

Parent and carer Careers Presentation

6th February 2026



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Welcome

What we are going to cover:

going to cover:

- Introduction to education and careers options
- How you can help your child make decisions that are right for them
- The support we offer to help you and your child make decisions
- Where you can find further information and support
- Questions/Thoughts/Feedback



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Careers and education options

An overview



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Post 16 options

What's next?

- Young people in England are required by law to stay in education or training until age 18.
- There are a range of options available from apprenticeships to A-levels and T-level qualifications.
- There is a lot to consider when making this decision - here is an overview of the options and things to think about.



Post 18 options – what should students be thinking about?

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Your next step will help shape your options at age 18 and beyond.</p>  | <p>There are lots of options to choose from so think about these key questions to get you started...</p>  | <p>Where do I want to go? (parents)</p> <p>What's important to me?</p> <p>What is on offer locally? (teacher)</p> <p>Where can I find out more about my options?</p> <p>Who can help me find out more?</p>  | | | |
| <p>What does life at 18 look like?</p>  | <p>Working full-time</p>  | <p>Studying full-time</p>  | <p>Combination of work and study</p>  | | |
| <p>some options age 16 to start exploring.</p>  | <p>A T-LEVEL is a two-year course, which has been designed with employers to provide you with the right knowledge and skills to get started in a particular career.</p>  | <p>Examples of T-levels include digital design development and production or design, surveying and planning for construction.</p>  | <p>APPRENTICESHIPS combine practical training in a paid job with study so you can earn while you learn.</p>  | <p>A-LEVELS are a two-year course, usually you pick three subjects to study, which are equivalent to one T-level.</p>  | <p>Other options to consider include BTECs, traineeships and more.</p>  |

Post-16 options: What is the local offer?

Local Education & Training Pathways

- Further Education

Hertford Regional College (HRC)

Primary Local Provider: Specializes in creative and service-based subjects, including Art & Design, Media, Music, Hair & Beauty, and Catering.

T-Levels: Technical qualifications equivalent to three A-Levels in fields like Design, Surveying, and Construction Planning.

Vocational Studies: Focused study programmes in Business, Computing, Science, and Health & Social Care.

- Sixth Form Schools

Academic Focus: Schools in the Ware and Hertford area offer pathways primarily centered on A-Levels and Level 3 BTECs.

- Apprenticeships & Work-Based Learning

Earn While You Learn: Access to various local and regional frameworks for practical, paid training.

Training Provider (HRC): Offers apprenticeships in high-demand trades such as Construction, Electrical Engineering, and Accountancy.

Discovery Hub: Use the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP) as the central resource for finding local apprenticeship vacancies across the county.

[Hertfordshire Labour Market Overview](#)



Careers decision making

How can you help?



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How can you help?

Research consistently shows that parents are the single biggest influence on a student's career decisions—even more than teachers or careers advisers.

To support your student effectively, you don't need to have all the answers; you just need to be an active partner in their discovery process.

□ Be the "Career Partner"

Encourage Discovery: Focus on your student's natural strengths and interests rather than specific job titles.

Keep it Casual: Replace "The Big Talk" with small, regular mentions of jobs you see in daily life or media.

□ Understand the Pathways

Academic: A-Levels for broad university options.

Technical: T-Levels and BTECs for industry-focused classroom learning.

Apprenticeships: "Earn while you learn" routes that avoid tuition debt.



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Supporting decision-making

How can you help?

□ Use Reality Checks (LMI)

Labour Market Info: Help them research if their chosen industry is growing and what the realistic entry-level pay looks like Uniforg and HOP.

The HOP Portal: Use the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal to find local vacancy trends.

□ Support the "Transition Points"

Year 9: Guidance through GCSE Options.

Year 11: Helping with Post-16 applications and interviews.

Year 12/13: Navigating UCAS or Higher/Degree Apprenticeship deadlines.

Key Takeaway: You don't need to be an expert on the jobs of the future—you just need to be an expert on your child.



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Careers decision making

How can we help?



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The support we offer

Our careers programme

What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a universal platform that brings all career and university options into one place. It helps students from Year 7 through Year 13 identify their interests and map out their journey to a future career.

How Parents Can Support

Explore the Tools: Log in to see the same "Pathways" your child sees—from UK Universities and Apprenticeships to European and US options.

Identify Strengths: Encourage your student to complete the Interests and Personality quizzes to help them discover careers that match their character.

Track Progress: Use the Locker to view your child's saved shortlists, drafted CVs, and recorded interactions with employers.

Labour Market Data: Use the Careers Library to see live data on salary, working hours, and whether a specific career field is growing.

[Careers Plan 2025-2026](#)

[Presdales Careers Webpage](#)



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The support we offer

Our Expert Team

- ✓ Careers Lead: 6 years of experience, supported by Dom Gray (Careers Administrator).
- ✓ Specialist Support: Sarah Gardiner (RCDP, Level 6) provides 1-1 meetings for all Year 11s, lunchtime drop-ins, and the Sixth Form Apprenticeship Academy.
- ✓ Careers and Enterprise Coordinator and Advisor (Hanbury Manor) funded by the DfE.
- ✓ Governance: Overseen by Link Trustees Alison Hobson and Emma Cannon.

The Student Journey

- ✓ Consistent Delivery: Bi-weekly careers sessions during form time and careers-focused curriculum in every subject.
- ✓ Hands-on Experience: Extensive work experience placements in Years 8, 10, and 12.

Quality & Excellence

- ✓ Proudly achieved 100% in the Gatsby Benchmarks.
- ✓ Accredited with the Quality in Careers Standard.



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The support we offer

How we develop our programme

Capturing student and parent feedback about careers, when parents can feed in their thoughts and how this informs planning

- Parent surveys
- Email communication
- PressTales newsletter
- Coffee mornings
- Head weekly updates
- Student voice – Future Skills Questionnaires, Using Unifrog
- [Presdales Parent/Carer Work database](#)
- LinkedIn



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Careers
decision-making
finding further
information

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY



Exploring the options further



Using Talking Futures

- Talking Futures has a range of resources to help you do further research and develop your careers conversations
- Activities to try at home include:
 - Creating a family action plan to map out what you will do to explore the different options.
 - Supporting your child to complete a pathway planner to help them to consider all the decisions they need to make and who they need support from.
 - A conversation starter activity to prompt your discussions with your child.
- Resources and information including the films you have seen in this session plus more information on the routes available and external sites that can provide more detail.

www.talkingfutures.org.uk/parents/



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Exploring the options further



Sites to try for more information

- **Unifrog:** unifrog.org
- **HOP: Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal** hopinto.org
- **UCAS: Parent & Guardian Guide**
ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians
- **Amazing Apprenticeships** amazingapprenticeships.com/parents



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Thank you
Questions?
Thoughts?

