

Next Steps

ENABLING PARENTS AND CARERS TO SUPPORT THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH POST-16 PATHWAYS

Welcome to our first Next Steps newsletter!

Over the coming year, we're going to be providing a range of information and online sessions for parents and carers to help you support your young person to make the post-16 education or training choices that are right for them. Termly newsletters will explore the different pathways that are available to students post-16, including Higher Education, Apprenticeships and T Levels, and signpost you to useful information and resources. Four online sessions will then give you the opportunity to learn more about each pathway, hear from relevant organisations and ask any questions you might have. This is in addition to all the careers information, guidance, activities and events already being provided by your young person's school or college. Their Careers Leader is always on hand to answer questions or offer support. Read on to find out more!

Exploring Post 16 Options

By law, young people are required to continue in education, employment or training until the age of 18.

Between their [school leaving age](#) and 18, a young person in England must do one of the following:

- Stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- Start an [apprenticeship](#) or [traineeship](#)
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

We'll be exploring the different options in the online sessions. Use the links provided later in the newsletter to book a place. In the meantime, the [National Careers Service website](#) provides lots of helpful information about different post-16 options available for your young person, including [advice for young people with SEND](#).

APPRENTICESHIPS

Format: Working alongside experienced staff to learn whilst earning a wage and studying

Leads to: Higher education, another apprenticeship or a job

Might be for you if: You want to have a real job while you gain a qualification

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

T LEVELS

Format: A mix of learning in the classroom and on the job

Leads to: Higher education, an apprenticeship, or a job

Might be for you if: You'd like to know what a career is like while you continue your studies

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

A LEVELS

Format: Studying several subjects enjoyed at school, college or sixth form

Leads to: Higher education, an apprenticeship or a job

Might be for you if: You prefer learning in a classroom

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VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS (VTQs)

Format: Studying to gain skills and experience in a specific sector

Leads to: Further study (including higher education), an apprenticeship or getting a job

Might be for you if: You'd really like to work in a particular job or industry

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS (IF YOU HAVE AN EDUCATION HEALTH CARE PLAN)

Format: Spend time in the workplace while you follow a study plan designed especially for you

Leads to: A paid job

Might be for you if: If you'd like support and training to get a paid job

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Online Parent and Carer Information Sessions



In the coming year, we will be hosting four online sessions for parents and carers to find out more about the different post-16 education and training options available to young people.

Click the links opposite to register in advance for the sessions you want to attend. As part of the registration process, you'll be asked to provide the name and post code of the school/college attended by your young person. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinars.

Session 1: Post-16 Pathways

Tues 10th October, 6pm:

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Session 2: Higher Education Pathways

Thurs 16th November, 6pm: [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Session 3: Apprenticeship Pathways

Mon 5th February, 6pm: [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Session 4: T Level Pathways

Weds 17th April, 6pm: [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Careers Fairs

A series of forthcoming careers fairs, delivered and supported by the Pledge Partnership, will each play host to around 50 exhibitors from varying sectors, including digital, healthcare, finance and the services, as well as providing information about volunteering opportunities with various organisations. The fairs will be open to the public at designated times, and offer a great opportunity for parents and carers to attend with their young person to find out about careers within the local area.

Reserve your place by clicking the links below.

[Crewe & Nantwich 4.00-6.00pm 5th October](#)

[Warrington 3.00-6.30pm 11th October](#)

[Northwich and Winsford 3.30-6.00pm 12th October](#)

[Macclesfield 4.00-6.00pm 18th October](#)

[Chester 4.00-6.00pm 19th October](#)

[Ellesmere Port 4.00-6.00pm 2nd November](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON...

UCAS and Higher Education Pathways

Our second parent and carer online session, on 16 November 2023, will focus on pathways to Higher Education.

UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, is the key source for information, advice, and guidance relating to educational progression to university, college, or a degree apprenticeship. If your young person is thinking about going to university then, alongside the individual university websites, the [UCAS website](#) is a great place to start exploring.

It provides information about things like:

- [Applying to university](#)
- [What and where to study](#)
- [What happens after you apply](#)
- [Results day and the 'clearing' process](#)

There's guidance around [student finance](#) and [student life](#) as well as a whole range of [subject guides](#) and [Ultimate Guides](#) to help your young person decide whether university is the right choice for them, select a course and manage the process of applying.

The events page of the website lists details of [individual university open days](#), [UCAS Discovery](#)

[Day exhibitions](#) and [key dates](#). You can also [sign up](#) for the UCAS parent newsletter and there's a whole section of the website dedicated to providing advice for parent and carers.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

In addition to the UCAS website, [Uni Connect](#) offers activities, advice, and information on the benefits and realities of going to university. [Higher Horizons](#) works with schools and colleges in the Cheshire and Warrington region to deliver the Uni Connect programme.

We'll be focusing on [Apprenticeships](#), and [T Levels](#), later in the year but if you want to get ahead of the game, then dig into the [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) website and particularly their [Parent Resources](#). Amazing Apprenticeships is a leading organisation in the education sector, working with schools, colleges and employers, tackling misconceptions and promoting the benefits of apprenticeships and technical education.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Key Resources and Information

TALKING

FUTURES

Talking Futures is a parent's toolkit for career conversations, created by the Gatsby Foundation. It's a great site for helping you to understand how to have informed and constructive conversations with your young person about the different education and training pathways available to them.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)



Cheshire and Warrington Opportunities Portal

When the time arrives for your young person to start searching for jobs, apprenticeships or courses, the Cheshire and Warrington Opportunities portal is the place to go!

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)



Exceptional!

Cheshire and Warrington schools and colleges are achieving higher than national average standards in Careers Education. Oli de Botton, CEO of the CEC has praised the work of The Cheshire and Warrington Careers Hub and The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership, as 'exceptional'.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Cheshire & Warrington Your Futures

If you are the parent or carer of a young person with SEND, the Cheshire and Warrington Your Futures platform may be of interest. It was created to ensure SEND students and their parents or carers have access to good quality information about future study options, labour market opportunities and the Local Offer.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Dates for your diary

2023

- 2-6 Oct - National T Levels Week
- 5 Oct - Pledge Career Fair [Crewe & Nantwich](#)
- 10 Oct - Parent/Carer Online Session 1: [\(Post 16 Pathways\)](#)
- 11 Oct - Pledge Career Fair [Warrington](#)
- 12 Oct - Pledge Career Fair [Northwich and Winsford](#)
- 16 Oct - UCAS application deadline (2024 entry applications for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/ science, and dentistry)
- 18 Oct - Pledge Career Fair [Macclesfield](#)
- 19 Oct - Pledge Career Fair [Chester](#)
- 2 Nov - Pledge Career Fair [Ellesmere Port](#)
- 16 Nov - Parent/Carer Online Session 2: [Higher Education Pathways](#)

2024

- 31 Jan - UCAS application deadline (2024 entry applications for the majority of courses)
- 1 Feb - Cheshire East Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair
- 5 Feb - Parent/Carer Online Session 3: [Apprenticeship Pathways](#)
- 6 Feb - Cheshire West Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair
- 6-12 Feb - National Apprenticeship Week
- 7 Feb - Warrington Jobs & Apprenticeship Fair
- 1-2 Mar - What Career Live, [Birmingham NEC](#)
- 4-9 Mar - National Careers Week
- 5 & 6 Mar - UCAS Discovery Day, [Manchester](#)
- 17 Apr - Parent/Carer Online Session 4: [T Level Pathways](#)
- 13 Jun - UCAS Discovery Day, [Stoke on Trent](#)
- 14 Jun - UCAS Discovery Day, [Liverpool](#)

THE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON PLEDGE

The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership

These newsletters and online sessions are provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Careers Hub and funded by the Careers Enterprise Company. The Careers Hub is part of the Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership, a network of over 500 employers, all local state-funded secondary schools and colleges and multiple community groups. This partnership is supported by all three Local Authorities, The Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, Youth Federation and a number of local funders.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)