



## Careers update March 2026

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Dear Parents

I am taking this opportunity to contact you to further explain our careers provision within Year 12 at STRS. Careers guidance is a central part of the Careers Education over the course of KS5. The idea is to help students align strengths, interests and skills with education and employment opportunities. The employment landscape is becoming increasingly more complex for young people, and we aim to empower students to make appropriate and aspirational choices that will set them up for happy, successful careers that facilitate lifelong learning.

### **Careers Provision Within School:**

Within school, I am a qualified Careers Advisor who can meet with students to help and support with this guidance at their request. I am also responsible for managing and administering the work experience programme, Careers curriculum design, and additional events that we hold in school. Mrs Morris is a key member of the team who heads up our Higher Education programme and supports students with early-entry applications, which include entries to Oxford and Cambridge University, along with applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary courses. A new addition to our team is Adam Cotgrave, a qualified and experienced Career's Advisor who will be providing additional support to the team.

### **Unifrog Platform:**

Over the remainder of Year 12, students will be invited to a careers interview to discuss their plans for after completing STRS and the applications they will need to make between now and then. In addition, we will be considering longer-term careers beyond further education and initial apprenticeship applications. The notes from these meetings will be logged on Unifrog, a careers platform to which your son or daughter has access online. This platform has a significant wealth of information regarding different careers, labour market information, routes into different industries, live opportunities for apprenticeships, university information - which includes both UK and overseas institutions, as well as a wide array of supercurricular courses and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) that students can access if they are interested in strengthening their applications. I would strongly encourage all students to explore this platform over the next few months in preparation for applications that will take place from September onwards.

### **Work Experience:**

In addition to the guidance opportunities in school, we have launched our work experience programme with Year 12. This is an opportunity for students to explore industries they may be interested in, gain some employability skills and experiences to discuss on applications and at interviews. The allocated week for this is the week commencing 31 August 2026. This is a 4-day week as the Monday is a bank holiday. However, we do have some flexibility with this since students are now over 16. Should your son or daughter be successful in finding a placement at an alternative time, please encourage them to contact me to discuss their needs. I am aware that Gold Duke of Edinburgh is also planned to be during this week, so those students affected will need to use an alternative week. This placement should be logged using Unifrog, which starts the process of sending risk assessment paperwork to the company. Following this, it then asks for parental consent and, finally, returns the forms to school. The deadline for completing the placement details on Unifrog is 31 May 2026. Through Enrichment lessons, tutor time and assemblies, further details have been given to students regarding help in how to arrange a placement. Any student struggling to find a placement should see Mrs Manning as soon as possible.

### **Careers and Higher Education Fair:**

The main highlight of this term was the Careers and Higher Education Fair, which took place on 26 January. Students were able to explore a wide variety of opportunities and options available to them upon completion of their A levels. On the day, there were over 50 different companies, including representatives from firms such as Hazlewoods, Kohler Mira, GE Aerospace and the Civil Service. The breadth of companies represented a wide range of industries available to our students. These companies, in many cases, offer school-leaver job opportunities, Advanced, Higher and Degree apprenticeships as well as graduate opportunities. In addition, there were over 30 universities in attendance, including Russell Group universities such as the University of Bristol and the University of Exeter, as well as other prestigious universities such as the University of Liverpool. Year 12 students demonstrated exemplary behaviour, showing real interest in the exhibitors and their offerings and asking extremely intelligent and insightful questions. I would like to commend them for their maturity and their attitude to the day, which allowed them to make the most out of the opportunity.

### **Careers in Enrichment:**

Enrichment over the next term and a half will focus on alternatives to universities, including degree apprenticeships, and creating and updating CVs, as well as looking at university applications and the personal statement needed in

preparation for that.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards

Jenny Manning

Head of Careers

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