

LYNDON SCHOOL CAREERS & POST 16 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Careers and Post 16 Newsletter for this academic year. The aim of this termly newsletter is to support learners and parents/carers through this year and onto the next exciting stage of their education, whether it is on to college or into the world of work. We hope that you find the information enclosed useful in helping to secure a successful transition from Lyndon.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

The government want all young people to continue to gain qualifications once they leave school at 16. The law now requires young people to stay in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. Your child does, however, have a choice as to how they continue in education or training; this could be:

- full-time study in a school, college, or with a training provider;
- full-time work or volunteering, provided this is combined with part-time education or training;
- an apprenticeship or Traineeship.

Any young person who does not achieve a grade 4 in Maths and English Language at school will have to continue to study these subjects up until they gain a grade 4 or until they reach their 18th birthday; they will be expected to study these alongside their college courses, apprenticeships or training.

Careers Support in School

We are delighted to have been awarded the CSW Quality in Careers Standard for the work and support that we offer our learners with regards to careers and their progression. If learners need any careers support, they can contact one of the below members of staff. The school website also has lots of useful videos and careers information. Definitely worth a look!

Key Colleagues

Mr Kelly – Strategic Lead for Careers, Assistant Principal and strategic lead
Mrs Carey – Careers and Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Manager
Mrs Pryce – Inclusion and Careers Mentor

Careers Meetings

Careers meetings run throughout the academic year and are available to all Year 11 learners. If your child would like an early meeting, they should speak to Mrs Carey or their tutor to arrange an appointment. Once learners have had a careers meeting, they will be emailed a 'Careers Action Plan', which will detail what was discussed during the meeting and list the actions or next steps that they should be taking. Learners can also see Mrs Carey if they have any concerns or queries. This includes help on college applications, writing a Curriculum Vitae, applying for apprenticeships, or any other queries that they may have.

Careers Convention

We are pleased to be able to invite all Year 11 learners and parents/carers to attend our Careers Convention on Wednesday 8th October from 6pm-8pm. We will have many of the local colleges and sixth forms in attendance plus some local universities, training providers and employers. Attendance to this event is crucial as it is an important source of information for all learners. During the evening, Mr Kelly will be giving two information talks to share information on next steps, entry requirements and other useful information to help you support your child to make a successful Post 16 transition, whether it be onto college, an apprenticeship or training. Full details will follow.

Careers Week

As we have done in previous years, during 'Careers Week' learners will have the opportunity to complete their college application forms. Solihull College and Solihull Sixth Form College will be sharing information about their courses and

those learners who wish to apply can do so during a designated time. It will provide our learners the opportunity to receive support in submitting early college applications, crucial for attaining early interviews and first-choice offers.

Career Ideas

Learners need to research their career ideas in depth to ensure that they are making the right Post-16 choices. Learners have access to a careers software package called Unifrog, an interactive multimedia careers resource that offers information on over 840 jobs with pictures, videos and quizzes. Learners can upload information, search, explore and research different careers to help them to prepare for their next steps. The website is www.unifrog.org

In addition, the 'Job Profiles' section of the National Careers Service website is another useful tool for learners to investigate different jobs and careers. We urge learners to look at the entry requirements to ensure that their career choices are realistic. Other useful websites are: www.icould.com <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> and <https://www.ucas.com/>

Applying to College or Sixth Form

As mentioned above, learners should aim to apply to college during the Autumn term so they can secure their place early and then concentrate on getting the best exam results possible. There are many different courses that learners can apply for and these usually depend on the grades that they achieve in Year 11. Most colleges and courses have entry requirements and these can be found on college websites or by visiting college open events. Generally, if learners are likely to achieve 5 GCSE grade 4/5 or above including some grade 6s, then they should apply for Level 3 courses, such as A Levels, a BTEC Extended Diploma or T Levels. If expected grades are below this, learners can apply for a Level 2 or a Level 1 course. Some courses such as Motor Vehicle or Construction may start at a Level 1 regardless of the grades achieved. We suggest that learners research colleges and sixth forms by attending open events and looking at their websites. It is recommended that learners apply to 2 or 3 different colleges/sixth forms to keep their options open. A list of upcoming open events is below and this is updated throughout Year 11. If learners need further support with regards to this, please ask them to see Mrs Carey in school or parents/carers can email Mrs Carey on julie.carey@lyndon.org.uk or telephone 0121 743 3402.

School Reference

Learners need to maintain good attendance, good punctuality and a good attitude to learning during Year 11 to ensure that they receive a good school reference. All colleges, sixth forms and employers will look at attendance and school references when deciding whether to make offers.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a great opportunity for young people to work for a real employer, earn a salary and achieve a recognised qualification while gaining invaluable work experience and skills. Whilst there are no set entry criteria for apprenticeships, entry requirements do vary and depend on the individual company. Many are looking for GCSEs grade 4/5 or above including Maths and English but not all.

Most apprenticeships are advertised on the government's website - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. Learners need to create an account which allows them to search and apply for any vacancies that they are interested in. Realistically, most apprenticeships that are open to school leavers are advertised from around March onwards, although some of the bigger companies will open their schemes earlier as they have a more rigorous application process. Learners can set up email or text alerts for when new vacancies appear. Learners leaving Year 11 should not apply for an apprenticeship which starts prior to 31st July.

The Amazing Apprenticeship website is also a great resource for both parents/carers and learners who want to find out more about apprenticeships or T levels. The website address is <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

We must, however, stress that apprenticeships are highly competitive, so we suggest that all learners also apply to college or sixth form as a back-up.

SEND Support

Birmingham Careers Service website provides useful information regarding Post 16 Options for learners with additional needs. This includes information regarding SEND Colleges and provision in Solihull and Birmingham - <https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/send-colleges/>

Local Offer Pages also provide advice and information for learners with an EHCP / SEND needs:

Solihull local offer: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-families/solihull-local-offer>

Birmingham local offer: <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>

Upcoming Dates and Open Events

****The below information is subject to change so please check with the college before attending. **Most colleges insist that places are booked or reserved online prior to attendance** ****

Queen Alexandra College	Tuesday 30 th September Time to be confirmed
UCB	Saturday 4 th October 2025 10am-2.30pm
Lyndon School Careers Convention	Wednesday 8 th October 2025 6pm-8pm (Further information will follow)
Cadbury College	Thursday 9 th October 2025 5pm - 7pm Saturday 11 th October 2025 10am -2pm
South and City College /Bourneville College	Thursday 16 th October 2025 Time to be confirmed Wednesday 26 th November 2025
BOA	Thursday 16 th October 2025 5.30pm – 8.00pm
Solihull Sixth Form College	Saturday 18 th October 2025 9.30am -3.30pm Wednesday 26 th November 2025 5pm-8pm Early booking is essential to secure a place. Booking is open.
Access Creative	Saturday 18 th October 2025 11am – 2pm Saturday 29 th November 2025 11am – 2pm
Joseph Chamberlain College	Saturday 18 th October 2025 10am – 2pm
Stratford-Upon-Avon College	Saturday 15 th November 2025 10am – 2pm
Alderbrook Sixth Form	Thursday 20 th November 2025 Time to be confirmed
Solihull College Blossomfield and Woodlands Campuses	Saturday 29 th November 2025 10am – 2pm
Birmingham Metropolitan College	To follow
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys	To follow

Useful Careers Websites:

Research career ideas: <https://www.unifrog.org/> & <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

To search and apply for apprenticeships or traineeships use <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>.

Other Useful Websites:

www.ucas.com www.icould.com <https://targetcareers.co.uk/> <https://www.barclayslifefskills.com/>