

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls

Key Stage 4 – Careers Programme & Guidance – Autumn 2025



Introduction

Good career guidance is the key to social mobility: it is about showing young people – whatever their social and family background – the options open to them, and helping them make the right choices to rewarding future careers.

During Key Stage 3, the students will have developed skills, knowledge and understanding both in their subject lessons and in the clubs and activities they have joined. They will also have chosen their GCSE subjects linked to the sort of things they like doing and based on some idea of what they might do after school. STEM challenges, and visits to places that people work in will also have contributed, in some way, to their thoughts as to what their next steps after leaving school might be.

The school has a planned programme of Career Activities and Guidance which links to the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks. These are:

1. A Stable Careers Programme
2. Learning from Career and Labour Market Information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with Further & Higher Education
8. Personal Guidance

Many subjects will have displays or talk about the sort of Careers available, as well as giving the students the opportunity to develop work place skills. Other aspects of the Careers Guidance programme will be delivered in PSE lessons as shown below. The school's full programme of careers guidance is published every year on our school website, the most recent plan for KS4 is shown here.

	Y10	Y11
Autumn Term	Transition to KS4 and developing study skills Ask Apprenticeships	Learning and revision skills to maximise potential Understanding the college application process and plans beyond school Interview practice and CV Writing Work Experience Ideas Skills for employment and career progression Careers Post-16/Post 18 KS4 Careers Interviews with an independent adviser Post-16 Open Evening Post-16 Provider Open Days
Spring Term	What Career Live/What University Live?	Interviews with staff to support Post-16 choices What Career Live/What University Live? Careers/Higher Education Fair
Summer Term	Senior Citizen's party – work place skills development including team work and project planning Apprenticeships Activity and University information in Enrichment week	Work Experience

Other activities and opportunities will be promoted to the students as we are made aware of them; we are not able to give students time off during school time; however, many students take place in virtual activities during term time or find longer opportunities during the holidays and we would encourage this.

All students can undertake a Work Experience Placement after their GCSE examinations late June/or July before the end of term in Year 11.

Assemblies & Lunchtime talks

There are regular visitors in assemblies and at lunchtimes; they talk about their roles in the workplace and this will continue as part of our planned programme to support careers education; we often use our alumni to support this programme.

Careers Interviews

The school employs an independent Careers Coach. All students in Key Stage 4 will have an opportunity for an individual meeting with the advisor, which will usually take place during the Summer Term of Year 10 or the Autumn Term of Year 11, and certainly before the students need to make their A level subject choices. This will give the students the opportunity to discuss their next steps after GCSE's and to explore their initial ideas in relation to post-18 plans. If students are uncertain, they will be directed to appropriate resources and websites to use to help inform their choices. The careers advisor will NOT tell the students what to do; but make suggestions as to ideas to consider.

Whilst these formal interviews take place in Year 11; our adviser runs regular drop-in sessions which are available to **all** students to "pop" and ask a quick question.

Careers Library

The main school library has a range of books to support students with their career choices; these books can be found in the computer area.

Enrichment week activity

There are several activities in the Summer Term Enrichment week which we hope will give students the opportunity to start to explore a range of careers by meeting visitors to the school, including current and/or recent apprentices, as well as having the opportunity to talk to recent students about their experiences at university, and a university presentation. We also hope to be able to run some activities in conjunction with Lloyds Bank.

Post-18 information

The majority of school support for post-18 education will take place during Year 12 in PSHE lessons which have a focus on finance, and applying for universities, degree apprenticeships and information about GAP year providers. In addition to this ongoing support, the school usually organises a Post-18 day in the Spring Term of Year 12. Year 11 students will be invited to talk to universities/careers and apprenticeship providers who support this day which takes place early in March.

Useful Websites

The school website also has a section on careers education with links to many useful websites - <https://www.kechg.org.uk/parents-and-students/careers>

The Careers section of the UCAS website is also worth investigating – not just for university applications - <https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice>

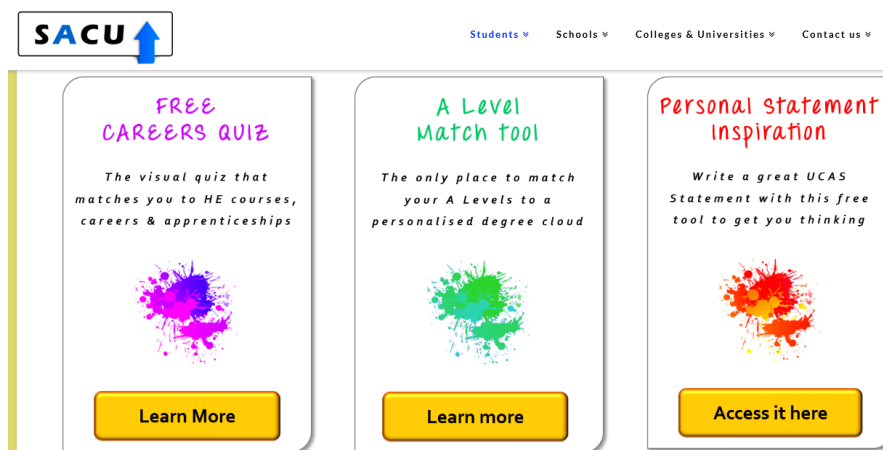
If you wish to find out more about apprenticeships, please explore the government apprenticeship website <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>

The school also has a link with InvestIn (<https://investin.org/>); they run regular (expensive) workshops; however we do get a 10% discount through using the code KECHG10 at the checkout and there are a few

(please contact me directly for these) bursaries available each term. All bookings except for those using bursaries must be completed by the parents.

Students may also find the Sacu website (<https://sacu-student.com>) useful. This is completely free for them to use and includes

- A career quiz – called the Spartan test
- A matching tool for A levels to degrees to investigate what degrees can be done with various combinations of A levels, each degree course can be explored to look at entry requirements, and salaries of the jobs that they may lead to
- A section containing information about the current range of apprenticeships on offer to students post-16 and post-18



We are aware that many of our students would like to study medicine; each year we have some students who do not make the high grades that are needed – please can you encourage your child to explore the wider range of opportunities available in healthcare and/or the NHS. The websites below are a good source of information:

- <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>
- <https://explorehealthcareers.org/field/allied-health-professions/>

Promotion of events

The school also receives regular emails about activities taking place, both online and in person. These will be sent out to the students/parents as appropriate when we receive them.

Post-16 planning

Our students are formally assessed in preparation for their GCSEs in their mocks which take place in the December of Year 11. Once they have received their results in January and prior to making their post -16 choices (which are A levels for the majority of our students), they will have the opportunity to discuss their plans and aspirations with a member of the teaching staff; in addition to their conversations that have already taken place with our Careers Coach.

All of our current students that meet the entry requirements for the sixth form have an allocated place, we will collect their A level choices through the application software called Applicaa. This process enables us to collate their A level choices alongside those received from our external applicants. More information will be available to the students in the Autumn/Spring of Year 11, but please be assured that this is NOT a selection process.

It is a legal requirement to confirm with us where your child will be studying for their post -16 qualifications; so please ensure you look for information about how to do this with your child's GCSE results paperwork and respond within the relevant timescale.

GCSE results days

Your child's GCSE results are likely to be published on **19th August 2027** and we would ***strongly recommend that you plan for them to be able to attend in person*** to open their results in school; this enables us to provide appropriate support, advice and guidance as to their next steps if the outcomes are not as anticipated. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to collect their results and talk to the staff that are available on the day.

Labour Market Information (LMI) provides statistics, research, and analysis about current and future economic and job trends to inform and support career and business planning decisions.

It is important for parents and students to keep up to date with what is happening in the labour market so that everyone is aware of

- What opportunities are available
- What the future trends are likely to be in different sectors
- What qualifications and skills will be needed
- How to prepare to compete for jobs in some sectors

The website <https://icould.com/> includes a wide range of searchable job roles including videos and labour market information about the roles discussed and is a useful starting point to find out useful labour market information including salaries and availability of job opportunities.

Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), in conjunction with the Careers & Enterprise Company, has produced a Labour Market Information guide for teachers, young people and parents/carers called "My Way Into The World of Work"; there is a link to this document on the school website. This useful guide provides information about the growth areas (listed below) in Birmingham and the West Midlands. There are links to a range of videos and activities about these areas.

- Creative and Cultural
- Advanced Manufacturing – Food & Drink
- Business, Professional and Financial Services
- Data-Driven Health and Life Sciences
- Low Carbon and Energy Technology
- Construction
- Logistics & Transport
- Public Sector including Education
- Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Retail

Careers Shows

What career live? What university live? (NEC, 27th & 28th February 2026) is an excellent show which is free to attend and will give students and their parents/carers the chance to explore careers, universities and apprenticeships all in one place. Although it is aimed at students in Year 11 to Year 13, it is also relevant to students in Year 10. If you wish to register for tickets please go to [Book Tickets | What University? & What Career? Live](#) to book for the Saturday.



Unifrog

All students have access to Unifrog – this is a brilliant platform which is designed to support learners in making informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Students can access the site from the beginning of Year 7, until 5 years after they leave the school.

Key features of the platform include sections on:

- Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills
- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)
- Placements tool - designed to make it easy to record and administer work experience

The platform helps students successfully apply for these opportunities by using Unifrog to write their personal statement, applications and CVs and guiding them through the process, allowing teachers to give live feedback.

Please watch the Unifrog video to find out more about the platform -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KksyeliHOAw&t=2s>

Work Experience

Learning from experiencing the workplace is a key way in which students can develop workplace skills and find out about differing job roles. Opportunities, many which are virtual, are promoted to students by emails and we would encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities. Students in Year 11 will need to arrange a work placement in the gap between finishing their GCSEs and starting their A levels. It is worth exploring these ideas and talking to any contacts you have in good time to arrange these; these will need to be submitted using the Unifrog platform (more information about how to do this will follow in Year 11).

All placements need to be approved by the school before they can take place – it is important that the students are proactive in checking the status of their application and chasing their placement to complete the online forms – students must see myself or Mrs Gahir if the placement provider is not receiving the form to complete.

Students also take up opportunities through

SpringPod - <https://www.springpod.com/> - students can access a range of virtual opportunities – please focus on the opportunities in the holidays

There are a range of other providers/sources which you may also wish to consider as shown below:

Pathwayctm - <https://pathwayctm.com/events/>

Looking for something creative? – <https://discovercreative.careers/>

Please remember that many students are seeking work experience placements in the medical and veterinary fields; where work experience is essential. However, hospitals do not accommodate students under 16, and there is always a high demand for the placements. However, please remember that giving your time to care for others is also important, so volunteer roles in hospitals and/or care homes are also of benefit. There is also an excellent virtual work experience programme run by the Brighton and Sussex Medical School which is worth exploring.

And finally a plea from me.....

As the school's Careers Lead we are always on the lookout for parents (and their companies/employers) to support our careers programme. If you think you may be able to help us by giving a talk, undertaking mock interviews, offering work experience placements, or anything else you may think of – please get in touch with me (j.rose@chg.kevibham.org).

J Rose

October 2025