

Careers Newsletter July 2026 – Supporting Every Student's Future

It has been a very busy and successful term for careers at The John of Gaunt School. We are proud of the growing opportunities we are creating for our students and remain fully committed to supporting every young person in achieving a future that suits their interests, strengths and ambitions.

Results Day Information – Important Guidance

As results day approaches, we want to ensure students and families feel fully supported and prepared for next steps.

- **A Level Results Day:** 13th August
- **GCSE Results Day:** 20th August

If students have applied to college:

Students should go **in person to their chosen college** to discuss options.

Please note that the Careers Team at JOG cannot contact colleges on behalf of students.

If students need alternative options:

Students who do not achieve the required grades for sixth form should:

1. Speak directly to the Sixth Form team about alternative courses
2. Contact other sixth forms (Melksham, Devizes, St Augustine's, Clarendon, etc.)
3. Visit **Trowbridge Wiltshire College early** to explore available courses
4. If multiple applications were made, it is polite (though not essential) to withdraw unused applications

Support Available

- The **JOG Careers Team** will be available via email and phone from **8:00am**
- Email: careers@jog.equamead.org

We will offer guidance where needed, but students must speak directly to colleges for admissions decisions.

Students entering **Clearing** will be supported by the Sixth Form team and referred to careers as necessary.

We are confident that Year 11 and Year 13 students are well prepared for their next steps; however, we understand that results can influence choices. We are here to help students make informed decisions when it matters most.

Year 11 – Preparing for the Next Step

Year 11 is a crucial year, and our focus is on reducing stress by supporting students early.

- We will be supporting students with **college applications**, which open after the first open day on 30th September
- Group support sessions will be available in the library
- Students are encouraged to choose courses that match their **realistic grades**, not just predicted grades

Our priority is to ensure every student has a clear and achievable pathway.

Year 10 going into Year 11 – Planning Ahead

We are currently working with Year 10 students to plan their post-16 destinations.

- Students are being encouraged to have both a **Plan A and Plan B**
- Increasing interest in **apprenticeships**, which sometimes require a college course first
- Students are developing a clearer understanding of how long different pathways take

Our aim is to ensure students are well informed so they can confidently work towards their chosen career path.

Year 9 going into Year 10 – Work Experience

Year 9 students are preparing for their future work experience in Year 10.

- Students are encouraged to use the **summer to begin searching for placements**
- Practical advice includes:
 - Speaking to family and contacts
 - Contacting employers directly
 - Practising conversations with an adult to build confidence
- **Employability Day – 21st July**, including:
 - University visits (e.g. Bath University)
 - Virtual work experience opportunities

Year 8 going into Year 9 – Building Confidence and Opportunities

We are also introducing:

- A programme of **5 support sessions** to help students who may find work experience in both KS3 and Year 10 placements more challenging. These will focus on how to find a placement to meet their needs, for some, a visit to a prospective placement to overcome anxiety.

From next year:

- Students will take part in **'Take Your Child to Work Day'**
 - Opportunities to meet employers in school as part of the KS3 work experience programme
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Year 8 & Year 7 – Early Career Awareness

We are expanding our careers provision into Key Stage 3:

- Introduction of **work-related experiences and employer encounters**
- Continuing the successful pilot of **'Take Your Child to Work Day'**
- Preparing to meet new government expectations on early work experience

These early experiences are vital in helping students explore the world of work and begin thinking about their future.

Sixth Form – Preparing for Employment and Higher Education

Our Sixth Form students continue to develop their employability skills:

- **Year 12 Mock Interviews – 16th July**
A valuable opportunity to practise interview techniques and receive feedback
- Students are receiving **1:1 careers guidance**, helping them explore:
 - University
 - Apprenticeships (including degree apprenticeships)
 - Employment routes
- Students interested in **degree apprenticeships** can access extensive information via the Apprenticeships tab on Unifrog (available from Year 11 onwards)

Students entering Clearing will be fully supported by the Sixth Form team.

Work Experience – A Record Year

This year has been exceptional:

- **210 students secured placements** – a school record
 - This demonstrates the strength of our growing network, supported by parents and the local business community
 - The John of Gaunt School is now recognised as one of the most successful schools for work experience in Trowbridge
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Specialist Opportunities: Wiltshire Wildlife Programme

Students have taken part in an outstanding 10-week programme with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, including:



- Pond dipping
- Bug hunting
- Den building
- Campfire cooking
- Environmental learning, including ringing newborn owlets

This has supported development in:

- Resilience
- Sustainability
- Environmental awareness

Students are keen to continue with **volunteering opportunities** linked to this programme.

Inclusive Careers Provision

We are developing a new partnership with a charity supporting adults with autism:

- A tailored **work experience programme for students with autism**
- Ensuring all students have access to meaningful and supportive pathways

Looking Ahead – Expanding Opportunities

Plans for the coming year include:

- A **Creative Industries Event (November)** for Years 10–13
 - Panel discussions with industry professionals
 - Open to other schools
 - A step towards becoming the **leading careers hub in Trowbridge**

- Introduction of the **Future Skills Questionnaire**
 - Allows us to adapt the careers programme to students' needs
 - Ensures each student is at the centre of their career journey

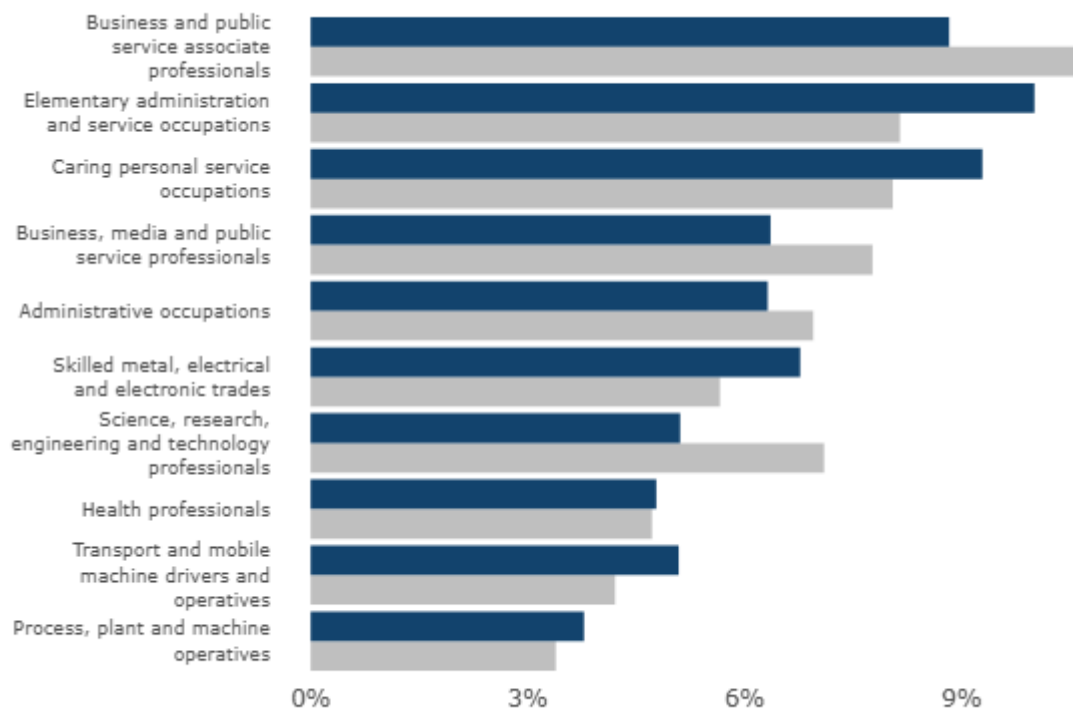
Labour Market Insights – Why Careers Education Matters

Through our work with the Careers Hub Wiltshire, we've learned:

- The number of young people entering work at 18 is equal to the number retiring
- This highlights a **skills gap** and increasing opportunities for young people

This means: ➡ Students who develop the right skills and experience will be in a strong position to succeed

Below is a bar chart to show the distribution of sectors within Swindon & Wiltshire



Resources for Parents and Students

We are keen to support families with high-quality, accessible information:

- **The Parents' Guide to University 2026** <https://www.unitasterdays.com/university-support-for-parents/parents-guide-to-university-brochure/>
Packed with impartial advice and completely free to access with no registration required—ideal to explore before the summer break.

- **Uni Guide Podcast – Degree Apprenticeships** <https://www.unitasterdays.com/listen-to-the-university-guide-podcast/>

Current degree apprentice Amaya answers key questions about:

- Applications
- Balancing work and study
- Employability skills
- **Explore university opportunities through**
👉 [Uni Taster Days](#)
- **Discover more affordable higher education options at**
👉 [Wiltshire College University-Level Courses](#)

Wiltshire College University Centre

Key facts:

- 40% of university students now choose to live at home
- Wiltshire College offers **affordable degree-level study options**

Still applying for September 2026?

Courses still available include:

- BA Film Production & Cinematography (Salisbury)
- Motorsport Engineering (Castle Combe)
- Engineering HTQ (Chippenham)

Contact: HEAdmissions@wiltshire.ac.uk

Supporting Families

The Careers Team is also available to support **parents and carers**, particularly during key transition periods.

✉ Contact: careers@jog.equamead.org

Our Commitment

This term has demonstrated just how much our careers programme is growing. From record-breaking work experience placements to new partnerships and tailored guidance, everything we do is focused on one goal:

Helping every student find a pathway that leads to a fulfilling and successful career.