

Careers Newsletter: Welcome to Year 11

Your Child's Careers Adviser from C+K Careers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin this important Year 11 journey, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and explain how I can support your child throughout the year.

My name is **Liz Hirst**, and I am the **C+K Careers Adviser** based in Newsome Academy. My role is to provide impartial careers information, advice and guidance to help students make informed decisions about their next steps after Year 11.

Post-16 options

This is a significant year for students as they explore and apply for a range of post-16 opportunities, including:

Sixth Form College – e.g. Huddersfield New College, Greenhead College, New College, Leeds Sixth Form College etc.

Further Education Colleges – e.g. Kirklees College, Calderdale College, Wakefield College etc.

Specialist College – e.g. LLS (Sport), Leeds College of Building (Construction), CAPA (Performing Arts) etc.

Sixth Forms – e.g. Shelley College and Mirfield College.

Apprenticeships – available in various areas of work.

How I Support Students

Throughout the year, I will be working closely with students to help them understand the options available, identify pathways that match their interests and strengths, and develop the confidence they need to make well-informed choice.

Every Year 11 student will be offered at least one personal careers guidance meeting, providing an opportunity to discuss their aspirations, interests and future plans. They can access additional support by attending drop-in at break/lunch, texting, emailing or requesting follow up meetings.



Open Events

Autumn is the key season for exploring post-16 options. I strongly encourage students and families to attend open evenings and open days at local sixth forms, colleges and training providers.

These events provide an excellent opportunity to explore courses and facilities, meet teachers and current students, learn about entry requirements, compare different pathways and ask questions before making applications.

See dates at the bottom of this letter.

Understanding Post-16 Qualifications

There are now more pathways than ever available after Year 11. Students may choose qualifications that best suit their interests, learning style and future career goals.

These include:

A Levels

Academic qualifications often studied at sixth forms and sixth form colleges, providing progression to university, higher apprenticeships and employment.

T Levels

Technical qualifications developed with employers, combining classroom learning with a substantial industry placement.

Vocational Qualifications

Career-focused courses that develop practical skills and industry knowledge in specific sectors.

Apprenticeships

Paid employment combined with structured training, allowing students to gain qualifications while working.

It is important for students and parents to understand that an apprenticeship involves two key elements:

- ✅ **An employer** who provides the job and workplace training.
- ✅ **A training provider or college** that delivers the qualification and assesses progress.

An offer of a place with a training provider/college alone does **not** guarantee an apprenticeship.

As apprenticeship opportunities can be competitive, students are strongly encouraged to have a back-up plan, such as applying to a college or sixth form, while continuing to apply for apprenticeship vacancies. The most important part of securing an apprenticeship is finding an employer willing to recruit them as an apprentice. In most cases, young people are responsible for searching and applying for apprenticeship vacancies themselves, although support is available.

Students do not need to have their future career fully planned at this stage, but understanding the available options will help them make informed decisions.

General Entry Requirements	Qualification Level	Examples of Qualifications	Typical Duration
Minimum of four or five GCSEs at grades 9-4 (+ subject specific entry requirements)	Level 3	• A Levels • T Levels • Level 3 BTEC Extended Diplomas • Level 3 Cambridge Technicals • Advanced Apprenticeships	Usually 2 years
Mostly GCSE grades 9-3	Level 2	• T Levels • Vocational Courses (e.g BTEC) • Intermediate Apprenticeships • GCSE English and Maths Resits (if required)	Usually 1 year
GCSE grades 1-2	Level 1	• Level 1 Certificates • Level 1 Diplomas • Foundation Learning Programmes • Introductory Vocational Courses	Usually 1 year
Below GCSE Grade 1	Entry level	• Entry Level Certificates • Foundation Programmes • Skills for Life Courses • Preparation for Employment Programmes	Usually 1 year

Useful Resources

MyDirections

Students can gain valuable careers information, advice and guidance through the C+K MyDirections website. It helps them explore different career options, learn about jobs, apprenticeships, college and university pathways, and understand the skills and qualifications needed for future careers. Students can also complete career-focused activities, create and save a CV, access local opportunities and events, and receive personalised content based on their interests and aspirations, helping them make informed decisions about their future. The website address is <https://ck.mydirections.co.uk/> They can log-on using their school email address and the password they created (this can be changed if they have forgotten it).

Job Explorer Database



If your son or daughter is unsure about their future career or would like to explore different options, there is a wealth of information available on the Job Explorer Database (JED).

JED allows students to:

- Explore a wide range of career ideas
- Research jobs in different sectors
- Discover careers linked to their favourite school subjects
- Learn about qualifications, entry requirements and progression routes
- Find information about apprenticeships, colleges and training providers

Students who are uncertain about their next steps may find the '**Suits Me**' quiz particularly useful. This short questionnaire helps identify careers that match their interests, skills and preferences, generating ideas they may not have previously considered.

To access the database, click on the JED icon on the MyDirections website <https://ck.mydirections.co.uk/> and enter Newsome Academy in the drop down box.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting young people with career decisions. I encourage you to talk regularly with your child about their interests, strengths and ambitions and to attend any information events offered throughout the year.

If you have any questions about post-16 options or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming months, students will receive information about important application deadlines, open evenings, apprenticeship opportunities and local careers events. Please keep an eye on school communications to ensure that no opportunities are missed.

I look forward to working with you and your child during this exciting and important year and supporting them as they take their next steps towards a successful future.

Events for Your Calendar

Get Inspired Event and Open Events

The Get Inspired event is for young people in Year 11, and their parents and carers, to explore post-16 options and opportunities. There will be a range of exhibitors at the event including employers, training providers, sixth forms, colleges and universities. C+K careers advisers will also be available to chat to about next steps.

The details of individual college and sixth form open event are also displayed on the following pages.



GET INSPIRED

a careers event for Year 11 students and their parents/carers

Thursday 1 October 2026

4.30 - 7.30pm

at **The Accu Stadium**

Stadium Way | Huddersfield | HD1 6PG

Talk to:

- + employers
- + training providers
- + school sixth forms
- + colleges
- + universities
- + C+K careers advisers

**+ MY
DIRECTIONS
.CO.UK**

Scan to book
your place



For more event information,
email: events@ckcareers.org.uk

Follow CKCareers on



Kirklees Get Inspired Event sponsors:



Please note that the dates/times of open events are subject to change so please check college, sixth form and training provider websites before setting off from home.



Chat
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Open events and application closing dates Calderdale area schools and colleges 2026/27

Calderdale Get Inspired event
Wednesday 14 October 2026, 4.30 – 7.30pm at The Shay Stadium, Halifax
<https://ck.mydirections.co.uk/events>

School/college	Open event	Closing date for applications
Brighouse Sixth Form College	22 October 2026, 5.00 - 7.00pm	11 December 2026
The Brooksbank School	19 November 2026, 5.00 - 7.00pm	8 February 2027
Calderdale College	20 October 2026, 4.00 - 6.30pm 26 November 2026, 4.00 - 6.30pm 21 January 2027, 4.00 - 6.30pm 18 March 2027, 4.00 - 6.30pm	Applications are accepted throughout the year
The Cressley Heath School	14 November 2026, 10.00am - 12.30pm	18 December 2026
North Halifax Grammar School	5 November 2026 5.30 - 8.00pm - open to all 5.00 - 5.30pm - quiet SEND/ neurodivergent session	Date not released yet. Please check the website
Ryburn Valley High School	12 November 2026 Please check the website for times	1 February 2027
Trinity Sixth Form Academy	7 October 2026, 4.45 - 7.45pm 12 November 2026, 4.45 - 7.45pm	Date not released yet. Please check the Website.
LLS Multi-Sports and Rugby	Online open events	Apply online https://lisonline.uk/apply-today/

Dates and times can change, so please check before you go




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Open events and application closing dates Kirklees area schools and colleges 2026/27

Kirklees Get Inspired events
Thursday 1 October 2026, 4.30 - 7.30pm at The Accu Stadium
Thursday 8 October 2026, 4.30 - 7.30pm at Batley Town Hall
<https://ck.mydirections.co.uk/events>

School/college	Open event	Closing date for applications
Greenhead College	3 October 2026, 9.30am - 2.30pm 15 October 2026, 5.30 - 8.30pm	30 November 2026
Huddersfield New College	10 October 2026, 9.30am - 3.30pm 11 November 2026, 5.30 - 8.30pm	11 December 2026
Kirklees College	Huddersfield 17 October 2026, 10.30am - 1.00pm 28 November 2026, 10.30am - 1.00pm 6 February 2027, 10.30am - 1.00pm 29 June 2027, 5.00 - 7.00pm Dewsbury 17 October 2026, 10.30am - 1.00pm 28 November 2026, 10.30am - 1.00pm 6 February 2027, 10.30am - 1.00pm 30 June 2027, 5.00 - 7.00pm	30 April 2027

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Surrounding area open events 2026/27

School/college	Open events	Contact information
Askham Bryan College	17 October 2026, 10.00am - 1.00pm 28 November 2026, 10.00am - 1.00pm 30 January 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm 17 April 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm 12 June 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm	T: 01904 772277 www.askham-bryan.ac.uk
Bradford College	17 October 2026, 10.00am - 1.00pm 24 November 2026, 5.00 - 7.00pm 6 February 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm 22 June 2027, 5.00 - 7.00pm	T: 01274 089088 www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk
CAPA College, Wakefield	22 November 2026 10 January 2027 Please book a session on the website	T: 01924 583737 www.capa.college
Craven College - The Aviation Academy	7 October 2026, 5.30 - 7.30pm 8 October 2026, 5.30 - 7.30pm 14 October 2026, 5.30 - 7.30pm 25 November 2026, 5.30 - 7.30pm 26 November 2026, 5.30 - 7.30pm 20 January 2027, 5.30 - 7.00pm 17 March 2027, 5.30 - 7.00pm 16 June 2027, 5.30 - 7.00pm	T: 0113 391 0919 www.theaviationacademy.co.uk
Dixons Sixth Form Academy, Bradford	23 September 2026, 5.00 - 7.00pm 14 October 2026, 5.00 - 7.00pm	T: 01274 089770 www.dixons6fa.com
Keighley College	21 October 2026, 4.00 - 7.00pm 25 November 2026, 4.00 - 7.00pm 30 January 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm 28 April 2027, 5.00 - 7.00pm 23 June 2027, 5.00 - 7.00pm	T: 01535 685000 http://keighleycollege.ac.uk

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Surrounding area open events 2026/27

Leeds Arts University	Level 3 Extended Diploma: 30 September 2026, 6.00 - 8.30pm 21 November 2026, 9.00am - 2.00pm 27 January 2027, 6.00 - 8.30pm 17 March 2027, 6.00 - 8.30pm Book your visit on the website	T: 0113 202 8000 www.leeds-arts.ac.uk
Leeds City College (including Leeds Sixth Form College)	14 October 2026, 4.30 - 7.00pm 24 November 2026, 4.30 - 7.00pm 23 January 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm 16 March 2027, 4.30 - 6.30pm 17 June 2027, 4.30 - 6.30pm Quieter event - Park Lane 20 October 2026, 4.30 - 6.30pm	T: 0113 386 1997 http://leeds.citycollege.ac.uk T: 0113 532 4428 http://leeds.sixthform.ac.uk
Leeds College of Building	14 October 2026, 4.30 - 7.00pm 14 November 2026, 10.00am - 1.00pm 20 March 2027, 10.00am - 1.00pm	T: 0113 222 6000 www.lcb.ac.uk
Leeds Mathematics School	8 October 2026, 5.30 - 8.00pm 7 November 2026, 10.00am - 12.30pm	T: 0113 322 5948 http://leeds.ms.ac.uk
Leeds UTC	15 October 2026 10 December 2026 4 February 2027 Please check the website for times and to book your visit	T: 0113 353 0140 www.leetcode.ac.uk
New College Bradford	17 October 2026, 10.00am - 2.00pm 24 November 2026, 4.30 - 7.00pm	T: 01274 089189 http://ncbnewcollege.ac.uk
Shipley College	10 September 2026, 5.15 - 7.00pm 11 November 2026, 5.15 - 7.00pm 12 January 2027, 5.15 - 7.00pm 17 March 2027, 5.15 - 7.00pm 6 May 2027, 5.15 - 7.00pm 24 June 2027, 5.15 - 7.00pm	T: 01274 327222 www.shipley.ac.uk

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Contact Details

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Kind regards,

Liz Hirst

