



# Preston School

A Business & Enterprise Academy

**Bringing Learning to Life  
& Life to Learning.**

## Careers Programme

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# Preston School's Career Programme

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## Vision Statement

At Preston School, our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme empowers students to make informed, aspirational choices about their futures. We prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life through a rigorous, inclusive, and progressive careers curriculum.

We believe in ***"bringing learning to life and life to learning"***—a philosophy that underpins our careers provision and ensures that every student connects their education with real-world opportunities, skills, and aspirations.

## Programme Aims

- To inspire ambition and enterprise by embedding business and entrepreneurial thinking across the curriculum.
- To connect classroom learning with real-world experiences, helping students understand how their education translates into career opportunities and life skills.
- To provide inclusive and personalised guidance, with a particular focus on supporting disadvantaged students to explore aspirational pathways and make informed decisions. This includes additional careers meetings with our Careers Advisor and workshops focused on CV writing and college applications.
- To foster strong partnerships with local employers, colleges, and universities to bring learning to life through meaningful engagement with the world of work. Students benefit from visits and experiences with organisations such as Leonardo Westlands, BAE Systems, Honeywell, the NHS, and local entrepreneurs.
- To develop confident, career-ready individuals equipped with the skills, knowledge, and mindset to thrive in further education, apprenticeships, or employment.
- To celebrate and promote enterprise, encouraging students to take initiative, solve problems creatively, and understand the value of innovation across all career sectors.
- To ensure every student experiences a progressive careers journey tailored to their stage of education and personal aspirations.

## **Preston School Careers Programme Overview**

At Preston School, Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) plays a vital role in preparing students for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life. We believe that all young people deserve a planned and progressive programme of careers-related activities that enables them to make informed decisions and successfully transition into further education, training, or employment. Our careers provision is designed to be inclusive, aspirational, and responsive to the evolving world of work.

Preston School is fully committed to delivering a rigorous and stable CEIAG programme. We use the statutory *Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (2018)* framework as a foundation—not a ceiling—for our careers provision. Our programme is built around the eight Gatsby Benchmarks, which we have achieved in full, and we review its impact annually to ensure continuous improvement. We are proud that Ofsted (2023) recognised our careers programme as a strength of the school, highlighting our strong links with local employers and the high-quality work experience opportunities available to our students.

Our careers programme ensures that all pupils are well-prepared for their next steps in education, employment, or training. Students gain the knowledge, skills, and qualifications needed to pursue destinations that align with their interests and aspirations. We are particularly committed to supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Pupil Premium (PP), and other vulnerable groups. Tailored support is provided through active parental involvement, attendance at EHCP meetings, and more frequent appointments with our careers advisor. Young carers are prioritised for early careers interviews to ensure timely guidance, and students from traveller backgrounds receive appropriate Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) that reflects their individual needs and circumstances.

Our NEET data reflects our success, with 95% of students progressing into further education or training in 2023 and an impressive 100% in 2024. Our careers programme is structured to provide meaningful encounters with the world of work, unbiased information about future pathways, and high-quality guidance for all students from Years 7 to 13. We host an annual in-house Careers Fair, which is open to all students and their families and attracts over 400 attendees. We also publish our Provider Access Legislation and Careers Programme on our website to ensure transparency and accessibility.

We monitor and assess the impact of our careers provision through regular evaluation involving feedback from parents, students, staff, and employers, ensuring continuous improvement and relevance.

## **Whole-School Approach**

Preston School follows the MNSP Trust Careers Policy and communicates regularly with parents to ensure they are informed about the careers programme and the opportunities available to their children. This communication is facilitated through social media, our termly newsletter The Preston Press, and parental surveys.

Careers education is embedded across the whole school. It includes formal CEIAG activities as well as subject-specific opportunities delivered through bespoke lessons, external speakers, educational visits, and staff development. We believe that all staff have a responsibility to support careers education and therefore encourage them to maintain up-to-date knowledge of career opportunities related to their subjects. Staff are supported to guide students, explore ideas with them, and refer them to further resources or colleagues with specialist knowledge through employer visits and staff CPD.

Preston School is proud to deliver a first-class careers programme that aims to meet all eight Gatsby Benchmarks and reflects our commitment to preparing students for a successful future.

## **Our Careers Programme 2025/26**

All students, across every year group, will engage in a range of careers-related opportunities throughout the academic year. These experiences are designed to inspire ambition, broaden horizons, and deepen understanding of the diverse pathways and possibilities available in the world of work

## Year 7

Activity	Description
Future Skills questionnaire	Careers self-assessment questionnaire
Guest speakers in assembly	Further education and higher education providers
Employer assemblies	Employers as guest speakers sharing information with students about their company and their industry sector.
Career Assembly - Introduction to careers assembly	Career presentations relating to our career learning outcomes eg. Introduction to Careers, LMI.
Industry visits	Company visits
Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE	Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE

## Year 8

Activity	Description
Guest speakers in assembly	Further education and higher education providers
Employer assemblies	Employers as guest speakers sharing information with students about their company and their industry sector.
Career assembly	Career presentations relating to our career learning outcomes eg. Introduction to Careers, LMI.
Industry visits	Company visits
Take your Child to Work Day (work experience)	Students will arrange to go to work for the day with a parent or close family member
Careers evaluation	Careers Evaluation questionnaire with students, parents and employers
Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE	PHSE Lesson. Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE
Yeovil College - My futures day	Experiencing a half day session at Yeovil College, trying different courses and activities of interest

## Year 9

Activity	Description
Guest speakers in assembly	Further education and higher education providers
Careers Fair	Students will attend the Somerset Careers Fair at Westlands Entertainment Venue
Employer assemblies	Employers as guest speakers sharing information with students about their company and their industry sector.
Parent evening career Appointments	Parents have the opportunity to book an online careers appointment, this can support the GCSE Option process
Industry visits	Company visits
Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE	PHSE Lesson. Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE
Options evening	Students and parents will have the opportunity to speak with Colleges, Sixth Forms and independent Training Provider
Work experience activity	To be Confirmed
Careers evaluation	Careers Evaluation questionnaire with Students, Parents and Employers

## Year 10

Activity	Description
Guest speakers in assembly	Further education and higher education providers
Launch of our Work Experience Programme with students and families	Two activities. Student and Parent launch evening event Work Experience Assembly
Employer assemblies	Employers as guest speakers sharing information with students about their company and their industry sector.
Parent evening career appointments	Parents have the opportunity to book an online careers appointment, this can support the post 16 options process and career planning
Industry visits	Company visits
Bath University visit	Visit to the Bath University campus
CV Work Shop	Support to produce a CV and covering or speculative letter or email
Mock Interviews	Students will prepare for and take part in an interview with an employer
Parent evening career appointments	Parents can book an online careers appointment with our Careers Adviser to support career planning, post-16 options, etc.
Careers event - Post 16 Options	Careers Fair in Preston School
Yeovil College taster day	Students will have a day at Yeovil College trying out chosen taster sessions
Work Experience week, out on placement	5 days work experience with a company
Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE	PHSE Lesson. Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE
Work experience de-brief	Completion of work experience journals
Careers evaluation and work experience Feedback	Careers Evaluation questionnaire with Students, Parents and Employers

## Year 11

Activity	Description
Guest speakers in assembly	Further education and higher education providers
Welcome to Year 11 evening	Introduction to life in Year 11 and key event, support and resources
Careers Fair	Students will attend the Somerset Careers Fair at Westlands Entertainment Venue
Employer assemblies	Employers as guest speakers sharing information with students about their company and their industry sector.
Parent evening career appointments	Parents can book an online careers appointment with our Careers Adviser to support career planning, post-16 options, applications, etc.
Industry Visits	Company visits
Differentiated careers support for; SEND, EHCP and vulnerable students	Differentiated support as required by students and parents.
Strode College taster day	Students will have the opportunity to attend Strode College to try courses and workshops and learn about college life
1:1 Careers information, advice and guidance interviews	Ongoing throughout Year 11
Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE	PHSE Lesson. Careers activities within the curriculum including; PHSE
Application workshops	Support with college, sixth form and apprenticeship applications
CV workshops	Ongoing support with writing a CV and covering or speculative letters or emails
Careers event - Post 16 Options	Careers Fair in Preston School
Intended destination questionnaire	Year 11 intended destination questionnaire to be completed
Careers programme evaluation	Careers Evaluation questionnaire completed with Students, Parents, Employers and Staff.