



# Careers

Meaningful | Aspirational | Relevant



St Paul's  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

# Newsletter

Lent 1  
2025



*As we move towards the midpoint of the academic year we have a lot to celebrate in the Careers department. We have delivered careers activities for all pupils from Careers Fairs to In Person Workouts alongside the arrangements for work experience, introducing Unifrog across the school and much more.*



## In Person Workouts



In October over 30 different guests came into school to deliver In Person Career Workout sessions for all of Year 8. This was the first time since lockdown that we have been able to have guests coming into school. It was a great success, and we are very grateful to Worktree for organising and facilitating this amazing opportunity for our Year 8 pupils.

The feedback from the guests was very positive and they commented on how friendly and engaged the pupils were and that they were a credit to the school. Pupils commented that they "liked that everyone had different jobs and journeys" and that they "found out things they didn't know before".

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## Raising Aspirations

One of the aims of the Raising Aspirations programme is to introduce pupils to local Universities and again we took nearly 100 pupils to visit Northampton University. It offered them the opportunity to see what university life is like as well as valuable information about courses and student finance. Over the coming academic year we will be visiting Bucks New University and Oxford Brookes.

Feedback from staff and pupils was very positive :  
Pupils *"It was a really worthwhile experience, I got to find out about University and life as a student"* and *"I wasn't thinking of coming to University but now I definitely want to go."*

Mr Cresswell, Year Leader *"It is great we can offer this visit to our pupils at a university just up the road from MK where pupils can travel from home via car, bus or train."*

Mr Maw, Assistant Headteacher *"Holistic experiences are vital to develop pupils academically, I am so proud that pupils get the opportunity to visit Northampton University."*

Mrs Dalkin, Year 11 tutor *"The pupils got so much out of the visit, it was great to see them growing in confidence as the day went on."*

We have also had members of the Alumni network in to deliver talks to pupils about careers and opportunities.

## Work Experience



***"I have left smiling ear to ear, come straight back to the office, and told anyone who will listen to me what a wonderful morning I had with the students at St Paul's today. Everyone was incredibly polite, curious, and welcoming from start to finish".***

Feedback from one of the guests at our WEX day.



We are always looking for more placements to add to our database, so if you or someone you know would be interested in being involved in WEX, please contact us at  
**workexperience@st-pauls.org.uk**

This continues to be an enormous task, but we are very pleased to say the vast majority of Year 10 pupils found placements and had a very successful work experience.

Approximately, a third of the year managed to secure their own placements and we secured placements for the other 200 pupils.

Just before the end of term we organised a day to help pupils prepare for WEX and as part of the day we had guests in to share their experience of work with the pupils.

***Current Year 9 will go out on WEX in January 2026 and we would strongly recommend they start thinking about researching placements and try to secure a placement as soon as possible.***





## Labour market information (LMI)

LMI provides insights into the skills and qualifications that are in demand, helping students make informed decisions about their education. The video outlines local opportunities and pathways available to students as well as skills that employers value. Please take the time to watch the video as it gives a valuable insight into the local labour market.

**Labour Market October 2024 on Vimeo**



## Careers Fair



**Solistan came into school to talk about apprenticeships and opportunities at BMW**



**Adwoa came into talk about being a pharmacist in the NHS.**

***Just before the end of term, we held a Careers Fair.***

We had 30 different companies and universities attend and pupils were encouraged to visit different stands and find out as much as they could about apprenticeships, degree courses and job opportunities.

The majority of pupils felt it was a worthwhile event and that it introduced them to the different pathways available to them after Year 11.

The Fair was for Year 11 and Post 16 pupils and we invited parents to the session at the end of the school day. There were over 100 confirmed attendees for the event but unfortunately numbers were much smaller on the day. If you have time could you email us at [careers@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:careers@st-pauls.org.uk) with feedback about possible timing of events like a careers fair. Would you prefer straight after school or 6-8 in the evening?

We have now organised three fairs and for each one, the number and variety of guests who attended plus some of our Alumni network has grown. Attendees have included RAF, FCDO, Woburn Estates, NHS, BMW, Yusen Logistics plus several Universities and Colleges.



## Unifrog

This is a really useful platform to help students research career opportunities, find out about labour market information and do personality tests to see what jobs they might be interested in. All pupils have logins to Unifrog and we are encouraging pupils to use the platform in their own time to discover more about jobs, pathways and qualifications. We strongly recommend parents discussing with their children what they have discovered as the job market and opportunities are constantly changing and developing.



## Alumni Network

Following our very successful St Paul's Alumni day the Alumni network has grown and developed. We now have Alumni actively supporting pupils in a range of activities. We had Alumni at the In Person Workouts and several of them have come into school to deliver talks to pupils about their experience of work since leaving St Paul's, as well as attending our Careers Fair. If you are interested in becoming part of this network please contact us at [alumniandsupporters@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:alumniandsupporters@st-pauls.org.uk)

## Supporting Our Apprenticeship Cohort: A Year of Growth and Dedication

Over the past few months, our apprenticeship cohort has been on an exciting and enriching journey toward securing the right opportunities for their careers. Our sessions have covered a wide range of essential topics, from where and how to apply for apprenticeships to creating standout CVs and cover letters. We've also delved into the increasingly important role that LinkedIn plays in the recruitment process, psychometric testing, and how to track and follow up on applications effectively.

One of the highlights of our journey so far was the special session led by Jeffrey Manso, who shared invaluable insights on how students can leverage LinkedIn to their advantage. Jeffrey's expert advice has equipped our cohort with the tools to build strong professional profiles and make meaningful connections within their chosen industries.

In addition to these sessions, we organised an exciting visit to Unity Place and Santander, where our cohort learned about the range of degree apprenticeships on offer. These informative sessions were a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the wide variety of pathways available to them and ask questions directly to industry professionals.

The dedication and hard work of this year's cohort have been truly inspiring. They have shown an exceptional commitment to finding apprenticeships that align with their skills and aspirations. As we continue to meet after the Christmas break, we are excited to provide further support, helping them take the next steps toward success. We are incredibly proud of their progress so far and wish them the very best of luck in the next stages of their apprenticeship journey.

### Upcoming Events

- Post 16 Business Den activity to Accelerate
- Post 16 'Get that Apprenticeship' 12th February
  - Year 7 Unifrog sessions
  - Year 9 Employability day - 'Get that Job'
- Sector specific careers talks during National Careers week in March

### Contacting Us:

- If you would like to become involved in our careers programme, we would love to hear from you.
- To offer work experience placements: [workexperience@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:workexperience@st-pauls.org.uk)
  - To become part of the alumni and supporters network: [alumniandsupporters@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:alumniandsupporters@st-pauls.org.uk)
  - To be involved in any Careers activities or to find out more about what we organise: [nicola.parkins@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:nicola.parkins@st-pauls.org.uk) or [laura.palmiero@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:laura.palmiero@st-pauls.org.uk)