**Frequently asked questions**

**University & Apprenticeship Information**

**Q: Is there help in applying to university?**  
A: Yes! We dedicate tutorial time to guide students through UCAS (the university application portal). We also invite universities to provide personal statement support, and our highly qualified careers advisers are available to answer any questions.   
You can access UCAS here [Advice for parents, guardians and carers | Undergraduate, Conservatoires, Apprenticeships, 16-18 Choices | UCAS](https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers)

**Q: Are there opportunities for university visits?**  
A: Absolutely! We arrange university visits to help students experience campus life and explore their options. Additionally, we promote many opportunities universities offer in relation to bursaries that may be available to support students with travel costs or other university-related expenses.

**Q: What support is available for high-achieving students aiming for top universities?**  
A: We work closely with **OxNet**, a prestigious outreach programme that provides tailored support for students aspiring to study at top universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, and other Russell Group institutions. This includes academic workshops, seminars, and mentoring to help students reach their full potential.

**Q: Is there support for degree apprenticeships and vocational pathways?**  
A: Absolutely! Our dedicated Employer Engagement & Partnerships Officer helps guide students in these areas. We offer focused tutorials, regular apprenticeship workshops, employability skills sessions, and mock interviews to build confidence in applying for roles.

**Work Experience**

**Q: Is work experience mandatory for students?**  
A: Yes, all A1 students must take part in work experience, particularly during our ‘BE AMBITIOUS’ week in June. Students can find their own placements or choose a   
college-sourced one.

**Q: How can students secure their own placements?**  
A: Tutorials provide guidance on securing placements, and our Placement Team & Careers Team are available for support. We also encourage parents/carers to assist by reaching out to their contacts. Additionally, we provide literature to help with the process.

**Q: How do we know work placements are safe?**  
A: We conduct risk assessments and verify insurance details with external companies   
when required.

**Labour Market & Career Opportunities**

**Q: What Labour Market Information (LMI) is available?**  
A: Students can access LMI in multiple ways, including displays outside their classrooms, Careers widgets, and the student eMagazine **‘Futures’**.

**Q: What support is available for local and national career opportunities?**  
A: Our Employer Engagement & Partnerships Officer hosts a weekly **Apprenticeship Club** and advertises both local and national opportunities.

**Parental Support in Career Planning**

**Q: How can I, as a parent, help with career planning?**  
A: As a parent or guardian, you play a vital role in your child’s career journey. Here’s how you can support them:

1. **Encourage Open Conversations**
   * Talk about their interests, strengths, and aspirations.
   * Keep discussions positive, open-ended, and pressure-free.
   * Remind them that career paths can evolve over time.
2. **Explore Career Options Together**
   * Research post-16 and post-18 pathways, including university, apprenticeships, and vocational courses.
   * Attend careers fairs, university open days, and employer events.
   * Use online tools to explore opportunities.
3. **Support Work Experience & Skill Development**
   * Encourage work experience, volunteering, or part-time jobs.
   * Help them develop key skills such as teamwork and problem-solving.
   * Assist in networking by introducing them to industry professionals.
4. **Assist with Applications**
   * Guide them through UCAS applications if they are considering university.
   * Support them in writing CVs, cover letters, and personal statements.
   * Explore apprenticeship vacancies together.
5. **Stay Informed**
   * Keep up to date with labour market trends and emerging career opportunities.
   * Use school resources, career websites, and attend parental information sessions.
6. **Encourage Independence & Confidence**
   * Let them take ownership of their career choices while offering guidance.
   * Foster a growth mindset—every experience is a learning opportunity.

**Parental Support & Events**

**Q: Can parents speak to a careers advisor?**  
A: Of course! As long as it’s regarding the student (not careers advice for yourself), please contact our team.

**Q: Is there a dedicated Parents Careers Q&A session?**  
A: Yes! We host a session in October and welcome questions in advance