

Careers Programme Information

2026 to 2027

Document status	For approval and publication
Responsible leader	Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Careers and Personal Development
Careers Leader	Les Wellens, Careers Lead, Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust
Approval	Governors
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Next review	September 2027

Compassion • Respect • Determination • Justice

Purpose and scope

This document explains the careers education, information, advice and guidance available at St John Plessington Catholic College for pupils in Years 7 to 13. It sets out how pupils and families can access the programme, how the College works with employers and education providers, and how provision is reviewed. It is intended for publication with the College policies and careers information.

Our programme supports pupils to understand their strengths, explore education and employment routes, make informed choices and prepare for their next steps. It reflects our Catholic ethos and our values of Compassion, Respect, Determination and Justice.

Leadership and contact

Careers Leader: Les Wellens, Careers Lead, Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Email: leswellens@hfcmat.com | College telephone: 0151 645 5049,

The Careers Leader coordinates the programme with senior leaders, subject and pastoral staff, the SEND team, independent careers advisers, employers and education and training providers. The Assistant Principal responsible for Careers and Personal Development provides senior leadership oversight.

The careers programme

Careers learning is planned from Year 7 to Year 13. A weekly Careers and Citizenship session within the Belong curriculum provides a regular route for learning about careers, work, pathways and citizenship. This is complemented by Personal Development, subject teaching, employer and provider encounters, events, workplace experiences, individual guidance and Unifrog. Activities and encounters are recorded and reviewed as the programme develops.

Phase	Planned learning and transition focus
Years 7 to 8	Strengths, interests, teamwork, career sectors, the local economy and the range of education and training options.
Year 9	Options choices, pathways into key stage 4, labour market information and informed decision making.
Years 10 to 11	Post 16 choices, technical and academic routes, applications, employability skills, guidance and Year 10 work experience.
Years 12 to 13	Higher education, apprenticeships, employment, applications, independent living and progression beyond sixth form.

The detailed 2026 to 2027 Citizenship and Careers curriculum map sets out the topics for each year group and half term. The annual careers events calendar is updated as opportunities are confirmed.

Framework and pupil entitlement

The College plans and evaluates provision against the eight Gatsby Benchmarks: a stable careers programme; career and labour market information; addressing the needs of each young person; linking curriculum learning to careers; encounters with employers and employees; experiences of workplaces; encounters with further and higher education; and personal guidance.

Pupils receive independent and impartial information about the full range of relevant routes, including A levels, further and higher education, technical qualifications, T Levels, apprenticeships, supported internships where relevant, employment and training. Learning and guidance should challenge stereotypes and support ambitious, realistic choices.

Personal guidance and additional support

The College schedules personal guidance with an appropriately qualified careers adviser so that each pupil has at least one meeting by age 16 and a further meeting by age 18. Pupils who need earlier or additional support can be referred through the Careers Leader and pastoral team. Pupils and families may request information or guidance using the contact details in this document.

Careers planning is adapted to individual needs. The Careers Leader works with SEND, pastoral and inclusion colleagues to identify barriers, support transitions and monitor access for disadvantaged pupils, children looked after and other pupils who may need targeted help. For pupils with an education, health and care plan, preparation for adulthood is considered through annual reviews from Year 9.

Provider encounters and workplace experiences

Pupils in Years 8 to 13 have opportunities to hear directly from providers of technical education and apprenticeships. The College arranges the required provider encounters across the three key phases in accordance with section 42B of the Education Act 1997. The separate Provider Access Policy Statement explains the entitlement, access arrangements and provider contact route and should be published alongside this document.

Workplace experiences include employer encounters and practical activities across Years 7 to 9, followed by placements and other meaningful experiences in Years 10 to 11. The College is developing provision towards the national ambition of two weeks' worth of work experience by the end of key stage 4. A dedicated Year 10 placement programme is planned for June 2027; pupils will be supported to source, prepare for and reflect on placements, including through Unifrog and targeted help where needed.

Access to information

Pupils access careers learning through Belong, subject lessons, Unifrog, events, tutors, Heads of Learning and the Careers team. Parents and carers can use this published document, College communications and events, Unifrog information and the Careers Leader contact above. Staff can access the curriculum map and seek advice from the Careers Leader. Employers and education or training providers can contact the Careers Leader to contribute to the programme or request access under the Provider Access Policy Statement.

Monitoring and review

The Careers Leader and senior leadership team evaluate the programme using Gatsby Benchmark and Compass+ reviews, records of participation and guidance, Unifrog engagement, feedback from pupils, families, staff, advisers, employers and providers, work experience evaluation, and destination data. They review whether pupils with additional needs and those facing disadvantage can access and benefit from the programme. Findings inform the annual careers plan and updates to provision.

This information will be formally reviewed by September 2027 and updated sooner if the programme or statutory guidance changes. The current Provider Access Policy Statement and detailed curriculum map should be linked from the published careers page.

Reference

Department for Education, Careers guidance and access for education and training providers, statutory guidance updated 23 June 2026:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-provision-for-young-people-in-schools/careers-guidance-and-access-for-education-and-training-providers>