

Quarrydale Careers 2026 – 2027 Programme of Activities



01623 554178



<https://quarrydale.co.uk/curriculum/careers/>

Our 5 Year Plan (7 Year Plan for Post 16 Students)

Careers Education at Quarrydale Academy

At Quarrydale Academy, we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to aspire to ambitious futures, believe in their own potential and succeed in achieving their goals. Guided by our motto, *Aspire, Believe, Succeed*, our careers programme is designed to inspire, inform and empower students to make confident decisions about their future education, training and employment pathways.



We are committed to providing a comprehensive and progressive programme of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for all students from Year 7 to Year 13. Through a wide range of curriculum learning, employer encounters, workplace experiences, careers events, guidance interviews and enrichment opportunities, students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to navigate the rapidly changing world of work.

Our careers programme aims to:

- Raise aspirations and challenge stereotypes.
- Increase awareness of local, regional and national labour market opportunities.
- Develop students' employability and transferable skills.
- Provide meaningful encounters with employers and employees.
- Ensure students understand the full range of post-16 and post-18 pathways, including apprenticeships, technical education, further education, higher education and employment.
- Support students in making informed and ambitious decisions about their next steps.
- Promote social mobility by ensuring all students have access to high-quality careers guidance and experiences.



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The careers programme is delivered through a combination of curriculum learning, tutor time activities, assemblies, enrichment opportunities, employer engagement, workplace experiences and independent careers guidance.

Particular support is provided for disadvantaged students, students with SEND and those at risk of becoming NEET to ensure that every young person is equipped to fulfil their potential.

Quarrydale Academy works closely with employers, training providers, colleges, universities and local partners to provide students with meaningful and relevant experiences that help prepare them for life beyond school.

The Careers Leader at Quarrydale Academy is **Kim Dellar**. For further information about our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme, please contact the school via kdellar@quarrydale.notts.sch.uk or telephone **01623 554178**,

The Senior Leader overseeing Careers and Enrichment is **Mr A Heathcote** and can be contacted via email aheathcote@quarrydale.notts.sch.uk.



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Quarrydale Careers

Our Activities

At Quarrydale Academy, our careers programme is designed to provide students with a broad range of meaningful experiences that support their personal development and future decision-making. We recognise that careers education is not delivered through a single event or lesson, but through a combination of activities that help students understand themselves, explore opportunities, engage with the world of work and plan their future pathways.

The table below demonstrates how our core careers activities contribute to different aspects of students' career development. Many activities support multiple areas, ensuring that students build their knowledge, skills and confidence progressively throughout their time at Quarrydale Academy.

Activity	Learn About Myself	Learn About Opportunities	Experience the Workplace	Plan My Future
Information Gathering		✓		✓
Careers Lessons (PSHE)	✓	✓		✓
Skills & interests Awareness	✓			✓
Enterprise Activities	✓	✓		
Employer Encounters		✓	✓	
Workplace Visits		✓	✓	
Work Experience	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guidance Interviews	✓	✓		✓
FE & HE Interview		✓		✓
Careers Assemblies		✓		✓



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Quarrydale Careers

Key Stakeholders in our Careers Programme

Role	Responsibilities
Mrs Dellar - Careers Leader	Leads the operational delivery of the Quarrydale Academy Careers Programme, coordinating careers activities, employer engagement, provider encounters and careers education across Years 7–13. Ensures students have access to high-quality careers guidance and experiences.
Mr Heathcote - Associate Assistant Headteacher for Careers and Enrichment	Provides strategic leadership of careers and enrichment across the academy. Responsible for the planning, development, quality assurance and evaluation of the careers programme, ensuring alignment with the Gatsby Benchmarks, school improvement priorities and statutory guidance.
Mr Paling - Headteacher	Provides overall strategic oversight of careers education within the academy. Ensures careers provision aligns with the school's vision, ethos and improvement priorities, and promotes a culture of aspiration, ambition and successful progression for all students.
Mr West - Head of Post 16 - Academic	Leads careers education, information, advice and guidance within the Sixth Form. Oversees the development of a comprehensive post-18 progression programme, supporting students to access higher education, apprenticeships, employment and other positive destinations.



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Key Stakeholders in our Careers Programme

Role	Responsibilities
Mrs Heartfield - Head of Post 16 - Pastoral	Supports delivering the Sixth Form careers and progression programme. Coordinates guidance activities, destination support and transition opportunities to help students make informed post-18 decisions.
Julie Matthews - East Midlands Careers Hub Support	Provides external strategic support and challenge to the academy's careers programme. Supports continuous improvement, Gatsby Benchmark achievement, Compass+ evaluation and the development of effective careers provision in line with national best practice.
Independent Careers Adviser (Ideas4Careers)	Delivers impartial, independent careers guidance through one-to-one interviews and targeted interventions. Supports students, particularly in Year 11 and Sixth Form, to explore pathways, make informed decisions and successfully progress to their chosen destinations.
Pastoral Teams (Heads of Year, Assistant Heads of Year and Tutors)	Support the delivery of careers education through PSHE, tutor time, assemblies and personal development activities. Ensure students receive key careers information, engage with careers-related opportunities and are encouraged to raise aspirations and consider future pathways beyond the curriculum.



Quarrydale Careers

Careers Programme Overview

To achieve the outcomes outlined above, Quarrydale Academy provides a progressive and inclusive careers programme that supports students throughout their journey from Year 7 to Year 13. The programme has been carefully designed to ensure that students receive a range of meaningful careers education, employer encounters, workplace experiences and guidance opportunities appropriate to their stage of development.

Activities are planned to build knowledge, skills, aspirations and confidence over time, ensuring that students are equipped to make informed decisions at key transition points. Alongside universal provision for all students, targeted opportunities are offered to support specific groups and individual needs, enabling every student to access the guidance and experiences required to achieve their potential.

The table below outlines the careers learning experiences and opportunities available to students at each stage of their education.

Year 7			
Autumn	Spring	Summer	During the Year
Introduction to Careers Assembly NTU TRANSITION ASSEMBLY NFU assembly Careers in the local area Additional Employer Assembly Future Skills Questionnaire Analysis of Survey responses Feedback to form tutors	Introduction to University assembly "MOVING ON UP" WORKSHOPS Employability assembly (SLT) PSHE Focus: 1.Managing Change (Careers and your Future) National Careers Week: Curriculum Focus Year 7 enterprise day	Early identification of ambition cohort (tracking data & Compass)	Alumni Assembly



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Careers Programme Overview

Year 8			
Autumn	Spring	Summer	During the Year
Future Skills Questionnaire/ Forms Survey Analysis of Survey responses Feedback to form tutors Year 8 enterprise /skills Day (WNC) Employer Assembly	Employability assembly (SLT) National Careers Week: Curriculum Focus HE ASSEMBLY + Selected students in workshops	PSHE Focus: 1. Employability & Enterprise skills 2. Careers and Aspirations 3. Exploring careers NTU CAMPUS DAY VISIT (selected students: Ambition cohort)	Alumni Assembly Work experience (Student reception)



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Careers Programme Overview

Year 9			
Autumn	Spring	Summer	During the Year
FE/HE workshops	Careers Fair		Alumni Assembly
Future Skills Questionnaire/ Forms Survey	National Careers Week: Curriculum Focus		39 week ppts: Careers in focus (curriculum)
Analysis of FSQs	Future Ready Assembly		Employer Encounters (select groups & Industries)
Feedback to form tutors	Options Choices Guidance (Pastoral)		
Additional Employer Assembly	Employability assembly (SLT)		
	Options Evening and Process		
	DANCOP – “HE & ME” WORKSHOPS (selected students) & university visit		
	SKILLS DAY (HIDDEN ROLES)		
	FUTURE READY WORKSHOP (selected students)		
	YOUR SKILLS YOUR FUTURE assembly		
	Animation Nation (selected students)		
	PSHE Focus: Essential Life Skills		
	1. From Failure comes success		
	2. Assertiveness		
	3. Labour Market Information		
	4. Finance, budgeting and employment		



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Careers Programme Overview

Year 10			
Autumn	Spring	Summer	During the Year
Introduction to Work Experience Assembly CV Writing Workshops PSHE Focus: Striking & Trade Unionism Future Skills Questionnaire/ Forms Survey University of Derby (selected students) Analysis of FSQs Feedback to form tutors	Careers Fair National Careers Week: Curriculum Focus Animation Nation (selected students) Employability assembly (SLT) University of Derby (selected students) Astronomy Trip to Space Centre	Work Experience Week P16 guidance interviews Employer encounters Trip (100+ students) PSHE Focus: Consumer Rights Employment Rights Exploring a payslip	



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Quarrydale Careers Careers Programme Overview

Year 11			
Autumn	Spring	Summer	During the Year
Destinations Audit 1 CV Writing Skills/ Production of CV Parent communication: What next, destinations, CV writing and Mock Interviews Mock Interviews P16 futures Assembly INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER WNC Careers Assembly P16 interviews and guidance PSHE Focus: Your future & Beyond 1. Screen addiction & Studying 2. Post 16 options 3. CV Writing 4. Writing a Personal Statement NEETS RAG RATING WITH PASTORAL TEAM Start of 1 to 1 careers guidance sessions	Careers Fair APPRENTICESHIP WEEK ASSEMBLY Apprenticeship Evening (part of year 11 parents evening) NTU "LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE" assembly DANCOP "PREPARE TO SUCCEED" WORKSHOPS (selected students) Destinations audit 2/ Future skills questionnaire 1 to 1 careers guidance sessions Employability assembly (SLT)	Final Destinations audit Alumni contact information	1-to-1 Guidance interviews At risk of NEET interviews (careers advisor/ideas for careers) Apprenticeship guidance interviews (WNC)



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Quarrydale Careers Careers Programme Overview

Leavers (Year 12 Age Group)

Autumn	Spring	Summer	During the Year
Year 11 Destination Checks - FE, P16 Centres NEET Risk Communication	Finalise Leavers Destinations		



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Additional Careers and Enrichment Opportunities

Alongside our structured careers programme, students at Quarrydale Academy benefit from a range of additional careers, enrichment and employer engagement activities throughout the academic year. These opportunities are designed to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and provide students with valuable insights into different industries, career pathways and future opportunities.

The activities offered may vary from year to year in response to student need, employer availability and emerging labour market trends. Examples include:

Activity	Focus Area
PlantWorx Industry Event	Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Careers
Virtual Work Experience Programmes	Employability Skills and Workplace Awareness
Post-16 and Post-18 Pathway Information for Parents	Progression and Transition Support
Midland Railway Educational Visit (Year 10)	Engineering, Transport and Heritage Careers
Nottingham Forest "Think Big" Assembly	Aspirations, Motivation and Personal Development
National Food Week Activities	Food, Hospitality and Catering Careers
Green Careers Week Resources and Activities	Sustainability and Environmental Careers



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Additional Careers and Enrichment Opportunities

Activity	Focus Area
Computer Science Employer and Industry Activities (Year 10)	Digital, Technology and Computing Careers
BBC Bitesize Careers Resources	Careers Exploration and Labour Market Awareness
Women in Construction Event (Galliford Try)	Challenging Stereotypes and Promoting Diversity in Industry
Careers Fair and Employer Engagement Events	Encounters with Employers and Education Providers
Annual Careers Mark Review	Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement of Careers Provision
University Visits (Lincoln, Derby, Sheffield Nottingham)	



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Additional Careers and Enrichment Opportunities

For students in Years 12 and 13, Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) plays a crucial role in supporting informed and ambitious post-18 progression decisions. As a predominantly academic Sixth Form, Quarrydale Academy provides a structured programme of guidance that enables students to explore higher education, higher and degree apprenticeships, employment and alternative progression routes. Through personalised support, employer engagement, university partnerships and impartial careers guidance, students are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to successfully transition to their next stage of education, training or employment.

Year 12	Autumn 1 PPD- Work Careers and Pathways	Autumn 2
Induction- DANCOP- Goal setting.	• How to be a successful student/Making the most of Post 16 (Lincoln) • Intro to HE- What uni can do for you (NTU) • Intro to alternative progression routes • Inform students of opportunities such as Pathways to Law/Medicine /SFM (Set up relevant sessions) • Careers Fair • Initial Post 18 Progression audit, • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight). • SMF introduction assembly • Pathways/Ambition Nottingham Assembly	• Discuss work experience with students and support to arrange for the spring/summer term. • DANCOP- Academic skills • DANCOP- Intro to communication skills • Preparing for an HE /Apprenticeship • Visit to HE and Apprenticeships Fair • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).
Year 12	Spring 1	Spring 2
	• Visit to University of Notts • Researching your options (NTU) • DANCOP- Public Speaking and Presenting • Post 18 Progression audit 2. • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight). • Introduce summer schools and support applications.	• DANCOP- Resilience building • 1-1 careers appointments • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).



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Additional Careers and Enrichment Opportunities

Year 12	Summer 1	Summer 2
	• Support for students taking admissions tests such as UCAT • Revision and Exam Prep (DANCOP). • 1-1 careers appointments • Post 18 Progression audit 3. • Tutor activities focus on transferrable skills/skills auditing. • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).	• NTU Campus visit (Includes a personal statement workshop). • The UCAS process (NTU) • UCAS registration • Apprenticeship overview and how to apply. • CV writing refresher. • Support for students taking admissions tests such as UCAT • Preparing for an HE /Apprenticeship fair (Refresher) • Visit to UCAS Discovery Event • DANCOP- Reflection for learning. • 1-1 careers appointments • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).
Year 13	Autumn 1 (PPD Topic - Employment and Responsibilities)	Autumn 2
	• Personal Statement workshop (SHU) • What is a degree apprenticeship and how to apply (SHU) • UCAS Support for vet/med applicants to meet early deadline. • Careers Fair • 1-1 careers appointments • Post 18 Progression audit 4. • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).	• 1-1 personal statement support (DANCOP/NTU)) • DANCOP Learn to work programme – (Apprenticeship skill building Focus). • DANCOP Study skills- Revision and Exam Prep. • Mocks • 1-1 careers appointments • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).



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Additional Careers and Enrichment Opportunities

Year 13	Spring 1	Spring 2
	• 1-1 personal statement support for late applicants. • Interview success (University Of Lincoln) • Student finance and budgeting (NTU) • 1-1 careers appointments • Alternative Learning (3 periods per fortnight).	• Apprenticeship search and apply session for targeted students- Led by CW- Tuesday AM reg. • DANCOP- Critical Thinking • DANCOP- Revision and study skills refresher. • DANCOP- Communication and Public Speaking
Year 13	Summer 1 (PPD Topic Financial Choices)	Summer 2
	• Clearing and results day (NTU) • Exams	• Exams and Off Roll. • Final destinations audit Post results day.



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Quarrydale Careers

Data Collection and Evaluation of Careers Provision

From the beginning of the 2026–2027 academic year, Quarrydale Academy has utilised Compass+ as its primary platform for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of its Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme. Through robust data collection and analysis, we are able to assess the impact of our provision, identify emerging needs and continuously improve the experiences and outcomes of our students.

Our data collection processes include:

Student Voice and Careers Readiness

- Future Skills Questionnaires administered at key points throughout the academic year to evaluate students' aspirations, confidence, career readiness and understanding of future pathways.
- Termly Careers Evaluations to assess the quality, reach and impact of careers activities. These evaluations enable careers leaders to identify strengths, address gaps in provision and develop targeted actions to improve outcomes for specific cohorts and year groups.

Post-16 Destination Tracking

- September: Year 11 Destination Audit 1 to establish initial intended and confirmed destinations.
- Spring Term: Year 11 Destination Audit 2 to monitor progression plans and identify students requiring additional support.
- Summer Term: Final Destination Audit to capture confirmed post-16 destinations prior to leaving school.
- Results Day: Student destination survey and collection of alumni contact information to support destination tracking and future engagement.
- September (Post-16): Verification of student enrolment with destination providers.
- October (Post-16): Identification and follow-up of any students recorded as unknown destination or at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- November: Review of published destination measures and performance table data to inform strategic evaluation and future planning.



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Work Experience

At Quarrydale Academy, we recognise the value of meaningful workplace experiences in helping young people develop their career aspirations, employability skills and understanding of the world of work.

From 2027, Quarrydale Academy will be reintroducing work experience for our students. This will provide students with the opportunity to spend time in a real workplace, develop essential employability skills, gain first-hand experience of the world of work and explore potential future career pathways.

Alongside work experience, we will continue to provide a broad range of employer engagement, further education and workplace-related opportunities throughout a student's time at Quarrydale. These may include workplace visits, industry projects, employer encounters, sector-specific experiences, college and university taster sessions, and careers activities designed to support progression planning.

Our aim is to ensure that students experience meaningful and varied encounters with employers and workplaces that are relevant to their interests, aspirations and future pathways.

The reintroduction of work experience forms part of our ongoing commitment to developing a high-quality careers programme and responding to the updated statutory careers guidance. We will continue to review and develop our provision to ensure that students are well prepared for their next steps in education, training and employment.



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Quarrydale Careers Conclusion

At Quarrydale Academy, we are committed to providing a high-quality, inclusive and ambitious Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme that supports every student from Year 7 through to Year 13. Through a carefully planned combination of careers education, employer engagement, workplace experiences, impartial guidance and meaningful encounters with education and training providers, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence required to make informed decisions about their futures.

Our careers programme is designed to raise aspirations, broaden horizons and ensure that all students, regardless of background or starting point, are prepared for successful progression into further education, higher education, apprenticeships, training or employment. By continually reviewing and developing our provision against the Gatsby Benchmarks and national best practice, we remain committed to delivering a careers programme that reflects our academy values of Aspire, Believe, Succeed, enabling every student to achieve their full potential and thrive in an ever-changing world.



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