



## National news

### Updated statutory guidance for careers and access



The Department for Education recently issued an updated statutory guidance. It lists changes to the Gatsby Benchmarks and what is expected for schools, ITPs and colleges to meet the Benchmarks. This includes the need for:

- the Senior Leadership Team and governors to have more of an interest in careers;
- pupils to have 1-2-1s with an impartial, qualified Careers Adviser;

- individualised support for all (in particular for SEND and disadvantaged pupils);
- introducing at least a week of work experience 'activities' in Years 7 – 9; and
- introducing at least one work experience placement in Years 10 - 11.

[Read more](#)

### Teacher recruitment in England drops sharply



Teacher Tapp and School Dash, Teacher Recruitment and Retention in 2025 have produced a report on the teacher labour market. It found that:

- Secondary teacher recruitment is significantly lower than in recent years.
- Falling pupil numbers are reducing demand for primary teachers, particularly in London and the North East.
- 4 in 10 headteachers expect to hire fewer teachers next September. Only 1 in 10 plan to hire more.
- 6 in 10 teachers now expect to stay in the profession for at least three more years.

[Read more](#)

## Careers guidance, whose job is it anyway?



There are nearly 1 million young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), which is 13% of all 16-24 year olds. FE News looks at what it means for them and whose responsibility it is.

A recent report by Ofsted has challenged schools and colleges to 'significantly' improve the quality of careers advice, especially for those students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It also reports the lack of engagement between education and employers and how addressing it could help young people make better decisions about their futures.

[Read more](#)

## T Level update - confirmation of additional support for T Levels



The Department for Education has announced the following T Level update:

- a one-year, 5% uplift for all T Level funding bands for 2025/26;
- a new targeted Employer Support Fund for financial year 2025/26 for employers offering placements for health T-level students and for SMEs offering them to students studying all other T level subjects; and
- extension of the department's T Level provider and employer support packages for a further year.

[Read more](#)

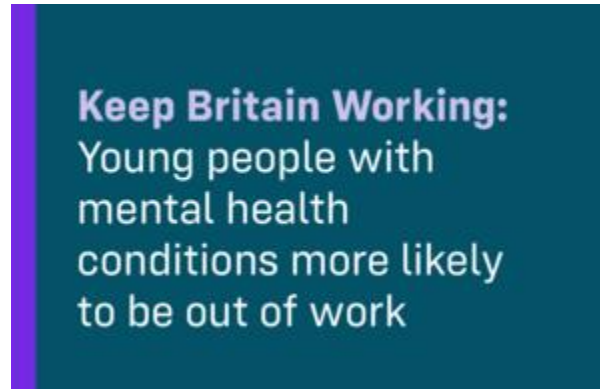
### **New STEM careers guide from Engineering UK**



Careers leaders across the UK can now benefit from a new STEM careers guide which can help inspire and inform young people about a career in engineering and technology. The guide has ideas on creating an engaging and impactful STEM careers programme and developing careers encounters with STEM employers. It can be downloaded free from Engineering UK.

[Read more](#)

### **New report reveals young people nearly fives time more likely to be put out of work**



The new Keep Britain Working report has found the following:

- There are 8.7 million people in the UK with a work-limiting health condition, up by 2.5 million (41%) over the last decade.
- This figure includes 1.2 million 16 to 34-year-olds.
- These young people (16 to 34-year-olds) with mental health conditions are 4.7 times more likely to be economically inactive.
- The Government is to consider independent recommendations on partnering with employers to keep young people in work.

[Read more](#)

### Young people are less work-ready, say employers



The Institute of Student Employers (ISE) has published its annual student development survey. It has found that many of the employers questioned are worried that school and college leavers who use AI in the selection process are 'overselling themselves'.

There are also growing concerns over essential communication, interpersonal skills, resilience and self-awareness.

Stephen Isherwood, joint chief executive of ISE, said: "It's important that students are genuine about their capabilities, but we need to do more to boost confidence in their abilities.

Undoubtedly, work experience makes better hires. It is the single most valuable step a student can take to improve their employability."

[Read more](#)

### Minimum age to be a train driver to be lowered



The Department for Transport (DfT) has announced that the legal minimum age to become a train driver is to be lowered from 20 to 18 once training is complete.

The move will make 'thousands' of jobs and apprenticeships available as early as December.



DfT said the average age of a train driver is 48 and rising, with 30% due to reach retirement age by 2029. Less than 9% of drivers are female and less than 12% ethnic minorities.

[Read more](#)

### What we know about the Universal theme park set to open in UK



Universal's theme park in the UK is to be built in Bedfordshire and set to open in 2031.

The theme park is set to be one of the largest and most advanced theme parks in Europe, with 8.5 million visitors expected in its first year.

The government is hoping that it will generate tens of billions for the economy and tens of thousands of jobs over the coming years.

[Read more](#)



## London news

### Why is home education on the rise in the capital?



Department for Education data shows that the number of children being home educated in London has gone up from 9,540 in 2022-2023 to 11,780 in 2024-2025. The biggest rise was in:

1. Tower Hamlets, with a 63% rise, from 240 children to 390;
2. Bexley, with a 58% rise, from 260 to 410; and
3. Barking and Dagenham, with a 57% rise, from 350 to 550.

[Read more](#)

### These are the jobs that Londoners really want including train driver and therapist



Research by HR consultancy Pace HR has found the top 10 aspiring London jobs are:

- Train Driver - 5,470
- Pilot - 5,040
- Driving Instructor - 4,740
- Lawyer - 4,220

- Social Worker - 3,560
- Therapist - 3,310
- Doctor - 2,720
- Personal Trainer - 2,410
- Flight Attendant - 2,340
- Model - 2,230

[Read more](#)

### **Londoners encouraged to pursue a career in Nursing**

International Nurses' Day was held on 12 May. The NHS in London marked the day to encourage potential nurses to apply for a career in the NHS and strengthen the future NHS workforce in the capital.

According to UCAS, there are almost 75,000 nurses across the capital and nursing applications in London increased by over 5% between 2019 and the current year.

[Read more](#)

### **Rollout begins on new Employment Support programme with £40 million boost to West London**



West London is the first area to be granted funding as part of DWP's 'Connect to Work' employment programme. It will ultimately support 100,000 people per year.

Over the next five years, a partnership of local authorities in West London will receive a total of £42.8 million to offer targeted help to up to 3,500 people per year. It will:

- match people with job opportunities that suit their needs and circumstances;
- offer essential skills training to help people get into and on at work; and



work with employers to recruit and retain disabled workers.

[Read more](#)

### Skills bootcamps in London receive a £27 million boost



Sir Sadiq Khan has welcomed a £27 million boost to skills bootcamps in London. It will focus on 11 'priority sectors' listed in the recently launched 'London Growth Plan.' These include:

- green
- digital and creative
- healthcare
- construction
- hospitality

Skills bootcamps are flexible training courses lasting up to 16 weeks, which are open to those aged 19 or more. They also guarantee an interview with an employer.

[Read more](#)



## North East

### North East STEM Foundation pilots 'pupil passport'



Nine schools across the Tees Valley, involving over 650 pupils, are taking part in the Pupil Passport programme. The programme aims to engage with students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It will also encourage greater curiosity and help students understand how STEM subjects are used in the workplace. If successful, the initiative will be expanded throughout the North East in the 2025/26 academic year, with plans to involve more employers, STEM Ambassadors, and funding partners to support site visits and workshops.

[Read more](#)

### North East pupils reach for the stars



A North East education partnership gave young people an out-of-this-world introduction to aerospace careers through an inspiring space-themed event in Newcastle.

More than 160 pupils from regional schools took part in the event at Newcastle University's Stephenson Building. It was delivered in collaboration with the North East STEM Foundation (NESF) and Airbus Defence and Space.

The day involved hands-on activities, satellite-building sessions and talks from industry leaders.

[Read more](#)

### **AESC's second battery plant to recruit 1,000 new staff**



AESC is to start recruiting 1,000 new staff at its new battery plant in Sunderland. The plant will supply batteries for Nissan's new electric vehicles and will power up to 100,000 vehicles a year in a major expansion for the region. This will be the second AESC plant in Sunderland close to the Nissan factory, and will be the UK's largest gigafactory.

[Read more](#)

### **North East housebuilder and youth charity join forces to boost career options**

Newcastle-based housebuilder, Bellway Homes, has partnered with youth mobility organisation Regeneration Brainery to show young people the careers and opportunities available in property.

Bellway will host a workshop at its head office and showcase the different routes as part of its apprenticeship and graduate programmes.

[Read more](#)

## CyberFirst North East launch summer programme for Year 12 students



CyberFirst Horizons has launched a four-week summer programme in Newcastle for Year 12 students. It offers:

- real world experience of cyber security;
- valuable mentoring;
- opportunities to meet employers in cyber security; and
- opportunities to develop employability skills.

Apply before 31 May.

Cyber First North East works with a number of companies, schools and colleges and ambassadors to nurture talent and provide opportunities for the next generation of cyber security professionals.

[Read more](#)



## South

### Dorset: Initiative to help young people explore careers



Work Explore, a new project in Dorset, will help those in Years 7 to 9 explore the world of work and meet employers.

The project is delivered by Dorset Chamber and funded by Dorset Careers Hub, The Careers & Enterprise Company and Dorset Council.

20 Dorset schools will be involved. Students will be able to find out more about different careers and experience taster days, virtual visits and site tours.

[Read more](#)

### Persimmon Foundation donation to help Cornwall education



The Persimmon Foundation has donated £15,000 to the South-West Social Mobility Commission (SWSMC) to help improve education and job opportunities across the South West.

The SWSMC work to improve life chances for children and young people from under-resourced backgrounds in the region.

[Read more](#)



## Recruitment in the South of England declined in April



According to the latest UK Report on Jobs: South of England survey, demand for staff declined at the fastest rate since January. The report highlighted the pressure businesses continue to face from higher employment costs and economic uncertainty. Demand for permanent staff declined at the fastest rate since June 2020, whilst the survey showed a modest increase in salaries.

[Read more](#)

## Mobile cafe for youth offenders opens its doors



In an attempt to prevent reoffending, Swindon charity SMASH Youth Project has opened Solid Ground, a mobile cafe where young offenders can become baristas.

The young people involved have been selected for 'restorative interventions', which is an alternative to being formally sentenced.

The cafe is located at Swindon Borough Council's Civic Campus and is open to the public every Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until 3pm.

[Read more](#)

## New digital tool to help young people with career development



Devon County Council has developed Vocational Profiling, a digital tool for schools, colleges and pupils to help with career development.

The tool, supported by the Careers Hub and Gatsby Benchmarks, can help young people identify their interests, achievements and the type of job they would like to do.

The council were concerned about the inconsistency in career advice across schools and colleges. This tool can support careers, including advice given to SEND pupils in the region.

[Read more](#)



## South Yorkshire

### Charity puts youngsters at heart of new hub



Youth charity Onside is expected to open Base71, a new youth hub, in Barnsley in January 2026. Up to 4,000 young people every year could use the building on Schwabisch Gmund Way.

Base71 will have 'state-of-the-art facilities', such as an indoor climbing wall, a rooftop football pitch, a recording studio for music and podcasting, and arts and crafts workshops.

Emily Magdij, from the charity, said: "We want young people to know that they're worth it."

[Read more](#)

### **Skills strategy set to launch in Sheffield to help job seekers and employers**



An employment and skills strategy for Sheffield will be launched this summer. The priorities are:

- supporting employers to grow and thrive through effective skills and employment support;
- developing effective and accessible skills pathways to good quality employment;
- providing tailored and hyper-local support to address labour market disparities; and
- working with key city institutions, employers and investors to maximise social value.

Counsellor Denise Fox said she had attended a recent apprenticeship fair. She was really impressed at how employers and course providers were engaging with school students and young people, offering to get in touch to let them know what is on offer.

[Read more](#)

### **Drone company showcases work with businesses and schools**

The MP for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough recently visited Iprosurv, a pioneering drone technology provider based in Rotherham, to see how they are advancing drone solutions and inspiring the next generation. Iprosurv work with local schools through their Drones in Education Programme which teaches the teachers to deliver the practical expertise needed to inspire and guide students. This initiative not only introduces students to modern drone technology but also

opens up career pathways in a wide range of sectors including engineering, media, agriculture, surveying, public safety, and digital infrastructure.

[Read more](#)

### **Government backs mayor to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport**



The Government is supporting the South Yorkshire Mayor's decision to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport. The move is forecast to see 5,000 new jobs and boost the economy by £5 billion by 2050.

A working group has been set up to focus on the planning and use of the £30 million devolved funding.

[Read more](#)

### **Sheffield Forgemasters recruits the workforce of the future**



Sheffield Forgemasters is recruiting 27 new apprentices in 2025 as it establishes one of the most advanced manufacturing facilities and invests over £900 million. The Ministry of Defence-owned business will need a continual stream of new talent over the coming years. They are building a dedicated training area to help trainees learn the latest technologies.

In the past 10 years, the company has trained an impressive 143 apprentices in roles including machining, IT, marketing, finance, testing, HR and project management.

[Read more](#)



## Useful websites and resources



[\*\*Skills for Places\*\*](#) - A toolkit showcasing London's built environment industry and the career pathways.

[\*\*First Careers\*\*](#) - Careers site that prepares young people for the world of work. Search through over 150 jobs profiles and discover career opportunities.

[\*\*Countryside Jobs Service\*\*](#) - Jobs, volunteering and information about working in the countryside.

[\*\*Careers in Racing\*\*](#) - Website for those who want to work with horses, search for training, apprenticeships or job roles.

[\*\*My Journey, My future\*\*](#) - This programme is focused on the different stages of transition experienced by young people on the journey from education to the world of work.

[\*\*Choices Magazine \(Amazing Apprenticeships\)\*\*](#) - May Parent and Carers Guide to apprenticeships and technical education.



[Get My First Job virtual work experience with John Lewis](#) - Explore different roles within the retailer, gain valuable skills and earn a JLP WEX badge

## Dates for your diary



### National

- [IGD free online employability workshops for Years 8-13](#). Various dates available, including a SEND school session on 5th June
- [The Big Bang Fair](#) - 17th to 19th June, NEC, Birmingham
- [National Career Leaders Conference](#) - 18th June, Royal National Hotel, London
- [Pilot Careers Live North](#) - 12th July, Concorde Conference Centre, Manchester
- [Youth Employment Week](#) - 7th to 11th July

### London

- [Education Summit](#) - 15th October, Business Design Centre, London
- [London Job Show](#) - 17th and 18th October, Westfield Shepherds Bush
- [Pilot Careers Live London](#) - 1st November, The Sofitel, T5
- [London Careers Fair](#) - 7th November, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

## North East

- [Newcastle Jobs Fair](#) - 20th June, St James' Park
- [Durham Careers Fair](#) - 27th August, Durham County Cricket Ground
- [Newcastle Careers Fair](#) - 5th September, St James' Park

## South

- [Exeter Careers Fair](#) - 1st August, Mercure Exeter Rougemont Hotel
- [Brighton Careers Fair](#) - 20th August, Leonardo Royal Hotel
- [Guildford Careers Fair](#) - 5 September, G Live

## South Yorkshire

- [Discover Psychology and Psychological Professions webinar](#) - 12th June
- [Sheffield Careers Fair](#) - 18th September, Sheffield Town Hall
- [Rotherham Careers Fair](#) - 8th October, Aesseeal New York Stadium

## Feedback



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