

Careers Newsletter February 2026

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:

- Design a more sustainably engineered future - Institution of Mechanical Engineers - 2 March 4:30pm
- Shaping the future: inspiring women in STEM - 5 March 4:30pm

Young Architects' Group - Mondays 6-7:30pm in-person at UWE, Frenchay campus (£10 per session). Join the UK's only weekly architect group and learn the basics of building and spatial design. Follow the [link](#) for overview, session content, termly timetable and to register.

RAF World - 4 February 7:30pm

Find your pathway to success and explore a world of opportunities with the Royal Air Force. Explore interactive 360° global operations, join the engaging themed chat rooms and get your questions answered by RAF Personnel. Find out more and register [here](#).

Construction Trades Workshop at Weston College, South West Skills - 16 Feb 10am-2pm

Find out about working in construction and have a go at brickwork and carpentry at this hands-on session for students in year groups 9-11 [Half Term Workshop - SWS](#)

Hair & Beauty, Hospitality, Education & Early Years or Computing workshops at Weston College, Knightstone - 14 April 10am-2pm

Join a hands-on workshop and get a taste for the subject at one of these sessions - book early to avoid disappointment [Easter Workshops - Knightstone](#)

Art and Sports workshops at Weston College, Loxton 15 April 10am-2pm

An opportunity to see the facilities and get a feel for these courses with these practical sessions. Book early to ensure a place [Easter Workshops - Loxton](#)

NHS Finance Insights placement scheme (12 month Paid Finance Internship) - An exciting career opportunity for individuals who will be aged 18 and above from lower socio-economic backgrounds - [Applications now open](#) (webinar of scheme overview on 4 March).

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 still open. 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](#) - 25 March 4-7pm
- City of Bristol College - [Open Events](#) - 11 March 5:30-7:30pm
- SGS (South Gloucestershire and Stroud) College [Open Days](#) - 30 April 5:30-8pm
- 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
 - [Book a Campus Tour](#) at this link
- UCS College Group (new group that includes what was Bridgwater & Taunton College, plus Strode College). Multiple events in February including Careers and Apprenticeships Job Fair, tours and taster mornings.
 - Bridgwater College - [Events](#)
 - Taunton College - [Events](#)
 - Strode College - [Events](#)
 - Cannington College - [Events](#)

Training Providers

- Access Creative College (Esports, Games, Media, Music and Computing) [Open Events](#) - Taster Day 28 February | Open Day 21 March 11am-2pm
- Boomsatsuma (Creative & Digital Media, Photography, Film & TV, Sports Media, Games VR & VFX) [Open Events](#) - 10-12 February - 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 Mornings](#) - 7 February and 14 March - 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](#)
 - University Subject Discovery Fair - 18 March 4 - 6:30pm (students and families)
 - Student Finance Explained (Parents/Carers session) - 3 March 5:30pm [Sign-up here](#)
 - Student fees and funding at university - 4 March 4:30pm
 - Student budgeting at university - 4 March 5:30pm
- **Unifrog Online Subject Taster Sessions** [sign up here](#)
 - What is it like to be a Nursing Student - 3 Feb 5:30pm
 - The Economics and Politics of Crime - 4 Feb 4:30pm
 - What's next for Computing? - 4 Feb 5:30pm
 - Can AI analyse literature and language like we can? - 5 Feb 4:30pm
 - The U.S. and Venezuela (Politics, Economics, Psychology) - 10 Feb 4:30pm
 - Games Design taster: how creative worlds are built - 10 Feb 5:30pm
 - Sociology taster: what 'Love Island' reveals about power and gender - 12 Feb 4:30pm
 - Law shadowing solicitors on real cases - 23 Feb 4:30pm
 - English taster: exploring London's 'little ice age' through poetry and images 25 Feb 4:30pm
 - Where could a degree in engineering take me? 26 Feb 6:30pm
 - From sketch to screen: the power of concept art - 2 March 4:30pm

- **The University of Law [Real World Lectures](#)**
 - Why is rap and drill music used in criminal trials? 4 Feb 4pm
 - Perfectionism - What Are The Hidden Costs of High Achievement in Sport? 11 Feb - 4pm
- **King's College London [Law Lecture Series](#)** online Thursday evenings March to June for year groups 11-13
Live online lectures designed to support students interested in studying Law at university. Application deadline 2pm on 9 February.
- **University of Bristol [Virtual Summer School](#)** 26-28 May online
Three-day online programme for year 12 students comprising academic talks, social sessions and advice/guidance. Apply by 8am on 9 March.

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.

[National Apprenticeship Week](#) is 9-15 February and is a celebration that brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make.

- **Churchill Academy - Introduction to Apprenticeships** - Twilight Talk for students and 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 and Talent Lead Early Careers for Muller UK. Find out what apprenticeships are as a post-16/post-18 option and how to secure one. No need to register: [Join the MSTeams Meeting at this link at 6pm](#)
- **Weston College [Apprenticeship Open Evening](#)** - 5 Feb 4-7pm, in person at South West Skills campus
- **WCAN Apprenticeships in Law** - [Building the skills firms look for](#), with Michelmores - 9 Feb 4:30pm (online)

- **An Introduction to Apprenticeships and working at Hinkley Point C** - [Booking Form](#) 9 Feb 6-7pm (online)
- **Unifrog Virtual [Apprenticeship Fair](#)** - 11 February 4-6pm - [sign up required](#)
Attend this virtual apprenticeship fair and speak 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!
- **South Bristol Jobs & Apprenticeships Fair** - 12 Feb 2:30-5:30pm, in-person at City of Bristol College [Book tickets here](#)
Looking for your next career move, apprenticeship, or training opportunity? Join us at the South Bristol Skills Academy for the South Bristol Jobs & Apprenticeships Fair 2026 - an event designed to help you find the right opportunity for your future.
- **On Site Bristol - Construction Careers [Open Evening](#)** - 12 March 5pm & 6pm - in-person, Bristol
On Site Bristol are an Apprenticeship Training Provider for 7 key construction trades – Electrical, Carpentry, Bench Joinery, Plastering, Gas Engineering (inc. Plumbing), Bricklaying and Painting & Decorating. Find out more about construction trades and apprenticeships, and meet employers and apprentices.
- **Thatchers Talent Open Day** - Saturday 14 Feb 9:30am (prompt start at 10am) - 1pm [register here](#). Take part in workshops, tour Myrtle Farm and meet the apprentices (past & present) to get a real insight into how a Thatchers apprenticeship could kick start your career. Find out more about Thatchers apprenticeships [here](#).
- **[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](#).

- **Legal work experience West of England Legal Early Careers Network** [follow this link](#) - Application deadline 26 Feb.
Students will gain a greater understanding of the various jobs available within the legal sector, undertake interactive legal tasks, gain insight from legal professionals and understand the steps needed to take to pursue their chosen career.

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.

- **South West: UK's Intelligence Agencies, [Work Experience Day](#)** 26 Feb 10am-2:30pm (in person, location tbc) - Year groups 12 and 13
The UK Intelligence Agencies, MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, work together to keep the country safe. Their highly trained staff use cutting edge techniques to uncover and stop plans to harm our people, buildings and computer systems, both in the UK and around the world.
- **Into Film - Screen Industries [Virtual Insight Day](#)** - 3 March 10am - 3pm (virtual)
Love Film, TV or Games? Turn it into a Career! If you're curious about how film, TV, and games are made and shared — this one's for you. Into Film is hosting a Virtual Spotlight Session to help you explore real careers in the screen industries.
- **Careers in publishing and the creative industries with Bloomsbury Publishing & LDN Apprenticeships [Virtual Insight Day](#)**- 4 March 10am - 2pm (virtual)
Ever wondered how books are created, published, and brought to life — or what it's like to work in the creative industry? Bloomsbury Publishing and LDN Apprenticeships are opening up the world of books for an exclusive Virtual Insight Day.
- **Step Inside the Music Industry [Virtual Insight Day](#)** 11 March 10am - 3pm
Curious about what it's really like to work in music? Whether it's live events, artist management, or the business behind your favourite tunes, UK Music is inviting you to an exciting remote Insight Day!
- **Change-Makers Wanted: Explore Careers that Help Others! [2-day virtual work experience](#)** 5-6 March 9am - 1pm
Step into the world of the 3rd sector, where charities, social enterprises, and non-profits are shaping communities every day.

Multiple year group opportunities

- **'Young HPC'** members can apply for a summer work experience placements 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.
- **[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.
- **Allied Health Mentor - Interactive Virtual NHS Healthcare Careers [Work Experience Programme](#)** (£10 per session - all on a Sunday) - next session 1 March
Follow patients from admission to discharge in the high fidelity simulation suite, designed to provide you with an immersive experience from the comfort and safety of home
- **Medic Mentor - Interactive Virtual NHS for Medicine and Dentistry careers**
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](#)
- **Multiple Virtual and in-person WEX opportunities** (including during non term time) [Success at Schools](#)

Useful links

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

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