



In the newsletter this month



SEND Conference 2026: Illuminating Inclusion - 12th February 2026, Hatfield, Hertfordshire



NHS published the latest data on autism assessment waiting times



SEND Conference, 7th May 2026 at the Excel Centre, London



Tackling Maths Anxiety Advice – Exeter Science Centre

News updates

The Department of Education publish updated guidance on Supported Internships



Department for Education

The DoFE have published updated guidance on Supported Internships. The guidance explains the aims of a supported internship, the difference between a supported internship and an apprenticeship, the benefits and principles of a supported internship and Quality Assurance Frameworks. You can read the full guidance here: [Supported internships - GOV.UK](#).

Apprenticeships Work Campaign



Apprenticeships Work is a new campaign launched on 18th September 2025 and led by the [Edge Foundation](#) to encourage more businesses to take on apprentices. Young people's interest in apprenticeships is growing. At the same time, employers are facing immense skills challenges that limit growth and opportunity. SME's often struggle to engage with apprenticeships due to administrative and resource demands. Apprenticeships Work want to change that. Find out more here: [Apprenticeships Work | Edge Foundation](#).

NDTi: How to Engage Young People in Supported Internships



The NDTi (National Development Team for Inclusion) have provided practical guidance to improve awareness, engagement and outcomes for supported internships. The guidance includes system-level actions, engagement principles, real-life examples and tips for implementation. You can access the guidance here: [How to engage young people in supported internships | NDTi](#).

Apprenticeships and Skills – Changes to the Apprenticeship Assessment 2025-2026



Department
for Education

Changes to the way that apprenticeships are assessed have been announced. You can find out more about these plans in this revised guidance, suitable for providers, assessment organisations, regulatory bodies, employers and apprentices: [Changes to apprenticeship assessment, 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#).

SEN Magazine: The critical window for diagnosing ADHD in girls



Read this interesting article in SEN magazine written by Cynthia Hammer (founder of www.FINDtheADHDgirls.org) to discover why it is so important that young girls with ADHD are diagnosed before the age of eight. You can read the article here: [The critical window for diagnosing ADHD in girls | SEN Magazine](#).

Inquiry to review rise in young people not working or studying



jobcentreplus

An independent review into the rising number of young people not working or studying is being launched by the government. Former Labour Health Secretary Alan Milburn will lead the inquiry into “Neets” - the acronym for young people who are not in education, employment or training. Read more here: [Inquiry to review rising levels of youth inactivity - BBC News](#).

10 min Read by Nexford University: How will Artificial Intelligence Change the World?



Have a read of this insightful article about how AI could affect our futures (including jobs and economy): [How will Artificial Intelligence Affect Jobs 2026-2030 | Nexford University](#).

NHS published the latest data on autism assessment waiting times



The NHS have published the latest data on autism assessment waiting times. It revealed over 227,000 people are still on the list and over 90% of them are waiting longer than the 13 week deadline for assessment. You can read the report here: [Autism Statistics, October 2024 to September 2025 - NHS England Digital](#).

Expert insight -Dr Anna Morrison CBE, on supporting care-experienced individuals to access apprenticeships



November was National Care Leavers' month – a whole month dedicated to celebrating care-experienced individuals, shining a light on their achievements and calling for positive change. This year's theme was 'Rising as Me: Overcoming Challenges, Transforming and Finding Your Identity'. In this article, Anna Morrison CBE, (founder of Amazing Apprenticeships) shares her thoughts and ideas about the different ways we can support care-experienced young people to explore apprenticeships. Read the article [here](#).

Upcoming Events

The Telegraph Media Literacy Programme 2026: London



telegraphmediagroup

16-18 year olds can gain an insight into what it's like to be a journalist at an award-winning media brand. During this 4-week online programme, The Telegraph aim to break down the barriers to careers in journalism, highlight the importance of trusted and accountable news and equip young people with the tools and skills to think critically about the media landscape. The course begins on **Tuesday 3rd March 2026** and will be held **every Tuesday from 16.00-17.10hrs**. Participants will receive a Telegraph Literacy journalism certificate and an invite to join a talent pool. To apply, candidates will need to write 100 words explaining why they would like to join the programme. The deadline is at 5pm on the 13th February 2026. Find out more here: [The Telegraph Media Literacy Programme 2026 :: Telegraph Media Group Jobs](#).

Supporting Your Neurodivergent Young Person Course (Years 17-13) Bookings now open for January & February 2026



This six-week course helps parent/carers develop a better understanding of their child or young person when approaching inflexible thinking, differences in communication and social interaction, sensory differences and difficulty maintaining attention. The course will be held in Melksham, Wiltshire, throughout **January and February 2026**. Find out more and book your place: [Supporting My Neurodivergent Young Person \(SMNYP\) - Wiltshire Council](#).

Unlock Cyber Careers Event: Friday 16th January 2026 at the UWE, Bristol Frenchay Campus



This event is for key stage 5 students age 16-19 years who are interested in exploring career pathways in Cyber and Tech. The event is to be held on Friday 16th January from 9am-2pm at [University of the West of England Bristol | UWE Bristol](#), Frenchay Campus: School of Business. For more information email elaine3.brown@uwe.ac.uk or visit: [Events – Unlock Cyber](#).

Apprenticeships Uncovered: A Future in the NHS (Remote, 09.30- 2pm on 9th and 10th February 2026)



Explore the wide range of apprenticeship careers within the NHS! You will get a unique insight into both clinical and non-clinical careers, showing how apprenticeships can be a valuable route into healthcare, administration, IT, estates, and more. Hear directly from current NHS apprentices and staff, explore different NHS departments and career paths, take part in interactive workshops, quizzes, and career-mapping activities, gain practical tips on applications, CVs, and interviews. **Apply by the 9th January 2026**. Find out more: [Future Finder - Futures For All](#).

SEND Conference 2026: Illuminating Inclusion, 12th February 2026, Hatfield, Hertfordshire



SENCO's, Inclusion Leads, and School Leaders working across all phases and settings explore how to strengthen and lead effective SEND provision. This year's theme 'Illuminating Inclusion: Schools at Lighthouses' for learners with SEND explores how education settings can lead change in a system that demands more inclusion and adaptability. With a mix of national speakers, practitioner-led workshops and collaboration sessions, the programme offers clear strategies to support all learners with SEND and feel prepared for the change and challenge presented by the 'Inclusive mainstream schools' agenda. The Conference will be held on **12th February 2026** from **9.30am-4pm at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 9TP**. Find out more: [SEND Conference 2026 | HFL Education](#).

CareersFest – Saturday 7th February 2026, Saturday 7th February 2026, Reading, RG1 7QE



Come along and celebrate the launch of **The Career Confidence Toolkit** by Caroline Green, RCDP, Assoc. CIPD and CEO of **The Talent Cycle – Skills and culture for the future of work**. This event is for coaches, HR and Career Development professionals and is £55 per ticket. The event will be divided into two sessions (the first session is a workshop and the second session is a free celebration event and book launch). To find out more about the book or the event, email askthetalentcycle@outlook.com or visit: [Select Tickets – The Career Confidence Toolkit for Women Book Launch - Workshop and/or Celebration event – Reading Biscuit Factory](#).

Cornwall Careers Hub Summit – 26th February 2026



The Careers Hub Summit 2026 is your chance to connect, share insights, and help shape the future talent pipeline in Cornwall. The summit will take place at The Eden Project, Cornwall on 26th February 2026 from 9am – 2.30pm. Find out more: [Careers Hub Cornwall](#).

Skills and Careers Fair: Tuesday 10th March 2026 at New County Hall, Truro, Cornwall



The Skills and Careers Fair will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at County Hall, Truro, Cornwall from 4.00-6.30pm. Explore vacancies, jobs, apprenticeships and internships and take the opportunity to network. For more information, email peopleandskills@cornwall.gov.uk.

Save the Date – National Careers Week 2026, 2nd – 8th March 2026



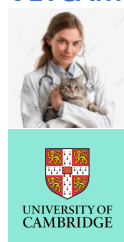
National Careers Week is back from the 2nd-7th March 2026. Be prepared early by checking out the website: [Welcome - National Careers Week](#) for resources and tips for how you can get involved!

SEND Conference, 7th May 2026 at the Excel Centre, London



The next SEND Conference will be held on **7th May 2026** at the **Excel Centre, London**. Located at the heart of the Schools and Academies show, the conference provides an opportunity to shape the SEND provision within your school. Find out more and register your interest: [SEND Conference | 7th May 2026 | Excel, London](#).

VETCAM 2026 – 30th March – 1st April 2026



VetCam is a residential course for year 11 & 12 students. VetCam's aim is to provide a detailed insight into both the 'preclinical' and 'clinical' parts of the Cambridge Veterinary course and will include a mixture of sessions to meet current students and staff. Please note, course places start at £380pp. You can find out more and book your place here: [Book your place at VetCam 2026 - our residential course for aspiring veterinary students | Department of Veterinary Medicine](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

UCAS Careers Advice and Guidance Activities to support students with SEND



Access expert advice and best practice suggestions on how to support your students with SEND in their career development. Access the advice and resources here: [Careers advice and guidance activities to support students with SEND | UCAS](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships SEND Zone



Amazing Apprenticeships have a SEND zone on their website, where you can access the SEND Advisory Network, Rapid Reads and articles, Choices Magazine, This is My Story film collection and loads more fantastic resources. Check out the SEND zone here: [SEND - Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Tackling Maths Anxiety Advice – Exeter Science Centre



Many people are affected by Maths anxiety; it can range from feelings of worry about mathematic performance, or feeling fear about the prospect of doing maths. The Exeter Science Centre have put together some top tips and techniques from psychologists at Exeter University to control and tackle maths anxiety. You can take a look at the resources for students and teachers here: [Tackling Maths Anxiety - Exeter Science Centre](#).

UCAS Job Profiles



UCAS offer a list of Job profiles and career ideas on their website which is a great resource for students exploring career options. Find out what to expect in a job role, education and qualifications required, starting salaries, career progression and where to find vacancies. Take a look: [List of job profiles and career ideas | UCAS](#). UCAS have also launched a new page to help students discover the huge range of roles in the NHS – and the different routes to get there: [NHS Careers | UCAS](#).

Senplay: SEND Job Board and Resource Hub



Senplay is a niche job board and resource hub, offering access to hundreds of live vacancies and career opportunities in the **education sector** across the UK, with a particular focus on **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** roles. On the website, you can explore job roles, access useful links, SEND resources and a blog. Find out more here: [Special Educational Needs Careers Advice - SEN Tips and Articles](#).

Ambitious about Autism – Employment Support and Resources



Ambitious about Autism provide a range of employment support to a range of young people aged 18-25 who take part in the Employ Autism Programme: [Autism employment opportunities | Ambitious about Autism](#). They offer support on topics such as: We offer support on topics such as:

- CVs
- Understanding job descriptions
- Completing applications
- Interview preparation
- Careers guidance and planning
- Managing wellbeing at work and identifying and requesting workplace adjustments

To find out more visit: [Employment support and resources for autistic young people](#).

FutureSmart Careers December Blog: From Vision to Venue: Your Guide to Event Planning Careers



During the festive season, our calendars are usually filled with parties and events. If you have ever thought about a career in event planning, you might find this blog useful! Explore the different roles in the industry, career pathways and the skills required to succeed in the event planning industry. You can read the blog here: [From Vision to Venue Your Guide to Event Planning Careers](#).

Apprenticeship, Internship & Work Experience Opportunities

Step into Supported Internships – New for September 2026



[Step Into Learning](#) (an Ofsted GOOD training provider) have launched 'Step into Supported Internships', new for September 2026. These internships are suitable for students aged 16-24 with an EHCP who would like to practical, vocational skills within a work placement with the support of a job coach. The internship can be completed as a one-year standalone study programme, or a two-year study programme and will be tailored to individual learning needs. Find out more here: [Step Into Supported Internships - Step Into Learning](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships – New Supported Internship Webinars 9th & 10th December 2025. Book Now!



Ambitious College is part of [Autism Charity | Ambitious about Autism](#), a charity supporting people with autism. Ambitious College is offering supported internships [Amazon Business](#), [Chessington World of Adventures Resort: UK Theme Park & Zoo](#), and [Whittington NHS Trust](#). To find out more about these supported internships, families and professionals can book onto a webinar held on the **9th and 10th December 2025**. To find out more and book a place click: [Supported internships | Ambitious College](#) or email acsupportedinternships@ambitiouscollege.org.uk

Channel 4 Apprenticeships - Applications now open



Channel 4 offers a range of apprenticeships across many departments across the UK including Bristol, Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds and London. Apprentices are based in one department for 14-36 months and can gain a level 2,3,4 or 6 related qualification at the end of the apprenticeship. Find out more and apply: [Apprenticeships | Channel 4 Careers](#). The deadline to apply is the 2nd January 2026.

Apprenticeships with The Army



The Army is looking for the following apprentices:

- HR Apprentice
- IT & Communications Apprentice
- Engineering Apprentice
- Network Engineering Apprenticeship

Find out more here: [Army Apprenticeships - Learning & Development | Army Jobs](#).

MENCAP Training Academy



Mencap Training Academy are an Ofsted 'good' rated provider offering supported internships and pre-internships for students with an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan). They are part of the Royal Mencap Society and run programmes in London, Birmingham, Northamptonshire and Worcestershire. Find out more about the internship programmes here: [About our programmes | Mencap Training Academy](#).

Mondelēz International Virtual Work Experience: 6th - 10th July 2026



Uncover the STEM, Science and Innovation of Cadbury chocolate with this virtual work experience offered by Mondelēz International. 0900-1600hrs for 5 Days 6th to 10th July 2026. This STEM inspired remote work experience takes you behind the scenes to discover how science, engineering, and creativity come together to develop brand new chocolate products in the heart of Bournville, Birmingham. Application Deadline: 20 May 2026. Find out more here: [Future Finder - Futures For All](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

Careers and Enterprise Company: Careers Leaders Training Programme



If you're looking to better understand your key responsibilities as a Careers leader and develop your skills and knowledge around the careers agenda – or transform your careers programme to deliver world-class education, then the quality assured resources and funded training by the Careers & Enterprise Company may help you. Find out more: [Career Leaders Training Programmes | CEC Resource Directory](#).

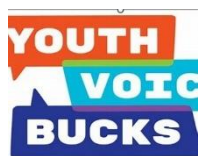
UCAS Annual Teachers and Advisers Conference: 24th-25th February 2026



UCAS' official annual conference is the essential event for professionals guiding students through post-16 and post-18 choices. This year's conference is designed to deliver practical insight, strategic clarity, and actionable tools that educators can take straight back to the classroom.

If you are supporting students to make informed decisions about their future this event is for you. Find out more and book your place here: [UCAS Teachers and Advisers Conference 2026 | UCAS](#).

Shout Out for SEND – Training for those who support us – Youth Voice Bucks



Visit [Shout Out for SEND - Youth Voice Bucks](#) to access SEND resources and support (including a Learning Hub) for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and training. In the Learning Hub, view high quality resources to train professionals, families and young people on how best to support young people with SEND. Professionals, if you want to hear the voices of amazing young people on something you are working on, you can get involved by clicking on this form link: [Shout Out for SEND - Youth Voice Bucks](#), complete the form and send it to shoutoutforsend@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials Package



FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but we can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly. Our FutureSmart Essentials package includes:

- A suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

FutureSmart Careers Apprenticeship Support



Since the announcement that the DfE has removed the funding for the ASK programme, we are delighted to announce that FSC will be offering an Apprenticeship Support Package to schools and colleges. We have produced a suite of workshops and talks to include the best bits from the ASK programme, but with the added extras we feel are needed. The Apprenticeship support we are offering is a paid for service, but we are working hard to make it cost effective and flexible to help you support your students. We are also able to work in all geographic areas we cover. If you would like to find out more about this service or book in a meeting to discuss further, Please click on the link to complete the form: [Apprenticeship Support - Expression of Interest Form](#)

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and restful Christmas, and we look forward to working with you and your students in the New Year!

