St John Plessington Catholic College

Careers Programme Information

2026–2027

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Compassion • Respect • Determination • Justice

St John Plessington Catholic College

SJP Careers Programme Overview 2026–2027

Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) | Years 7–13

Year Group	Careers Learning and Progression	Planned Experiences and Opportunities	PAL
Year 7	Explore strengths, interests, aspirations and the world of work through Belong Careers & Citizenship and Unifrog.	Green Careers Week; in-school employability experience; National Careers Week; employer encounters.	Foundation careers entitlement – additional to statutory PAL.
Year 8	Develop awareness of careers, employability skills, technical education and apprenticeships.	National Careers Challenge / Experience Day; SJP Careers Fair; careers exploration activities.	**First key phase:** at least one qualifying provider encounter planned as part of the two required across Years 8–9.
Year 9	Link curriculum choices and GCSE options to future education, training and employment pathways.	GCSE Options Evening; SJP Careers Fair; Unifrog pathways exploration and guidance.	**First key phase:** two mandatory qualifying encounters must be completed across Years 8–9.
Year 10	Develop employability skills, understand post-16 pathways and prepare for the workplace.	Year 10 Work Experience (w/c 28 June 2027); HMCTS/Equalex employer encounter; SJP Careers Fair; targeted career guidance.	**Second key phase:** at least one qualifying provider encounter planned as part of the two required across Years 10–11.
Year 11	Make informed post-16 decisions, explore qualifications and prepare for transition.	Post-16 / Sixth Form Open Evening; SJP Careers Fair; independent careers guidance; apprenticeship and technical pathway information.	**Second key phase:** two mandatory qualifying encounters must be completed across Years 10–11.
Year 12	Explore post-18 pathways, develop employability skills and prepare for future applications.	Edge Hill University experience; UCAS Discovery; work experience; Careers Pathway Week; mock interviews.	**Third key phase:** one of two qualifying provider encounters offered across Years 12–13. Pupil attendance optional.
Year 13	Finalise post-18 destinations, applications and transitions into higher education, training or employment.	National Apprenticeship Show; SJP Careers Fair; personalised destination support; careers guidance.	**Third key phase:** two qualifying provider encounters offered across Years 12–13. Pupil attendance optional.

Unifrog – For All Years

All pupils use Unifrog to explore interests, strengths and future pathways, through profiling tools and bespoke resources.

Personalised Opportunities

Pupil profiling on Unifrog helps us to identify interests and aspirations, so we can target relevant opportunities, such as sector talks, employer visits and apprenticeship information (e.g, engineering, healthcare, creative industries).

Half-Termly Challenges

All year groups take part in half-termly Unifrog challenges, with rewards to promote engagement and help pupils build their career knowledge and profile.

Whole-School Careers Entitlement

All pupils have access to planned careers learning through Belong Careers & Citizenship, Unifrog, relevant curriculum subjects, National Apprenticeship Week, National Careers Week and employer or provider encounters. Additional personalised support is prioritised for pupils with SEND, children looked after, disadvantaged pupils and those requiring further guidance.

Qualifying PAL encounters must meet statutory requirements and be recorded as delivered.
Events listed above represent planned provision and are subject to confirmation.

The Whole Picture | SJP Careers Offer 2026–27

St John Plessington Catholic College

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Our Careers Offer 2026 – 2027



Our Vision

To inspire and equip every pupil to make informed, ambitious and fulfilling choices for their future, informed by our Catholic values and a belief in the dignity and potential of every individual.

Our Context

- A diverse school community with a range of ambitions, needs and experiences.
- A commitment to equality of opportunity, high aspirations and social mobility.
- Strong, established partnerships with FE, HE, training providers and a wide range of employers.
- A broad and inclusive careers programme that ensures all pupils can explore and experience a full range of pathways.

The Whole Picture: Our Careers Programme

- Curriculum-linked careers learning
- Employer encounters
- Further & higher education access
- Technical & apprenticeship pathways
- Work experience
- Personal development & employability
- Digital platforms (Unifrog) & personalised guidance

Provider Access (PAL) – Our Statutory Entitlement

6 Statutory Provider Encounters (Years 8 – 13)

All pupils are guaranteed at least six opportunities to meet providers of technical education or apprenticeships, in line with the Provider Access legislation.

Years 8 – 9 (Encounter 1 & 2)	Years 10 – 11 (Encounter 3 & 4)	Years 12 – 13 (Encounter 5 & 6)
Explore technical and vocational pathways and the role of apprenticeships.	Build understanding of post-16 study, training and apprenticeships routes.	Explore post-18 options, including higher and degree apprenticeships, technical routes and specialist training.

Each PAL encounter includes:

- The provider's offer (e.g. courses, training and apprenticeships)
- Career and progression routes
- An insight into what it is like to learn or train with the provider
- An opportunity to ask questions

Key Whole-Year Events (across year groups)

- ✓ Green Careers Week
- ✓ National Apprenticeship Week
- ✓ National Careers Week
- ✓ SJP Careers Fair
- ✓ National Careers Challenge
- ✓ University & employer visits (e.g. Edge Hill, HMCTS, Home Office)
- ✓ Mock Interview Day
- ✓ Options Programme (Y9)
- ✓ Work Experience (Y10 & Y12)
- ✓ Specialist pathway events (e.g. T Levels, Sixth Form, FE)

Our Year-Group Careers Overview

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
✓ Green Careers Week	• Careers Challenge / Experience Day	• Options Evening	• HMCTS Employer Encounter	• Post-16/Sixth Form Evening	• Edge Hill Uni Experience	• National Apprenticeship Show
✓ Employability Experience (in-school)	• Careers Fair	• Careers Fair	✓ Work Experience Launch	• Careers Fair	• UCAS Discovery	• Careers Fair
✓ National Apprenticeship Week	✓ **PAL Encounter 1** (Tech/FE Provider)	✓ **PAL Encounter 2** (Different Provider)	✓ Work Experience Week (w/c 28 June 2027)	✓ **PAL Encounter 4** (Apprenticeship/ Training Provider)	• Work Experience Week	• Personalised destination support
✓ National Careers Week			✓ **PAL Encounter 3** (FE/Technical Provider)		• Careers Pathway Week	✓ **PAL Encounter 6** (Post-18 Provider)
✓ Employer encounter					• Mock Interview Day	
					✓ **PAL Encounter 5** (Post-18 Provider)	

The Difference for Our Pupils

- Greater awareness of the full range of education and training options
- Informed and confident decision-making at key transition points
- Developed employability skills (e.g. communication, leadership, resilience)
- Increased aspiration and engagement with their future
- Strong transitions to further education, training, apprenticeships or employment

Illustrative overview of our programme. Planned encounters are subject to confirmation and evidence of delivery.

1. 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.

2. Leadership and contact

Interim careers contact: Miss Michelle Garner, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Careers and Personal Development. A permanent Careers Leader is yet to be appointed.

Contact: via the College office on 0151 645 5049. Please ask for Miss Garner regarding careers enquiries, guidance or provider access.

Pending the appointment, the Assistant Headteacher coordinates careers provision with senior leaders, subject and pastoral staff, the SEND team, independent careers advisers, employers and education and training providers. The College will update this document and its website contact details once a Careers Leader is appointed.

3. 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 7–8	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 10–11	Post-16 choices, technical and academic routes, applications, employability skills, guidance and Year 10 work experience.
Years 12–13	Higher education, apprenticeships, employment, applications, independent living and progression beyond sixth form.

All pupils have access to Unifrog. Half-termly challenges and rewards encourage engagement, while profiling identifies interests and strengths to help target sector information, employer encounters and apprenticeships.

The detailed 2026–27 Citizenship and Careers curriculum map sets out topics for each year group and half term. The annual careers events calendar is updated as opportunities are confirmed. The two graphical programme overviews on pages 2 and 3 provide an at-a-glance summary of intended provision.

4. 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.

5. 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 interim careers contact 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 interim careers contact 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.

6. 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 careers information

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

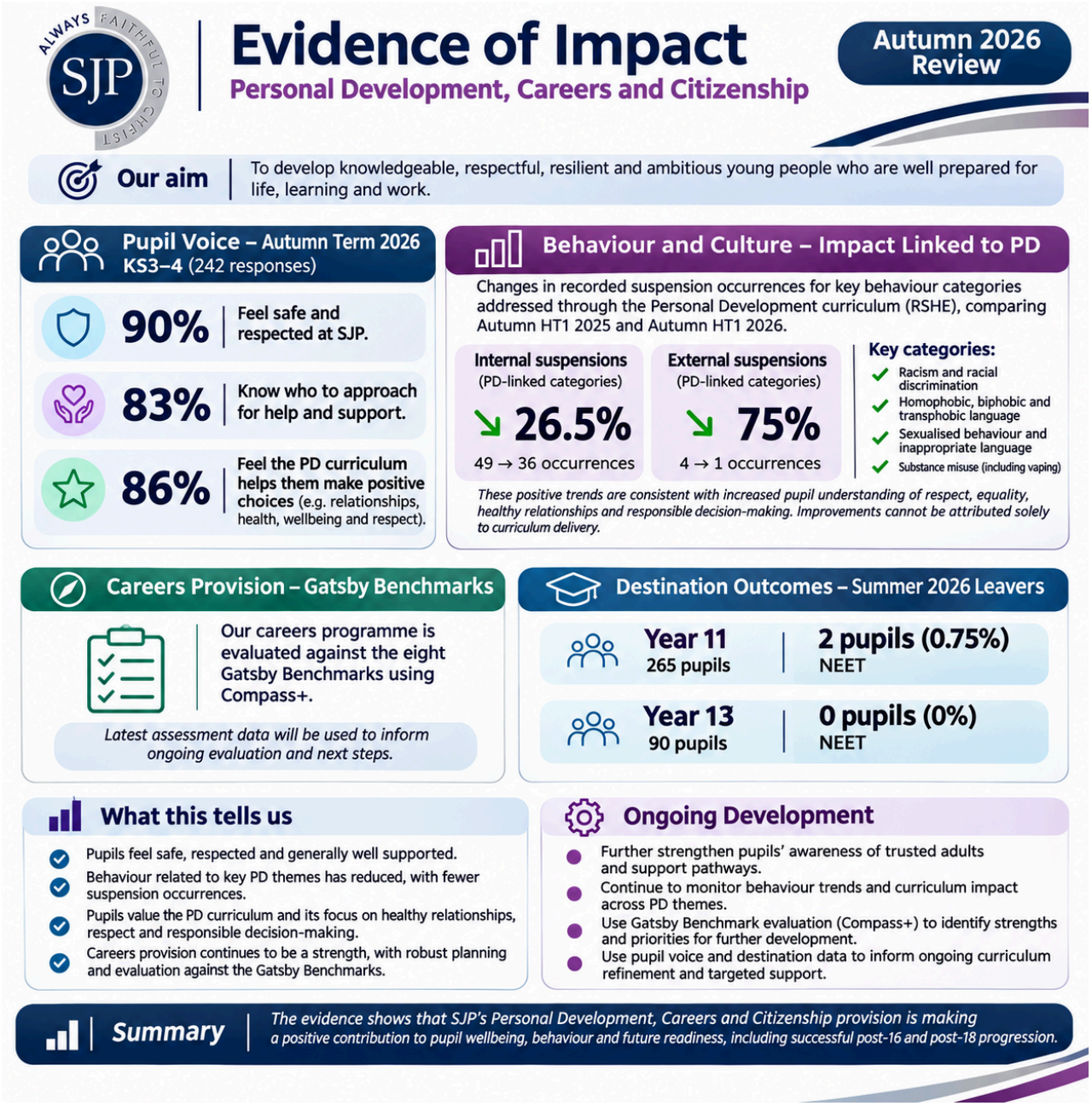
7. Monitoring and evaluation

The interim careers contact 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.

8. Evidence of impact – Personal Development, Careers and Citizenship

SJP evaluates the impact of its Personal Development, Careers and Citizenship provision through a combination of quantitative and qualitative evidence. This includes pupil and staff voice, curriculum quality assurance, behaviour trends, participation in enrichment and careers opportunities, and post-16 and post-18 destination records. Together these provide indicators of progress, inform curriculum review and help identify where further targeted support is needed.



***This overview draws on pupil voice (Autumn 2026), behaviour data comparing Autumn HT1 2025 and 2026, and confirmed destination outcomes for Summer 2026 leavers. The findings highlight positive trends and identify priorities for further development. Behaviour improvements cannot be attributed solely to curriculum delivery. Gatsby Benchmark performance is evaluated through Compass+, with the latest data awaiting confirmation. Together, these measures support ongoing evaluation and improvement of our Personal Development, Careers and Citizenship provision.*

9. Document control and review

Document detail	Information
Publication date	September 2026
Review date	September 2027
Strategic oversight	SJP Governing Body
Operational lead	Assistant Headteacher – Careers and Personal Development
HFCMAT Careers Lead	Les Wellins
Careers contact SJP	Miss Michelle Garner
Contact email SJP	michellegarner@stjohnplessington.com

The Careers Programme is reviewed annually with oversight from the Governing Body. Gatsby Benchmarks, Compass+ reviews, participation and guidance records, feedback and destination outcomes inform ongoing improvements.

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