

Careers Newsletter December 2025

Unifrog and Career Planning

Unifrog - The complete destinations platform. Unifrog is the online careers platform that we use as a school and all students have an account. All year groups can benefit from using the platform where they can explore interests, record things they have done and skills they have used, find education and training opportunities and draft applications.

Upcoming Unifrog Webinars

Multiple webinars can be found in the ['Unifrog Events'](#) tool.

Upcoming sessions include:

- Computer science taster: how will AI and cyber change future careers? - 13 January 4:30-5:15pm
- What's it really like to be a nursing student? - 3 February 5:30-6:15pm
- What's next for computing? Learn how to futureproof your career - 4 February 5:30-6:15pm
- Interactive session: can AI analyse literature and language like we can? - 5 February 4:30-5:15pm

British Army Insights: [A guide for parents & guardians](#) - 20 January 6-7pm online. Find out about opportunities the British Army offers young people.

Taylor Wimpey [Start your career in Homebuilding](#) - Explore future career opportunities within homebuilding at the link, with a spotlight on bricklaying.

NHS Finance Insights placement scheme (12 month Paid Finance Internship) - An exciting career opportunity for individuals aged 18 and above from lower socio-economic backgrounds - [Applications now open](#)

Careers Convention

Our annual Careers Convention was an exciting and busy event again this year. We are always looking for ways to improve it, and so if you came, please spend two minutes completing the relevant feedback form below.

- Parent/guardian [feedback form](#)
- Student [feedback form](#)

Post-16 Planning

Attending open days/events is one of the best ways to gain inspiration, consider what subjects are the best fit and to get a feel for the different environments that sixth forms, colleges, independent training providers and apprenticeships have to offer.

Also see the apprenticeships section below.

Churchill Academy & Sixth Form - Join Our Sixth Form!

Applications for our Sixth Form are open. Submit your application on or before 5th January and we will endeavour to accommodate your subject choices. See the [Sixth Form pages](#) on our website for more information including subjects on offer.

Follow the below links for the upcoming open and information events at our main regional providers. Further providers in the Bristol region can be found at this link [Post-16 Education - Bristol](#). Some providers also offer taster days/workshops and so check individual websites for details.

General FE Colleges

- Bath College [Open Events](#)
 - SEND open evening 14 January - 4-7pm
 - Somer Valley Campus Open Day 24 January 10am-1pm
- City of Bristol College - [Open Events](#) - 17 January 10am-1pm
- SGS (South Gloucestershire and Stroud) College [Open Days](#) - 24 January 10am-1pm
- St Brendan's Sixth Form College - [Open Events](#) 3 February 5-7pm
- Weston College [Open Events](#)
 - Apprenticeships Open Evening 5 February - 4-7pm
 - Open Evening 25 March 6-8pm
- UCS College Group (new group that includes what was Bridgwater & Taunton College plus Strode College)
 - Bridgwater College - Open Evening [14 January](#) 6-8pm
 - Taunton College - Open Evening [15 January](#) 6-8pm
 - Strode College - Open Evening [20 January](#) 6-8pm
 - Cannington - Open Day [24 January](#) 10am - 1pm

Training Providers

- Access Creative College (Esports, Games, Media, Music and Computing) [Open Day](#) - 24 January - 11am-2pm
- boomsatsuma (Creative & Digital Media, Photography, Film & TV, Sports Media, Games VR & VFX) [Open Days](#) - register for details online
- Bristol City Robins Foundation (Sport, Sports Coaching & Development, Esports) [Open Events](#) - 3 February 6:30pm
- Hartpury College (Equine, Sport, Public Services) [Open Days](#) - 7 February - limited spaces and must be booked in advance

Post-18, University Information and Events

What is University Like? - Wondering what it's really like to study at university? From taster days to student experiences and sample lectures, find out how you can get a flavour of university life – and if it's the right next step for you.

Subject Tasters – These subject 'Spotlights' give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

University Open Days – Enter the Uni name or open the calendar to see what's coming up.

UCAS - Academy website links to information for students and parents.

- **Unifrog Get Ready for University activities** [Unifrog Events](#)
 - Student life at university - 20 January 4:30-5:15pm
 - Choosing between your university offers - 20 January 5:30-6:15pm
 - How much does university really cost? - 21 January 4:30-5:15pm
 - Home or away for university: what is best for me? - 26 January 4:30-5:15pm
 - Graduate power: how a degree can prepare you for your dream career - 26 January 5:30-6:15pm
 - Studying in London: what to expect - 27 January 4:30-5:15pm
 - Preparing for the October application deadline: medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, and Oxbridge - 27 January 5:30-6:15pm
 - Exploring the flexibility of the four year degree: what makes Scottish degrees different? - 28 January 4:30-5:15pm

- Contextual admissions: access programmes, summer schools and lower university offers - 28 January 5:30-6:15pm
- **Unifrog Online Subject Taster Sessions** [sign up here](#)
 - Forensic Science and Criminology Part 1 - 12 Jan 4:30pm
 - Forensic Science and Criminology Part 2 - 13 Jan 4:30pm
 - History - 14 Jan 4:30pm
 - Linguistics - 14 Jan 5:30pm
 - Psychology - 15 Jan 4:30pm
 - Geography / Environmental Science - 15 Jan 5:30pm
 - Sports Psychology - 19 Jan 4:30pm
- **UWE Bristol - Subject Taster Days for current year 12 students** - interactive subject-themed workshops, as well as the opportunity to meet current students and take a tour of the specialist facilities and campuses. Follow the links to register.
 - [Education, Primary Education and Early Childhood Studies](#) - 18 May 10am - 2:15pm Frenchay campus.
 - [Health and Social Care](#) - what it's like to study Nursing (adult, learning disability and mental health), Midwifery, Radiography, Social Work and Occupational Therapy. 24 June 9:30am - 3:30pm Glenside Campus.
 - [Business and Law](#) - including Accounting & Finance, Economics, Law LLB, Marketing and Business & Management. 16 June 9:30am - 3:30pm Frenchay campus.
 - [Psychology and Criminology](#) - 22 June 9:30am - 3:30pm Frenchay campus.
- **University of Law [Real World Lectures](#)** 4-5pm online - book via the link
 - Must Justice be 'seen to be done'? 7 January
 - Why do we love certain brands - are they worth it or just good marketing? 21 January
 - Why is rap and drill music used in criminal trials? 4 February
 - Perfectionism - What Are The Hidden Costs of High Achievement in Sport? 11 February
- **[PwC Flying Start Degree Programmes \(Accountancy\)](#)** Funded degree with placement. Follow the link for details, apply via UCAS. Apply by 14 January

Apprenticeship Information

Students in years 11 and 13 and their parents/carers can receive information about apprenticeship events and vacancies by signing up to the apprenticeship email group. Email Ms McGonigal on smg@churchill-academy.org to request to join.

[Find an Apprenticeship](#) - Many apprenticeship job vacancies are advertised here. Run a search and create an account to set up an alert for new relevant vacancies.

[UCAS Apprenticeship Search](#) - Some employers advertise vacancies here, particularly for Higher and Degree apprenticeships.

- **Introduction to Apprenticeships** - Twilight Talk for Families 4 February 6-7pm Online. Join Churchill Academy's Careers Adviser Suzie McGonigal and guest speaker Emma Cox, Chair of the West Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassador Network. Find out what apprenticeships are as a post-16/post-18 option and how to secure one. No need to register and joining instructions will be emailed nearer the time.
- **Unifrog [Apprenticeship Fair](#)** - 11 February 4-6pm [sign up required](#)
Get involved with National Apprenticeship Week by attending this virtual apprenticeship fair and speaking to 30 employers in just two hours! From understanding apprenticeships to learning what it's like working in different industries and acing your application, join to explore your options and get your questions answered by experts. Click the sign up link to visit the external events platform to see the full list of employers attending, the schedule of live sessions, and register to attend!
- **Hinkley Point C - [Young HPC](#)** is a free skills programme for 14 – 21 year olds who are thinking about their next steps after school or college, and are interested in apprenticeships or jobs at Hinkley Point C. Students joining are amongst the first to hear about their apprenticeship vacancies and get access to events and workshops, work experience and digital badges. Upcoming activities below.
 - Application and CV Writing Workshop - 21 January 6-7pm - online. HPC hiring managers will also share what they look for from applicants and answer any questions.
 - Interview Techniques Workshop - 26 February - 5:30-7pm - in-person at the HPC Induction Centre
- **[UCAS Apprenticeship Application Guides](#)** - covering multiple sectors, these resources provide expert advice from employers on what makes a strong application.

Work Experience

Work Experience Week for year groups 10 and 12 is **13-17 July 2026**

Year 10 work experience placements need to be in-person and during WEX week

Year 12 work experience may be a blend of in-person and virtual and can take place during WEX week or non term-time.

[Click here](#) for further details relating to Work Experience.

Year 10 work experience placements need to be in person and added to unifrog as soon as they are confirmed by the employer.

All year 10 students have access to a list of local employers in their PSHE Google Classroom as a good starting point for who to contact, but any employer can be approached. Details and support is available in the guide at the link under Work Experience [here](#).

- **Yeo Valley (Blagdon site)** - a chance to explore multiple business areas and spend time with their marketing, finance, human resources, hospitality, sustainability and governance departments. Students need to make a copy of [this form](#), complete it and email to people@yeovalleyfarms.co.uk by the 4th January to express interest (if students have problems accessing the form, send an email Yeo Valley explaining, and that you wish to apply).
- **Babcock Engineering (Bristol) [Mission Systems](#)** - Deadline to apply 25 January
Two opportunities - Engineering, Project Management & Business Operations and Production & Manufacturing. This programme may not be during WEX week, but students can request authorisation to attend, as long as they also find a placement during WEX week

Year 12 work experience can be in-person or virtual. If during term-time and school hours they must be added to Unifrog in the Placements Tool. If outside of school hours/non-term time they must be added to Unifrog as an Activity.

- **NHS - Introduction to Psychology in Health - 11 February 1-4:30pm - in person**
The chance to explore how psychology is applied in physical health settings across the lifespan. It is open to students in year 12 or 13 studying Psychology or any other relevant subject. This great opportunity is with University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW). [Application Form](#) - First come, first served - apply asap and by 31 January

Multiple year group opportunities

- '[Young HPC](#)' members (see the above apprenticeship section for more information) can apply for a summer work experience placement with Hinkley Point C. The programme is not during WEX week, but year 10 students can request authorisation to attend, as long as they also find a placement during WEX week
- Virtual and in-person WEX opportunities (including during non term time) [Success at Schools](#)
- [Legal sector work experience and information days](#) - Links to regional legal firms for year 10 and year 12 students thinking about a business career in the legal sector.
- Virtual NHS WEX programme for Medicine and Dentistry. Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust in partnership with Medic Mentor and Dental Mentor - focusing on a different specialty each month. Parent/carer as well as student information is required to register as well as contact details for a teacher (tutor or Chemistry teacher is most applicable).
 - Get into Dentistry - [Virtual Work Experience - Dentistry](#)
 - Get Into Medicine - [Virtual Work Experience - Doctor](#)

Useful links

Careerpilot	https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/
Prospects	https://www.prospects.ac.uk/
UCAS	https://wwwucas.com/
Barclays Life Skills	https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/

The Academy's careers adviser is Ms Suzie McGonigal, email: smg@churchill-academy.org