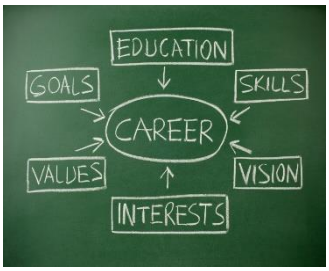
North Herts
Education Support Centre

Careers Newsletter

2026-2027



October 2026

"Students regain aspiration for their future through a very effective work experience and careers programme"*. - OFSTED July 2025*

Welcome to our Autumn Careers Newsletter. As part of our commitment to preparing students for successful futures, we provide a wide range of careers education, employer encounters, workplace experiences and guidance opportunities throughout the year. This newsletter highlights some of the exciting activities planned for 2026-27 and ways that families can support young people in making informed choices about their next steps

A Message from the Headteacher
At NHESC, we believe every student should leave us with the skills, confidence and aspirations needed for adult life. Our careers programme provides valuable opportunities to explore future pathways, develop employability skills and connect learning with the world of work. We are grateful to our employers, colleges and families for supporting this important work.

Keeping in Touch Days for Parents & Carers

Parents & Carers of our KS3 and KS4 students will be invited to attend a 'Keeping in Touch Day' this Autumn term. Students and parents will have an opportunity to discuss their progress with their subject teachers, speak to representatives from North Herts College, Oaklands College, Services for Young People, take part in a CV workshop and meet a local mentoring company GRIT (growing resilience in teens).

Work Experience placements

Work experience Wednesday is a **compulsory** part of our curriculum for all our **KS4** students. Failure to attend Work Experience results in an unauthorised absence, and parents are at risk of receiving an attendance fine from the local authority. Work experience enables students to discover their strengths, values, motivations, and interests; it helps them discover career ideas and try them out and meet new people building a network of contacts. During Autumn term our students are enjoying placements at a wide variety of local employers, including Wag n Woof Doggy Day Care, Chicken George, Preschools, Standalone Farm, Sports Coaching and Cafes.
If you are struggling to find your son / daughter a work experience placement with friends or family members, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Star who will help organise a placement.

Employability Skills Workshops

The autumn term sees the return of the Job Centre Plus team who will be delivering face-to-face workshops to all our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 3 students. The sessions will take place during the school day and are as follows:
– Introductions / Career options / Labour Market Information
– Jobs for the future / Soft Skills e.g. body language
– Digital footprints / social media / Challenging stereotypes
– Preparing a CV and Preparation for an Interview
– Mock Interviews with constructive feedback.
These sessions are invaluable and will make a big difference to student confidence during future college and job interviews.

Visits to College

We have forged strong links with our local colleges, particularly North Herts College. We have a programme of bespoke transition activities planned across the academic year which will involve our students visiting NHC on a regular basis. It is our aim for all Y11 students to visit a local college this academic year, with those particularly keen to move on to college visiting more than once.
You will be informed in due course when your son/daughter is attending these trips. In addition, local colleges are starting to hold general open days and evenings which we highly recommend you attend:

College Open Events 2026-2027 - Planning Your Next Steps After Year 11

The Autumn term is the perfect time to start exploring your post-16 options. Attending college open events is a great way to learn about courses, meet staff and students, and find the right pathway for your future.

North Herts College **Campuses:** Hitchin & Stevenage 01462 424242 www.nhc.ac.uk	**Open Events** 10-11 November 2026 3 March 2027 28 April 2027 9 June 2027 *Check the website for courses available at each campus*
Oaklands College **Campuses:** Welwyn Garden City & St Albans 01727 737000 www.oaklands.ac.uk	**Open Events** Welwyn Garden City Campus: Saturday 10 October 2026 St Albans Campus: Saturday 17 October 2026 *Check the website for campus-specific courses.*
Cambridge Regional College **Campuses:** Cambridge & Huntingdon 01223 418200 www.camre.ac.uk	**Open Events** **Huntingdon Campus** Thursday 15 Oct 2026 / Saturday 7 Nov 2026 **Cambridge Campus** Wednesday 21 Oct 2026 / Saturday 14 Nov 2026 *Additional events may be available throughout the year.*
Shuttleworth College **Near Biggleswade** 0345 658 8990 www.bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk	**Open Events** • Dates to be confirmed (usually October) **Specialist Courses** Agriculture • Animal Sciences • Equine Care • Horticulture • Outdoor Education
National College for Motor Sport **Silverstone** www.nationalcollegeformotorsport.co.uk	**Virtual Open Day** • Thursday 17 September 2026 • 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Visit to the University of Hertfordshire

Every year a representative from the University of Hertfordshire visits Bancroft and delivers an informative assembly to our KS4 students that includes information about the different types of degrees the university offers, student finance and accommodation. The assembly is followed by a visit for a tour of the campus, and student digs for a select group of students. Several of our Y11 students are already familiar with the University, having already visited last year. We look forward to taking a group again in November.

Apprenticeships

Students that opt to choose an apprenticeship after leaving school will be employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification - usually for one day a week either at a college or training Centre. By the end of the apprenticeship, students will have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in their chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level. We are in the process of organising a workshop for our KS4 students so that they can find out information on what apprenticeships are available and how to apply for them. One Apprenticeship suited to our students is Tesco's 'Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship' which could lead to a full-time job, earning £23,662.08 (pro rata), as well as a Level 2 National Standard in Retail qualification. Students can even become a Shift Leader at the end of their 12-month apprenticeship (length will depend on their contracted hours). All they need is the drive and commitment to succeed, and Tesco will support them with hands-on experience and structured learning. Tesco will be launching their 2027 apprenticeship roles in the coming months If your child is interested, please inform Ms. Robinson.

Services for Young People (SfYP)

Our SfYP advisor Zella Neighbour has worked closely with us for several years and is a familiar face around the Centre. Zella will be visiting both Bancroft and Briar Patch to speak to all our students on an individual basis, providing Careers information and guidance for their next steps based on their individual needs. Zella also plays a key role in ensuring our Y11 students have secured their next steps, and their transition is smooth once they leave NHESC. Zella is always available should any parent or carer need advice – please do not hesitate to contact us or Zella direct – see last page for contact details.

Careers within our curriculum

Employability lessons continue to be an important part of the curriculum for our KS4 students. During Employability lessons students learn the skills and knowledge that will enable them to confidently cross the bridge from secondary school on to their next steps, be it college, an apprenticeship or employment. Students can investigate the range of different job opportunities that are out there and what qualifications students need to secure for these jobs. Students will consider potential courses at college and the availability of local apprenticeships and again will find out the entry requirements and what the course or placement will involve. KS3 students have a weekly 'World of Work' lesson during which the groups discuss employability skills, their strengths and weaknesses, interests and options for the future.

Discover, Believe, Become

Formerly known as 'Get Work Ready Days', our Discover, Believe and Become Days run in collaboration with Jane Shipley from ELSA are always great fun. Students can meet and interact with representatives from several local employers and enjoy a series of team building exercises and challenges. Students can strengthen their communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills. The DBB days are thoroughly enjoyed by all. We have the following dates booked in: 12th January 9th March, and 6th July.

KS3 Experiences of the Workplace

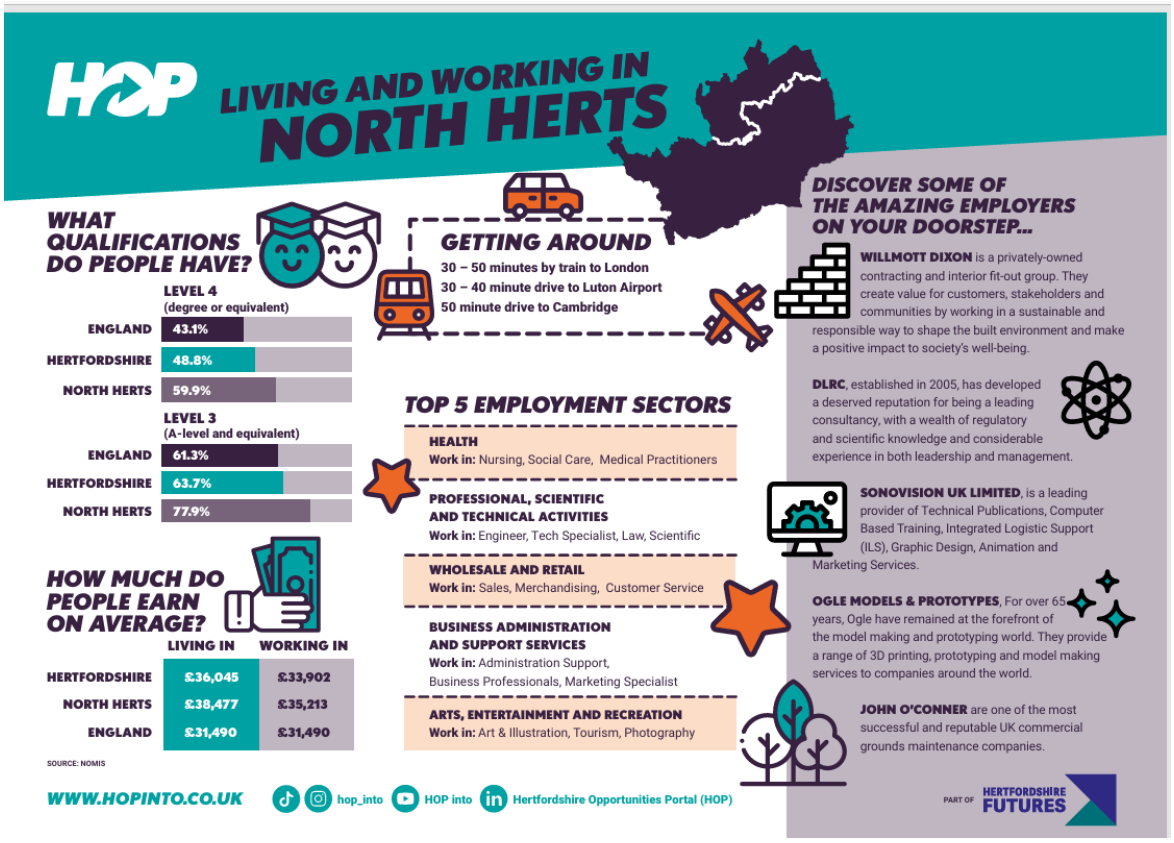
Our KS3 students visit Foxholes Residential Home on a weekly basis, developing their communication, teamwork and empathy while learning about careers in health and social care. KS3 have also visited GSK in Stevenage, where they took part in hands-on STEM activities and discovered careers in science, medicine and engineering. A visit to the Aerozone at Stansted Airport gave students an insight into the many careers within aviation, from engineering and air traffic control to customer service and airport operations.

Through regular visits to Foxholes Residential Home, STEM experience at GSK and a careers-focused visit to Stansted Aerozone, our KS3 students have explored a wide variety of careers. These experiences help students develop confidence, communication skills and a better understanding of the opportunities available in the modern workplace.

Understanding Local Labour Market Information (LMI) in North Hertfordshire

Did You Know?

Some of Hertfordshire's fastest-growing sectors include healthcare, life sciences, engineering and technology. Understanding Labour Market Information (LMI) helps students identify where future job opportunities may be available and make informed decisions about subject choices, further education and apprenticeships. Families can explore local careers and employers through the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP). Students and families can find out more by visiting the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP), which provides up-to-date information on local industries, employers and career pathways. Herts Opportunity Portal

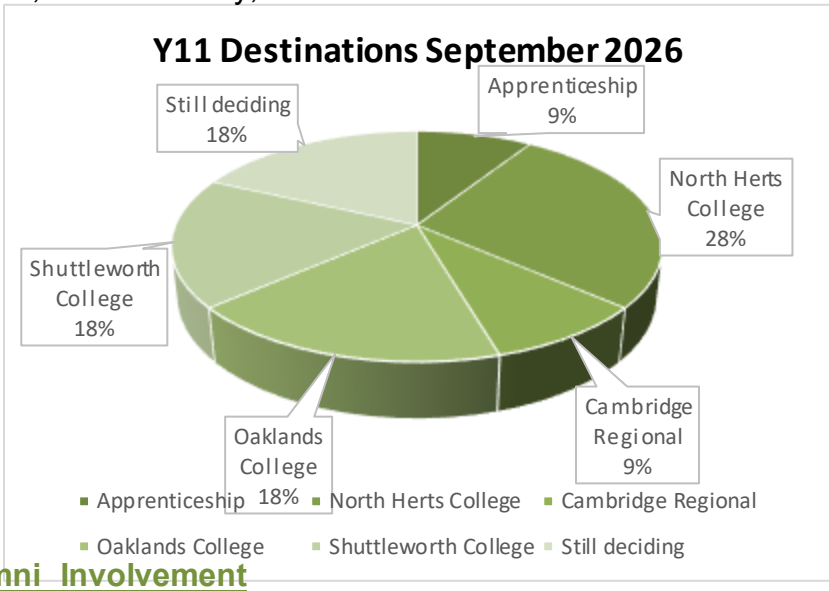


Compass+ - our tracking system for careers activity

NHESC has embraced the use of Compass+ to benchmark, manage, track and report on our school's careers provision at an individual student level. We use Compass+ to plan and track careers activities for individual students, assess our careers provision against the Gatsby Benchmarks and track individual students' actual destinations. The Gatsby Benchmarks define what world class careers provision in education looks like and provide a clear framework for organising the careers provision at NHESC. Our performance against the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks can be found under the CEIAG section of our website.

Destination Data

We are proud that almost all Year 11 students from last year's cohort progressed into education, employment or training. Students moved on to North Herts College, Oaklands College, Cambridge Regional College, Shuttleworth College and apprenticeships, pursuing courses including Equine Studies, Carpentry, ICT, Hair & Beauty, Leisure & Tourism and Retail.



Parent / Carer / Alumni Involvement

Could You Support Our Careers Programme?

We are always keen to hear from parents, carers and former students who could offer work experience placements, careers talks or employability workshops. Your support can help inspire the next generation and broaden students' understanding of the world of work. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Employment Opportunites

For students, friends and family aged 16+, Tesco is advertising temporary Christmas jobs.
Apply here: https://www.tesco-careers.com/
Indeed is also a useful employment website for finding local jobs: https://uk.indeed.com/

Contacts:

Careers Lead: Ms Robinson
Email: k.robinson@nhf.school
Telephone: 01462 419020

Work Experience Lead: Mrs Star
Email: l.star@nhf.school
Telephone: 01462 419020

Management Committee link: Jane Shipley
Email: jane@elsa.education

Services for Young People (SfYP) contact:
Zella Neighbour
Zella.Neighbour@hertfordshire.gov.uk