Careers Newsletter

January 2026

What's happening this Term @ Gordano Careers

Teatime Networking - Engineering
Date: Wednesday 28th January 3:30-4:30pm
Audience: Year 9+
Details: We will be joined by some major Engineering Companies and training providers who will provide lots of information about working in this growing sector and the skills, experience and qualifications needed. Students will rotate round the tables 'speed dating style' to allow them to gain as much information as possible. Please complete this FORM if you would like to attend.

Careers Spotlight - Vet
Date: Tuesday 27 January 3:30-4:30pm
Audience: Year 9+
Come along to find out everything you need to know about becoming a Vet. You will learn about the daily life of a Vet, the highs (and lows), the skills and experience needed and you get to ask your burning questions about working in this profession. To attend please complete this FORM

Post 18 Apprenticeship Evening
Date: Wednesday 11th February 5:30-7pm
Audience: Year 11, 12 and 13.
Come along to find out what apprenticeships opportunities are available after Level 3 studies. Book here

Making the most of Unifrog

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 and find education and training opportunities. There is also a wealth of information about all career options, Universities, Apprenticeships and employability skills.
They offer multiple webinars on a range of topics for students. Upcoming webinars include:

- Graduate Power: How a degree can prepare you for your dream career. Monday 26 January @ 17:30
- How Much Does University Really Cost? Wednesday 21 January @ 16:30
- Can AI analyse literature and language like we can? Thursday 5 February @ 16:30

Meet the Careers Team

Ms S Jones
Working days: Monday - Wednesday (8:30-4:30pm)
Covers Lundy, Portland and Shannon students.

Mrs L Gardiner
Working days: Tuesday - Friday (8:30-2:30pm)
Covers Biscay, Cromarty and Fitzroy students.

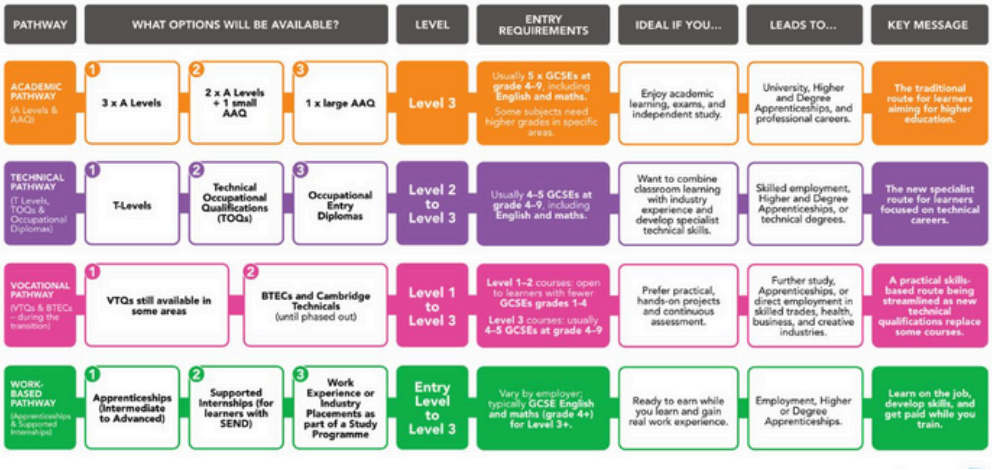
The Careers Office is based in the foyer area outside the Sixth Form Common Room at the end of the Inclusion Corridor

We are open to all students Year 7 - 13 to book an appointment or please drop in during registration and breaktimes for any questions you have regarding your future!

Email: **careers@gordanoschool.org.uk**

Spotlight on Post 16 Course Options

Year 11 is a key transitional year and there are many considerations to explore to ensure an informed choice is made. There is lots of information on College and Careers Websites regarding all of the different options, but here is a quick summary. for all options students should consider how they learn best in order to ensure they pick the best course for them. all course options can lead onto University and Apprenticeship opportunities in the future or directly into employment:



A Levels: According to Career Pilot about 50% of all 16 year olds go on to take A levels. These academic qualifications are valued by Universities and employers. Students will normally take 3 different A Levels from a choice of subjects that they may have studied at GCSE, such as English, Maths, History etc, but also some new subjects too, such as Sociology, Politics and Economics. Students need to have achieved at least 5 GCES's at grade 5 and for some subjects there will be specific GCSE grades required; for example to study Maths a grade 7 at GCSE is generally required. A levels take 2 years with exams at the end of the second year and students will achieve grades from A*-E. They can be studied at Sixth Forms and most Colleges and lead onto University or Apprenticeships Post 18.

T Levels: these are new courses that have been developed over the past few years in collaboration with professional bodies, universities and major employers in all job sectors. They are a 2 year qualification equivalent to 3 A levels and include a large element of work experience. Subjects are specific to occupations including everything from Cyber Security to Health Science, Craft and Design, Engineering and Business/Finance. They are academic qualifications and require at least 5 GCSE at grades 4/5 and above. They are assessed through external exams, employer set project and practical assignments. They can lead on to University or Degree level Apprenticeships. Currently mainly offered by Colleges.

BTEC and Vocational Diplomas: These are vocational qualifications that can be studied from Level 1 - 3 depending on grades achieved at GCSE. They combine a mix of theory and practice with an element of work experience and are assessed through a mix of coursework with some exams.

Apprenticeships: See more information further in this newsletter

Attend College Open Days:

- Weston College - School Liaison Team Campus Tours 2-27 February 15.30-17.30
- City of Bristol College - 11th March: 5:30-7:30pm. All Campuses
- SGS College - 24th January: 10am-1pm All Campuses
- Robins Foundation - book online
- Access Creative - 24th January 11am -2pm
- Boomsatsuma - 10-12 February
- Hartpury College - 24th January - fully booked. 7th February now booking

Weston College Feb Half Term Workshops for Years 9, 10 and 11 in Construction Industries please follow this LINK for further details

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Apprenticeships are offered at different levels:

- Level 2 or 3 ones can be secured after GCSE's.
- Level 4/5/6/7 can be secured after A Levels or T Level/BTEC Level 3 study.

There are a number of ways to search for apprenticeships you can use:

- Find an Apprenticeship
- Unifrog portal
- UCAS Apprenticeships
- Notgoingtouni

Or proactively contact potential employers directly. This works well for trade industries such as Construction and Hairdressing.

For students in Year 13 there are a number of further resources they can use:
The Higher and Degree Listing Vacancy search is a fantastic resource which provides an overview of vacancies that are being offered by the larger firms nationally. Please note though it is a not a conclusive list and smaller companies do not use it.

Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Vacancy Listing

Apprenticeship West Newsletter – lots of latest information about apprenticeship vacancies in the local area

Film Guides for Parents and Carers supporting their children into Apprenticeship and Technical Pathways:
How can I support my child to explore technical education opportunities?
How can I support my child to apply for technical education opportunities?
How can I support my child to transition into technical education pathways?

Apprenticeship Events

Engineering Apprenticeships:

A lot of the large Engineering companies now have their Apprenticeship vacancies open for applications. Currently on the Gov/uk Find an Apprenticeship site there are vacancies with GKN, Babcock, Atkins Realis, Bam Nuttall and others.
These close in late January or February.

Apprenticeship Insight Webinars:

Law with TLT Solicitors: 11 February Book Here
Working in Health and Safety from Film Sets and Festivals to Sport Arenas: 12 February Book Here

Thatchers Talent Open Day

Thatchers have their open day Saturday 14 February. This is your chance to learn about the Apprenticeships they have and talk to current Apprentices. To book use the QR codes below:

British Army Apprenticeships

- Explore a wide range of roles: engineering, logistics, healthcare, IT, and more
- Learn how students can earn while they learn
- Hear first-hand from soldiers and apprentices about training, career journeys, and day-to-day Army life

Tuesday, 3 February 2026
16:00 – 17:00
Online Event
Click this LINK to register

Onsite Construction Apprenticeships will be hosting their open evening on 12th March at the Create Centre, Bristol. Sign up details HERE

Unifrog are running a free online Apprenticeship Fair where you can join live sessions and speak with representatives from a huge range of major employers from every sector. Click this LINK to find out more and register.

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Labour Market Information(LMI) is key to making good Career choices as it researches and explains what job sectors are growing or declining. The following resources are useful to explore local and national LMI:

Careerpilot : Jobs
Explore LMI data - LMI For All
West of England - Labour Market Inteligence
North Somerset Employment and Skills Strategy
Career Insights - Skills Connect - West of England specific
Skills Connect LMI Poster for the local area

Information Events

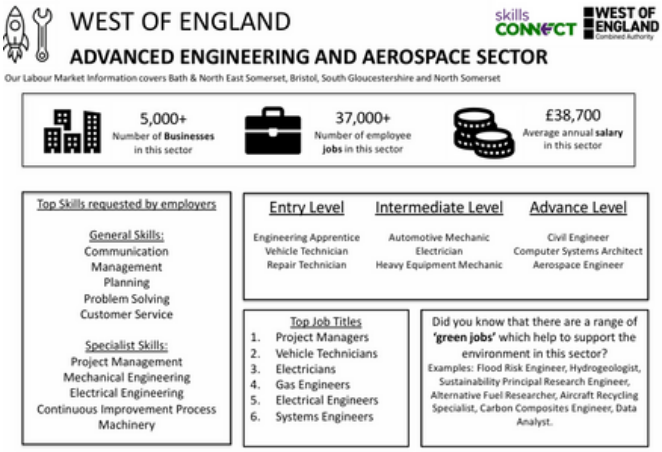
InvestIn are running some Webinars to help you understand what the effect of AI will be on future jobs.

The Degree Gap are offering a free webinar for parents who would like to understand more how to support their child with motivation, structure, and using Mock results without pressure or burnout. This webinar is taking place 28 January 7-8pm. Please click this LINK to register

LMI Spotlight

Engineering and Aerospace

Engineering and Aerospace are major areas of employment in the local area. Bristol has a wide range of large scale and small to medium sized companies offering a wide range of opportunities and is worth £2.7 billion.



Employer Spotlight

Rolls Royce

Though most reknowned for developing and building their classic care, Rolls Royce have also been building aerospace engines since they first started. Now more focussed on Civil Aerospace, Defence and Nuclear. With bases in Bristol, Derby, Scotland, Solihull, Rotherham and Tyne and Wear in the UK they also have operations in 48 countries around the world. for more detailed information please click this LINK They are just opening their apprenticeship schemes for applications and you can discover more and apply **HERE**

Year 10 Work Experience

We officially launched work experience to our Year 10 students in Assembly on 15th October. We are already seeing placements secured which is fantastic. Well done to everyone who has already found a place!

University of Bristol have also announced their scheme and are running a number of different programmes for our week.
Please see the pre-16 website for further details and use this Yr10 WEX application form to apply.
The 7 different Yr10 WEX programmes on offer are:

- Biochemistry and Cellular Medicine - Cells and Molecules
- Biological Sciences - Animal Minds: Evolution and Behaviour
- Biological Sciences - Green Planet: Plants and Ecosystems
- Engineering
- Geographical Sciences
- Physics and Maths
- Arts, Law and Social Sciences

All yr10 programmes will be taking place from the 29th June to the 3rd July 2026 at the Clifton Campus
DEADLINE 1 FEBRUARY 2026

University Info

Interested in Medicine/Dentistry or Veterinary? Here are links to some useful information:
Medicine Requirements
Dentistry Requirements
Veterinary Requirements

Open Days provides an overview of university open day events

University of Bristol Virtual Summer School 26-28 May Online Year 12 Apply by 9 March. Three-day online program comprising of academic talks, social sessions and advice/guidance. Sign up HERE

Study in the North Webinar and Live Q+A. Wednesday 11th February 5:30 - 6:30pm Hosted by Lancaster, Sheffield, Newcastle and Sunderland University. Sign up HERE

Unifrog are offering a **Subject Discovery Fair** Wednesday 18 March 4pm - 6.30pm
From finance to nursing, law to creative arts, and engineering to teaching the Subject Discovery fair is a great opportunity to find out all about studying at university and get all your questions answered by the experts. Join universities from across the UK to speak to their representatives via Q&A, and attend live sessions to get an insight into the exciting subjects you could be studying!
To find more info and sign up click this LINK

Inclusion

The Careers Team work on an individual basis with students and also liaise closely with the SEND Department regarding student needs to ensure students receive appropriate advice. We will add useful website links here that may be helpful. If you have any questions please contact the Careers Team.

Neurodiversity Hub - Resources for Students, Employers & More
Your Future Black Country - focused on the Midlands but job profiles presented in accessible format for SEND students
Success at School - straightforward, easy to understand advice and information
Youth Employment UK - useful for entry level roles - comprehensive job and sector information
Career guidance | Dyslexia Scotland - Dyslexia Scotland - a useful guide you can download
Amazing Apprenticeships - Please use this page to explore the different resources that we have developed, working closely with the SEND Advisory Network