6+ GCSEs at grade 6 or above but they would get into Marling as they have over 38 points across their best 6 grades (41 points in the example below).

7/6 in Science,  
8 in English Literature,  
5 in Maths,  
7 in Geography,  
8 in Citizenship,  
5 in English Language,  
4 in Spanish

## Launch of Unifrog

Last September saw the launch of Unifrog at Seven Vale School. To support our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we will now be using Unifrog (an award-winning, online careers platform) as our main careers information tool. The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student (Years 7-11) has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child with their career's choices throughout their time at Severn Vale. Please signup using the form code **SVRVParents** and you can sign up at [www.unifrog.org/code](http://www.unifrog.org/code)

During Term 1 please can all of Y10s and Y11s check they have access to Unifrog and reset their password if necessary. If you are having a problem identifying what to do for work experience or what you want to do Post-16 please try completing the Interest Quiz or Personality Quiz

The screenshot displays the Unifrog user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HOME, FAVOURITES, LOCKER, APPLY, HELP, and a TEACHER button. Below the navigation bar, a personalized greeting reads: "Hello Virginia, here's a summary of your progress so far...". A circular progress indicator shows "41% complete". To the right, a star icon indicates "1st in year group". Below the progress indicator, a recommendation box says: "Want to move things forward? We recommend you... Complete the Interests quiz 40%". A link "See all your tasks" is provided. Below this, a section titled "ACCESS ALL THE TOOLS BELOW Exploring pathways" features a grid of nine tool cards:

- Interests profile**: Quiz not taken. Start >
- Personality profile**: Quiz last taken 27 Sep 21: ENFJ. Start >
- Work environments profile**: Quiz not taken. Start >
- Careers library**: Careers favourited. Go to tool >
- Subjects library**: Subjects favourited. Go to tool >
- Know-how library**: Guides favourited. Go to tool >
- MOOC**: Make your first shortlist. Start >
- Webinars**: Hear directly from the experts. Go to tool >
- Read, Watch, Listen**: Profiles favourited. Start >

Arrows point from the "Interests profile" card and the "Exploring pathways" header to the main content area.

## Work Experience & Careers Fairs

While Severn Vale School's Y10 Work experience takes place in the 1st week of July (3rd - 7th July 2023) work experience is not limited to this one week in July nor is it limited to just Y10s. I would encourage students from Y10 and Y11 to also have a placement in the summer holidays as well as taking advantage of the weekend 'insight into industry' days that are offered by local companies and the GROWS network. Please keep an eye out on the below for current work experience / insight into industry days that are advertised throughout the year.

### **Interested in becoming a midwife?**

**This could lead to a taster day** - any questions about the Q&A session please contact Claire Watson-Pople (Claire.watson-pople@nhs.net) Lead Midwife for Recruitment and Retention.

[Maternity Q&A Career Awareness Session Tickets, Mon 6 Mar 2023 at 17:00 | Eventbrite](#)

A purple poster for a Maternity Q & A Session. At the top right is the NHS logo and 'Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust'. The main title 'Maternity Q & A Session' is in large white letters. Below it, a white box contains 'MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023' and '17:00 - 18:00'. Further down, white text says 'FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN MATERNITY!'. In the center is a photo of a midwife in a blue uniform holding a newborn baby. Below the photo, white text asks 'Have you ever wondered what it's like to work in Maternity?'. At the bottom, white text says 'A great opportunity to hear from professionals on how a career like this could be for you.'

**NHS**  
Gloucestershire Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Maternity Q & A Session

**MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023**  
**17:00 - 18:00**

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
CAREERS IN MATERNITY!**



Have you ever wondered what it's like to work in  
Maternity?

A great opportunity to hear from professionals on how a  
career like this could be for you.

Interested in finding out more about going to University?



## Y10 Summer 2023 Residential

Briefing by Uni of Glos

Tuesday 17th January at 8.15am in

Interested in becoming an Engineer / Interested in Software / Interested in Business or Marketing?

[Work experience weeks \(renishaw.com\)](https://www.renishaw.com/work-experience)



### Our 2023 work experience programme

Applications are now open and will close at midnight on **Sunday 12th February.**

**Duration:** 4 (due to bank holidays) or 4.5 days (with an earlier finish on Fridays).

**Timings:** 9.00am – 4pm (finishing at 12.30 on Fridays).

You must be available on all of the dates specified for any week that you select.

we have 130 places total, spread across 5 different weeks:

#### Engineering

**Gloucestershire** – Monday 10th July to Friday 14th July and Monday 17th July to Friday 21st July (onsite)

#### Software

**Gloucestershire** – Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August (onsite)

#### Business and Marketing

**Gloucestershire** – Monday 3rd April to Thursday 6th April (hybrid - Monday and Thursday onsite, Tuesday and Wednesday working from home)

[Work experience weeks \(renishaw.com\)](https://www.renishaw.com/work-experience)



Interested in becoming an Customer Service, Hospitality, Reserves, Learning & schools Engagement?

# SLIMBRIDGE Work Experience

We are pleased to offer a limited number of work experience placements each year within the following departments:

Reserves,  
Learning and Engagement  
and Customer Service  
and Hospitality.



contact our work experience coordinator via [education.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk](mailto:education.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk) for an information pack and application form. The application deadline for placements in



2023 is Sunday 1st January 2023.

Interested in Finance / Conservation / Land Management / Fundraising?

[Work experience | Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust](#)

## Work experience programme



**Gloucestershire**  
**Wildlife Trust**

3-7 July 2023

17-21 July 2023

[Work experience](#)  
[| Gloucestershire](#)  
[Wildlife Trust](#)

Open for applications now!

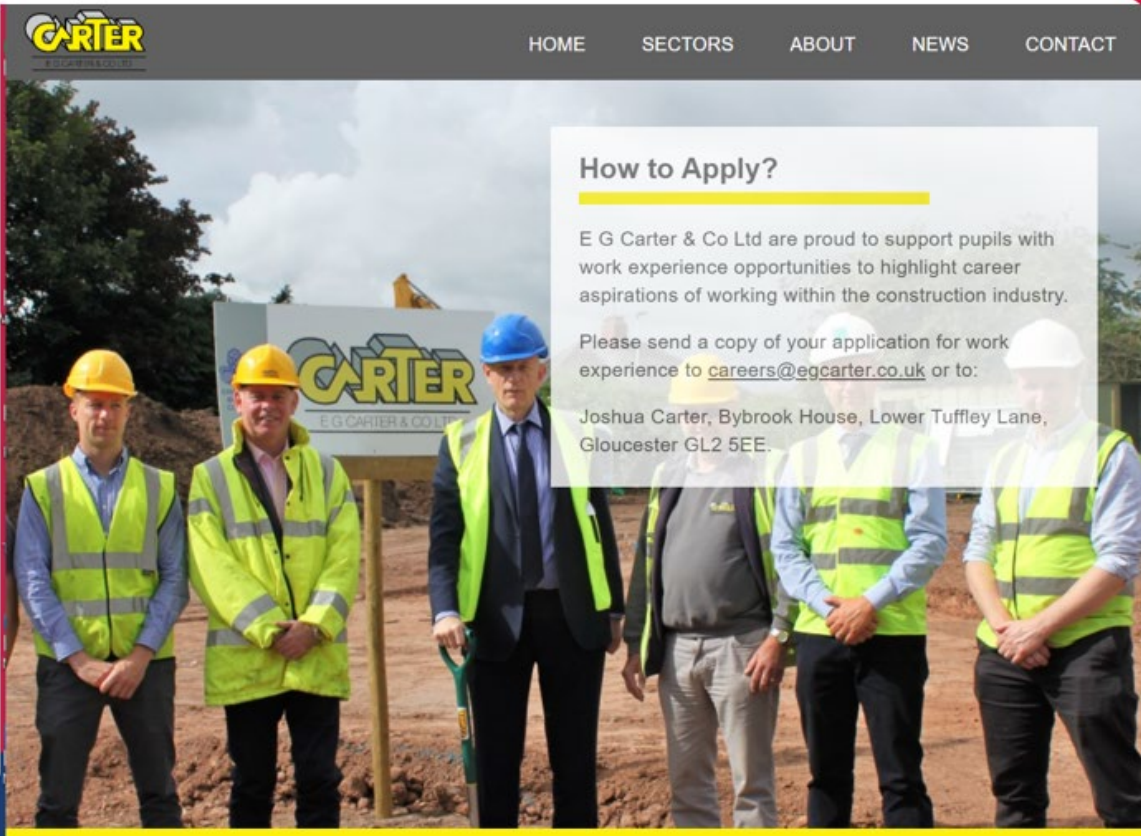
The deadline for applying is Sunday 26 February 2023

Department	
Land Management (practical conservation)	
Conservation Policy & Evidence (wildlife surveys and conservation law)	
Fundraising & Communications (new membership and media)	
Learning & Engagement (working with children and families at events and workshops)	
Finance, IT, & other office functions	





## Interested in the Construction Industry?



The screenshot shows the E G Carter & Co Ltd website. The header includes the company logo and navigation links: HOME, SECTORS, ABOUT, NEWS, and CONTACT. The main image is a photograph of five men standing on a construction site. Three of the men are wearing high-visibility yellow vests and hard hats (two yellow, one blue). One man is wearing a suit and a blue hard hat. A text overlay on the right side of the image is titled "How to Apply?" and contains the following text:

E G Carter & Co Ltd are proud to support pupils with work experience opportunities to highlight career aspirations of working within the construction industry.

Please send a copy of your application for work experience to [careers@egcarter.co.uk](mailto:careers@egcarter.co.uk) or to:

Joshua Carter, Bybrook House, Lower Tuffley Lane, Gloucester GL2 5EE.

At the bottom right of the image, there is a small logo for "Severn Vale! An Author".

## Interested in in Nursing / Midwifery / Paramedic / Radiography, Speech and Language Therapy / Occupational Therapy / Dietetics / Pharmacy?

**This is for anybody interested in working in the NHS - it is about a series of virtual work experience programmes run over 5 months. Please note that for some of the sessions you will need an adult at home in the room with you - but hopefully this will not prove a big problem. There is also a small £10 charge, if this is going to prohibit you from taking part please come and talk to me.**

You are invited to register for next year's NHS Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience Programme.

Registration Link: <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

The next virtual work experience session is on Sunday 8th January 2023. This will give students the opportunity to gain healthcare work experience which is acceptable for university UCAS applications.

The NHS Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience programme successfully invited 12,000 students to participate in its programme last academic year, making it the largest programme for students who are interested in the following careers:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Radiography
- Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Pharmacy

Registration Link: <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

Once they've registered, students will be emailed links to their virtual work experience portals.

Students are awarded a Work Experience Certificate for every session they complete. Those who complete the full 5-month programme will be awarded a Highly Commended Reference from the Presidents of Allied Healthcare Mentor. These are fantastic additions to their CVs!

During the work experience day, students will follow 2 patients from their initial presentation to recovery. They will gain a unique insight into how patients interact with a variety of healthcare professionals and what it's like to work in an NHS multidisciplinary team.

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with healthcare professionals throughout each day. This will empower students to make informed career decisions and demonstrate their commitment to healthcare in their UCAS applications.

Students can register individually at any time throughout the 5-month programme using the link below. We recommend booking early to gain as much out of this programme as possible. Places are £10 a session to cover administrative and technological costs.

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

We would be very grateful if you could forward these details to your interested students so they can participate in the next work experience day on Sunday 8th January.



# Post-16 Timeline

I have had some requests from parents & students for a suggested timeline around Post-16 applications for current Year 10s – please find a guide below for **Current Year 10s**:-

**July -September 2023** - There are lots of school Sixth Forms and Colleges in Gloucestershire and so using the summer holidays to whittle them down to a shortlist may well be a sensible first step in deciding where to go after Severn Vale School. Why not begin researching via Unifrog or 6th Form / Colleges own websites. Aim to compile a short-list of Post-16 choices by the end of September, having checked first that your GCSE estimated grades are on target to meet the course requirements. Following this you need to apply to attend a selection of open-days / open evenings (**Top tip** - If applicable - remember to research what student bursaries are available for you to apply for e.g. travel bursaries).

**Sept - November 2023** - Attend at least two College or Sixth Form open-days (these may be in-person or virtual open-days depending on Covid-19). Most colleges only have a couple of open days a year, while some Sixth Forms only have one a year and so you do need to get organised early. Please note you will find many of the popular colleges open-days get full early. (**Top tip** - Severn Vale School will be issuing all students with a list of open-days at the start of September but some are already being advertised (see Colleges & Sixth Form pages of Newsletter for more information)).

**FLD 23th November 2023** - Severn Vale School will be taking all of Year 11 off timetable for the day to allow them to visit a Post-16 destination of their choice. Transport will be provided by Severn Vale School, however as students are only able to visit one venue, it is important that students choose carefully. As well as getting to see the facilities, an open day is a great opportunity to find out more about the different courses on offer from those who teach and study it - current students and academic staff. (**Top tip** - For many students choosing a college or sixth form is a bit like buying a house - and so you may well find that you end up going with your gut feeling and choosing the college or sixth form that feels like it could be your home for the next 2 years. Remember what is right for your friends might not be right for you).

**November – December 2023 - January 2024** - Submit applications to College / Sixth Forms (**Top tip** - you can submit multiple applications and can also accept courses at more than one provider, and you do not need to decide on where you are going until GCSE Results Day in August 2023)

**December 2023** – Complete, via Unifrog, your Post-16 destination form, remembering to include a Plan A and a Plan B – this information will allow us to be able to review all of Year 11s applications and do a check on suitability and ensure all of Year 11 have the balance right between being aspirational and attainable.

**January - February 2024** - If appropriate - apply to local grammar schools - please see their website for the application window (normally only a few weeks).

**February - May 2024** - If appropriate - apply for apprenticeships via either Unifrog or Find and Apprenticeship website [Find an apprenticeship \(findanapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](https://findanapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

**August 2024**- GCSE results day - decide on which Post-16 place you are going to enrol at.