

Welcome to Parents!

Careers/SEND Coffee Morning

Mrs Thakrar - RGS Director of Careers

ALL YEARS

- * Form Time about Careers (The Day) & Alumni videos
- * Careers & Next Steps Weekly talks by guests (employers, alumni, FE/HE encounters, apprenticeships providers, gap year agencies, etc.)
- * Unifrog access
- * National Careers/ National Apprenticeship Week events
- * Careers Champions
- * Career Guidance sessions
- * Societies; Symposiums
- * Competitions; Challenges; Scholarships; Summer Schools
- * Impact Assessment: surveys; parent/student/staff/employer voice; focus groups
- * Parental Engagement: In-school/virtual events; Careers Newsletters; Socials (X; Instagram; Linked In); Website; Surveys; Support in events
- * Staff linking Careers to Curriculum
- * Morrisby Psychometric Test
- * Careers/Apprenticeships Google Classrooms
- * Careers Prize Giving

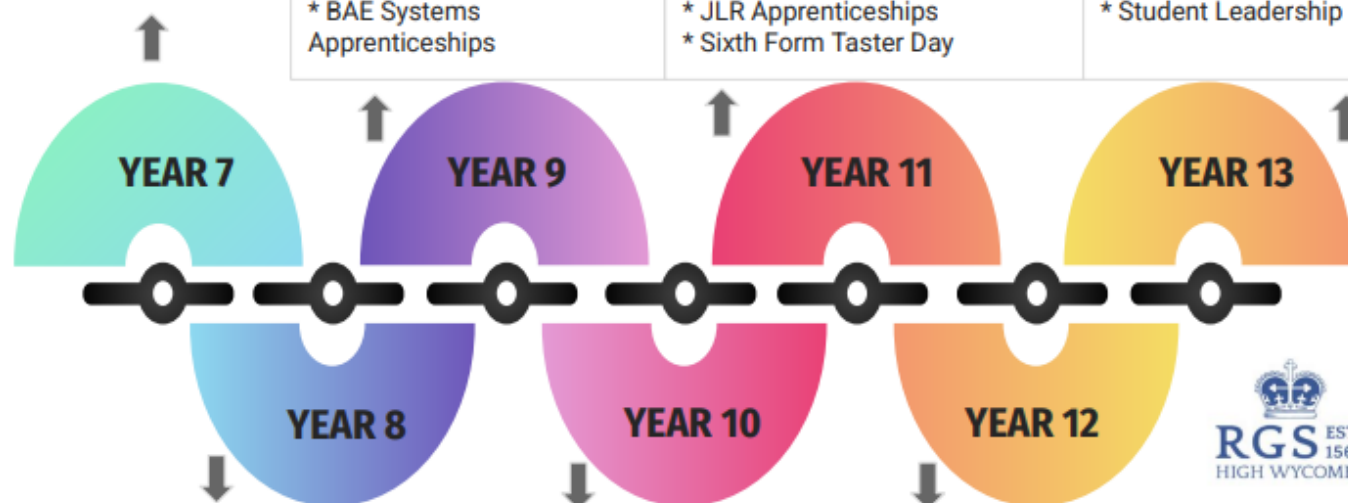
Careers Programme 2025/26

- * Y7 Induction Process
- * PSHCE: developing skills & aspirations- careers, teamwork & enterprise skills
- * Young Enterprise Day
- * Introduction to Careers

- * Work Shadowing Day
- * GCSE Choices Support
- * PSHCE: strengths, career options & goals
- * Creative Industries Careers Fair & Talks
- * Henley College/T-Levels & Post 16 Options
- * BAE Systems Apprenticeships

- * Work Experience
- * A Levels/EPQ Choices Support
- * PSHCE: Post 16/18 Options; HE research; presentation skills
- * Careers Fair & Talks
- * Henley College/Post 16 Options
- * Berkshire College of Agriculture T-Levels/Post-16 Options
- * JLR Apprenticeships
- * Sixth Form Taster Day

- * Predicted Grades & support
- * Lecture Series
- * UCAS/ Early Entry
- * Next Steps Support (finance, uni life, personal brand, etc.)
- * Mock Interviews
- * Entry Testing Prep
- * Student Leadership



- * Runner Scheme (school jobs)
- * PSHCE: community in careers, life choices, work patterns & careers for a positive change
- * Henley College/T-Levels & Post 16 Options
- * BAE Systems Apprenticeships

- * Work Experience
- * PSHCE: Post-16 choices; volunteering; careers research; work trends; entrepreneurship
- * Berkshire College of Agriculture T-Levels/Post-16 Options
- * JLR Apprenticeships
- * Bucks Skills Show

- * Oxbridge/Medics/Dentist/Vets Support
- * Futures & Apprenticeships Parental Eves
- * Management Conference
- * RGS 360/Volunteering
- * Trips: CERN; Silverstone; Physics Live; Harefield Hospital
- * UCAS/Apprenticeships Fair; University Visits
- * School Captainship Selection
- * Young Enterprise Programme



SEND

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO CAREER DEVELOPMENT

CHLOE LEWIS



David Ritchie
& Associates

Careers Advisers & Specialist Consultants

Navigating careers is challenging, particularly so for SEND students

- The Buckland Review of Autism Employment report of 28 Feb 2024 said that urgent government action is needed because autistic people face the worst employment gap out of all disabled people:
 - Just 3 in 10 autistic adults are in work compared with 5 in 10 for all disabled people
 - Autistic people face the largest pay gap of all disability groups
 - Autistic graduates are twice as likely to be unemployed after 15 months as non-disabled graduates

The Good News:

- Employers are adjusting their job applications and interview questions
- Benefits of a neurodiverse workforce being realised
- Parents and carers are the biggest influencers on a child's career decision making
- Parents play an essential role in helping their child's career interests to germinate and grow
- Starting as early as possible is important.



Career Exploration: so how can parents help?

- Explore a variety of career websites and find one which your son finds easier to use as some can be very visual whilst others are more wordy and black and white.
- The variety and amount of information can be overwhelming so you can do a lot of research independently of your son and then signpost them to the most appropriate resources.
- All of them offer quizzes which may be slightly different. If these are too confusing you can do instead as you often know your son's likes and dislikes.
- Your son will have access to Unifrog using their school email addresses as a login – <https://www.unifrog.org/>
- Students can also use CareerPilot which has good links to jobs from their favourite subjects and lots of useful content. <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>
- Prospects has a wealth of information for those looking to go onto higher education. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

Pharmacologist

Pharmacologists study the effects of drugs and other chemical substances on cells, animals, humans and the environment.

Average salary (a year)



Typical hours (a week)



You could work



How to become >

Career path and progression >

What it takes >

Current opportunities >

What you'll do >

**Not what you're looking
for?**

Search further careers

Enter a job title



National Careers Service

We provide information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work.

Use our career tools to help you with your choices on careers, training and work. Whatever your situation, there's something to help.

Explore careers

Find the next step in
your career

Skills assessment

Learn more
about your skills

Find a course

Study for your
future

Help to get a job

How to get the
job you want

How to become a pharmacologist

Morrisby Psychometric Testing supported by RGS

Helping students make the
right decision for their future
based on:

NATURAL
ATTRIBUTES
&
INTERESTS

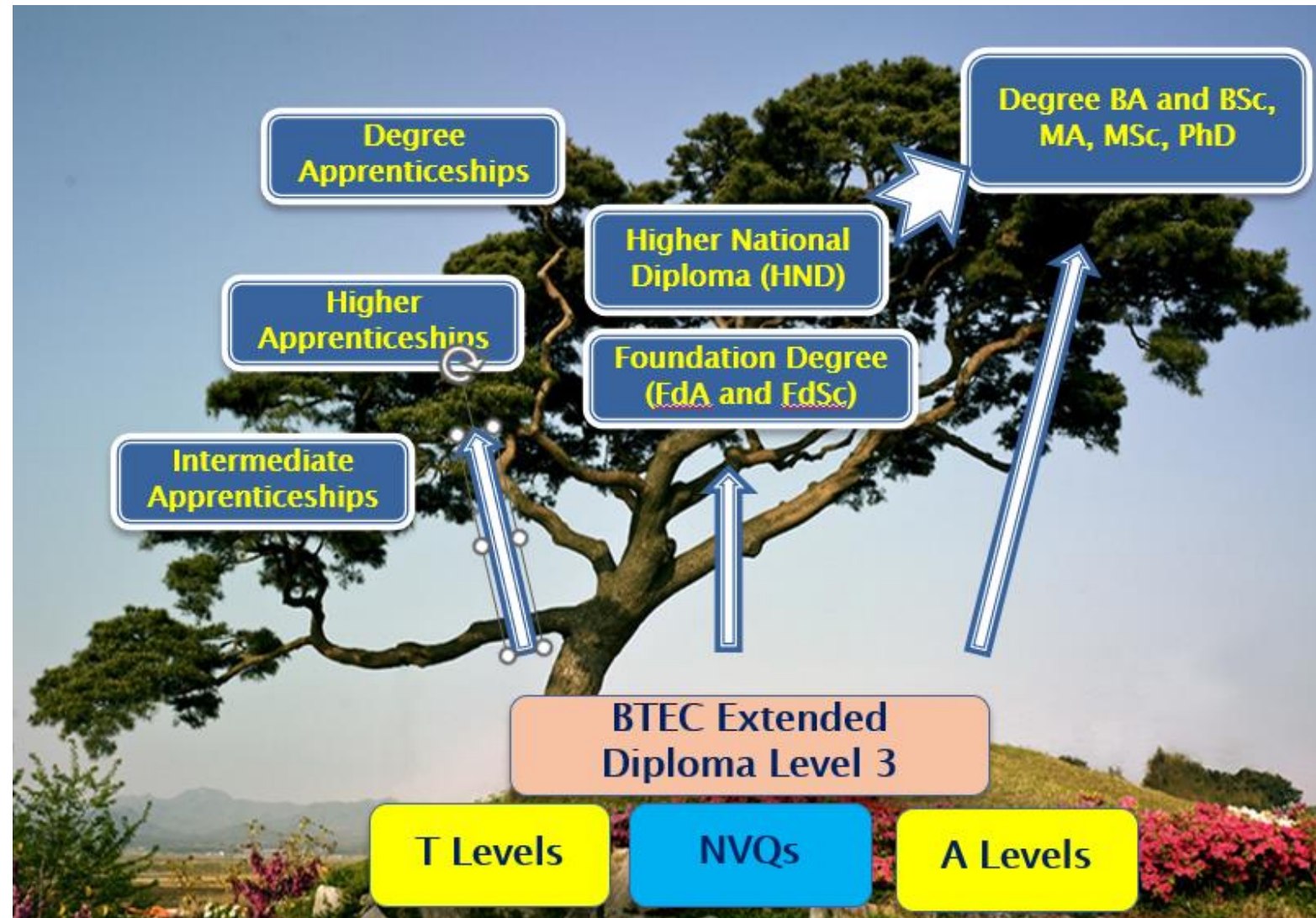
Confused?

Not sure what options to take? Morrisby can help.



Sixth form ➡ university is not the only route

- More than one route
- BTEC/T Level = Level 3 quals = access to most universities
- Apprenticeships – highly regarded by employers



The Right Destination for your Child

Post-Year 11 and GCSEs

- Sixth Form
- College
- Apprenticeship – Level 2 or 3

- Post Year 13 or college
- University
- College
- Apprenticeship – Level 3-7

On going
performance
data

Career
Direction

PLAN “A”

and

PLAN “B”

Exams
Results

Assessment
preferences

Learning
Style

College = less academic pressure

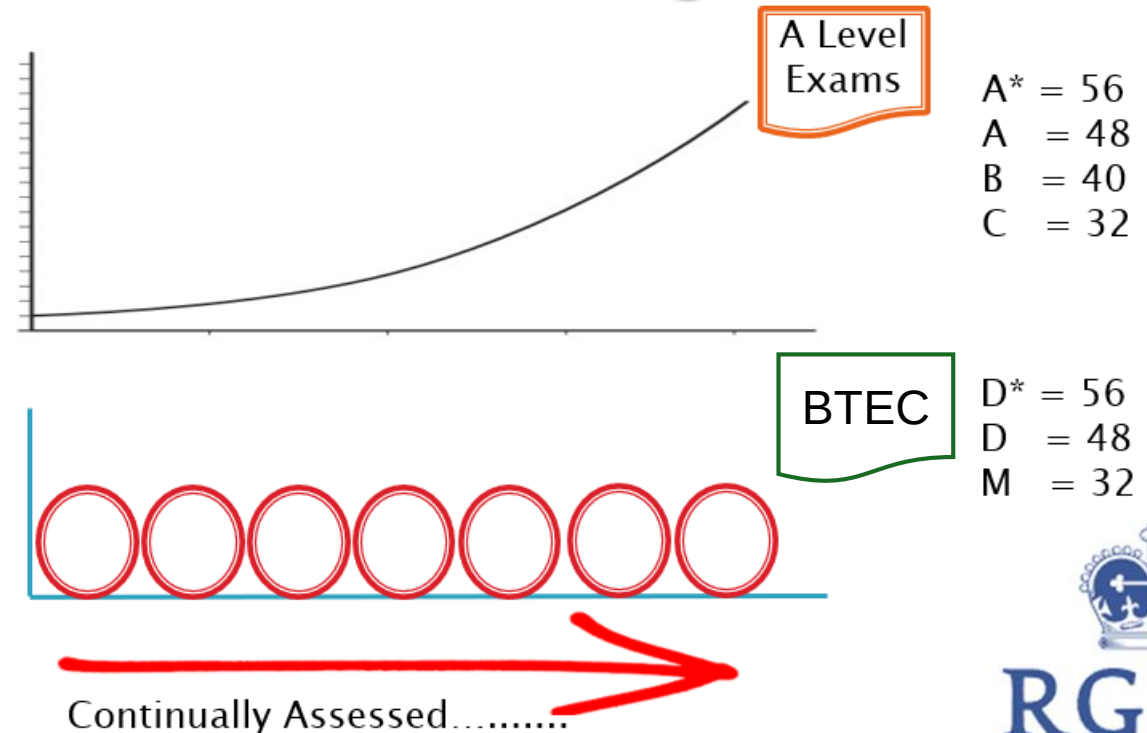
→ same result

BTEC Extended Level 3 Diploma and T Levels are equivalent to 3 A Levels

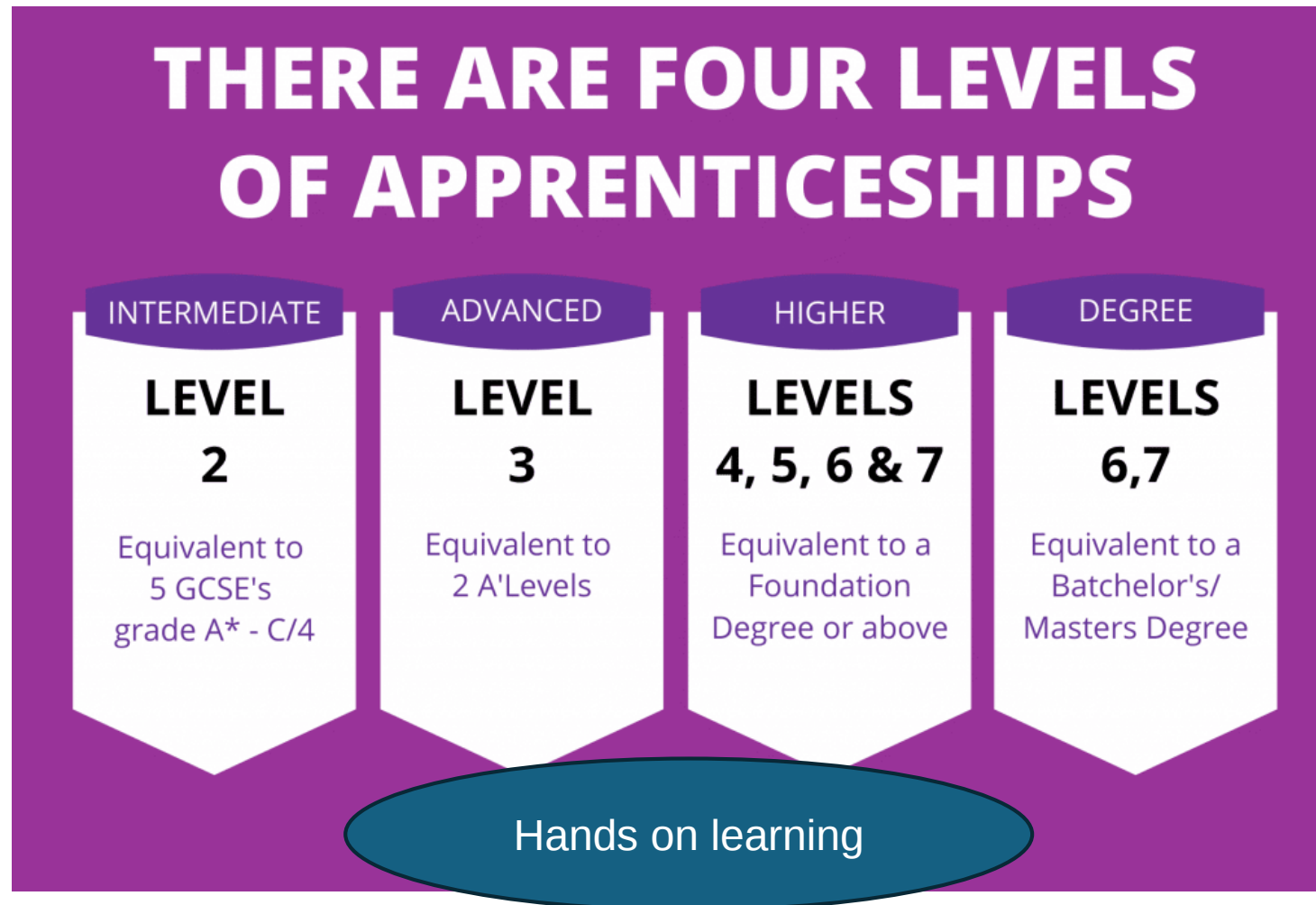
(However, check with individual universities as some prefer A Levels.)

Level 3 Progression

- New Environment
- Fresh Start
- Wider range of courses
- Different approaches
- Have specialised facilities
- Work Focused
- Teaching and assessment methods
- SENCO support – eg Henley College has 'outstanding' for their SEN support



Apprenticeships



- Bucks Skills Hub has case studies about local apprentices
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprentices/>

Which employers offer apprenticeships?



Brought to you by
National
Apprenticeship
Service



Who are the local employers? Which ones align with your son's interests?

The Buckinghamshire Skills Hub - <https://bucksskillshub.org/> - lots of useful resources for students including online industry insight webinars

Aim to research local companies which might have relevant opportunities for your son.



Westcott is home to a growing number of space related companies developing new innovative technologies in rocket propulsion, 5G communications and autonomous systems



Buckinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Trust



Bucks NHS Trust has around 6,000 highly trained staff including both patient and non patient facing jobs, for example there are a vast number of healthcare scientists, medical engineers, clinical informatics and pathologists



Home to some of the most iconic film and TV productions ever made. Vast number of career pathways including editing, set design, sound, or production planning etc



Bucks Council has lots of opportunities to support the local community in a variety of roles. They offer excellent training and policies to support work/life balance.

How do you engage with local employers

Careers Fairs offer an excellent opportunity to speak to employers who want to engage with young people and their parents.

“Young people who have had four or more encounters with employers are 86% less likely to become NEET (not in education, employment or training) and will go on to earn 18% more.” (Careers & Enterprise Company).

Fairs can be noisy and overwhelming and some people struggle with sensory overload so find out which companies are going to be there and maybe just visit a few stands – be selective.

Generic Skills Shows

- Bucks Skill Show – March
- Wycombe town hall
- Bucks New Uni
- Local School Career Fairs
- London Job Shows - Westfield



Specific industry Careers shows and insight events:

- Pinewood Futures Festival on 30&31 Jan 2026 – apply now.
- NHS After school events at Stoke Mandeville - <https://careers.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/bright-futures/>
- Emergency services, eg Thames Valley Police
- Virtual careers events – use Unifrog
- Eventbrite – search specific ones
- Check out the ‘Early Careers’ pages on the larger organisations websites



CONFIDENT FUTURES SKILLS SHOW

June – Stoke Mandeville
Stadium

Aimed at young people with SEND

A great opportunity for individuals who often experience barriers to securing employment to interactively engage with organisations and to find out more about what it is like to work in key industries.

Diverse and inclusive
'disability confident'
employers

FLANNERY.
Construction Sector

 **AtkinsRéalis**
Civil Engineering Sector

 **ZENOPA**
TALENT DRIVEN • CULTURE FOCUSED
Business, Finance and professional
services

 **Fairhive**
Charities and public sector

Balfour Beatty
Living Places

Building and infrastructure

 **CUBE™**
Cube is a video agency
for Film and TV Sector



deSouther
MEDICAL
Medical, Health Care and
Social Care Sector

alcom®
WITH US IT WORKS

Digital Technology Sector

What skills are needed by employers in Bucks?

- In a local skills report it describes there being an immediate need for skills in **digital technology, construction, health and social care and film / TV**, and medium to long term for high performance **engineering and space**.
- Buckinghamshire Growth Sector: **Digital Technology** - Bucks is home to over 3,000 Digital Tech businesses, including Softcat, Xerox, McAfee, Telecom, SAS and Citrix, who all together employ more than 11,000 people.
- With three million digital tech jobs in the UK and – another 678,000 needed by 2025, the current talent pool is not meeting the demand for tech specialists.
- From **Cyber Security Technician and Data Analyst to Software Tester and App Developer**.
- A strong pipeline of **green skills in digital and engineering** skills are also needed to shift towards a net zero economy.

<https://bbf.uk.com/business-support/local-skills-improvement-plan> - June 2025

WORK EXPERIENCE

Future proofing



Work experience is an important way for young people to build an understanding of and confidence in, the world of work and helps them kick-start their career journey.

For students with SEN this is especially important in helping them adapt to the 'rules' of different working environments.

How to find work experience

- The best place to start is to think about your network of friends and family, talk to them and ask about their networks too.
- Attend career fairs and talk to employers directly. If they say no, ask for a day's work shadowing.
- Research local organisations and write to them, eg primary schools.
- Use free professional websites such as Uptree <https://uptree.co/students/> and Young Professionals <https://young-professionals.uk/>
- <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/understanding-autism/preparing-for-adulthood/work-experience-and-employment>
- **START EARLY!**

This gives students a taste of what a career would look like through online interactive, on-demand programmes.

- Low stress, on-demand courses for your son to complete on his own at home.
- They offer flexibility and can still develop valuable skills like time management, digital literacy, and independent learning - increasingly important in today's hybrid work environment.
- Springpod provides free programmes ranging from 5-10 hours long and can be spread out over 2 weeks.
- Demonstrates self-motivation and maturity, good for CVs and university applications.
- Hear from industry experts in the world's leading employers.
- Support your son in choosing 2-3 they might find interesting.

<https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience>

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice/virtual-work-experiences>

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/vwex/>

MOOC – massive open online course, many are free

- edX offers courses in a range of subjects from architecture to computer science, engineering, AI
- Look at introductory courses - <https://www.edx.org/>

Volunteering is another form of work experience in a more supportive environment

- One of the biggest hurdles is age restriction so do your research eg Rennie Grove Hospice Care has many charity shops that take students from 14. They are understanding of SEND and don't ask students to work with customers if they prefer not to. Wycombe Rye Park run accepts volunteers at any age – you don't need to run!
- If age is a problem you can volunteer as a family and support your son.
- Try and find charities which match your son's interests, for example animal charities like Tiggywinkles in Aylesbury, Chiltern Rangers or Hills Café, a volunteer run café in High Wycombe.
- Bucks NHS Trust offers voluntary work to over 16s in local hospitals.
- Many organisations provide a variety of support needs for students with SEND. They understand confidence is often a problem but you can discuss this with them.
- You can use a variety of websites including Community Impact Bucks to find suitable charities for your son and your family to get involved with - <https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/volunteering/i-want-to-volunteer/>



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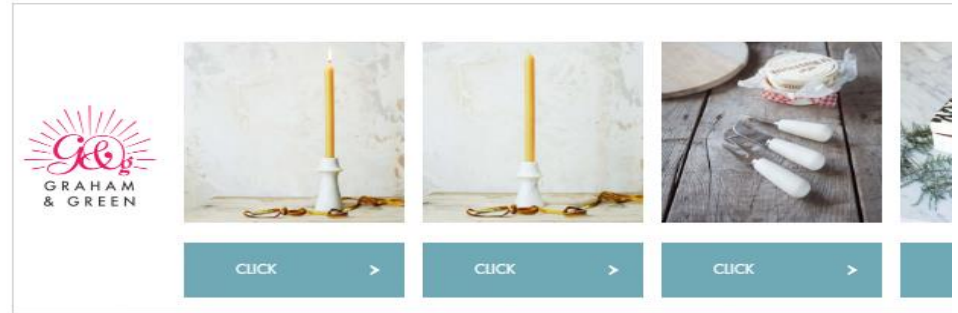
Help your son to build skills with a part-time job

- This doesn't need to be customer-facing, for example stacking shelves in a supermarket or warehouse.
- Paper rounds
- Working in a kitchen in a pub or café.
- Helping friends/contacts who have their own businesses with social media marketing, data input or research.
- Dog walking, cat sitting and gardening.
- Ask at career fairs if they can help/advise

MailOnline



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Death of the Saturday job: Teenagers are focusing more on school work as the numbers of 16 and 17-year-olds in weekend part-time employment halves in 20 years from 48% to 25%

- Young people today have less experience of the workplace than before
- Reluctance to earn while at school or university is behind the fall in youth jobs
- Employment rates of 16 and 17-year-olds have fallen 23 per cent in 20 years



Use your Unifrog account!



Careers library ✕ Careers favoured Go to tool >	Subjects library ✕ Subjects favoured Go to tool >	Apprenticeships Make your first shortlist Start >	CV / Resumé ✓ Tweak your CV for each role you apply for Start >
MOOC Make your first shortlist Start >	UK universities Make your first shortlist Start >	UK Personal Statement ✕ Subject added ✕ Started ✕ Character count ✕ Marked as finished Go to tool >	Interactions ✕ Missing 17 Interaction types Go to tool >

Help your son to develop a CV using the 'CV Creator' tool on Unifrog with helpful hints and tips.

