



Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our careers newsletter. I am delighted that The Prospect Trust Careers Services are working with **Tomlinscote School** and providing the students from Year 7 to Year 11 with high quality independent, impartial careers advice and guidance.

Our careers feature in this edition is all about careers working in childcare. As the entitlement for funded hours increases for children across a wider age range, the demand for qualified, passionate professionals is soaring. Do you love the idea of a rewarding career where you genuinely make a difference in people's lives every single day? Then it's time to look closely at the world of childcare and early years education—a sector that is not just inspiring, but also rapidly growing.

For Year 11 students, a gentle reminder: applications for your post-16 education should be completed by **Christmas**. Crucially, you must also **develop a strong backup plan**. What will you do if your primary course or institution doesn't work out, or if you don't achieve the grades you were hoping for?

- **Research multiple institutions:** Apply to more than one college or sixth form.
- **Explore different routes:** Consider a range of courses, such as A-Levels, BTECs, T-Levels, or even apprenticeships.
- **Discuss with your Careers Adviser:** Use this time to think through alternative options and book a meeting for the new year.

Whether you're starting your research or finalising your plans, remember that every successful career journey begins with curiosity and a little festive cheer!

Best Wishes, Nikki Coleman - Head of Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance.

## A WELCOME FROM YOUR CAREERS ADVISERS



Hello, we are Lorna Durbridge and Jane Owen, your Careers Advisers at **Tomlinscote School**.

Lorna will offer face to face meetings every Tuesday and Friday, and Jane will offer virtual appointments on Wednesdays and Thursdays.



Careers appointments take place in a dedicated space in the LRC.

Appointments are scheduled by the school and every student in Key Stage

4 will have the opportunity to have a careers discussion. Career summaries (My Next Steps) are shared with the students on their edulink account.

You can contact us for information by email at: [careers@prospecttrust.org.uk](mailto:careers@prospecttrust.org.uk) or by contacting Mrs H Khan at school.

Take the **Buzz Quiz** and in just a few minutes this fun

quiz can help you:

- Discover your strengths and what makes you tick
- Understand how others may see you
- Explore subject choices and jobs that suit you



**Websites to help you with your career research:**

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[Pathways Explore](#)

[Explore your education and training choices](#) - National Careers Service

## CAREERS RESOURCES



Take a free **Career Cloud Quiz** (Spartan Test).

The test is a quick and simple, image based quiz to help you start thinking about and researching Apprenticeships, Degrees and careers.



[Click here](#) for more information on the World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report 2025

## Resources for parents:

[Apprenticeship Levels explained](#)

[Qualification routes and levels explained](#)

[T-Level subjects](#)

A parents' toolkit for career conversations:

[Talking Futures](#)

[Careermag for Parents, Carers and Guardians](#)

[Apprenticeships: Hints & Tips for Parents & Carers](#)

[Parent and Carer Guide to Careers in the Screen Industries](#)

## WHAT ARE APPRENTICESHIPS?

Apprenticeships enable you to earn and learn at the same time, gaining a nationally recognised qualification. They are open to anyone over the age of 16.

Did you know that within **10 miles** of Tomlinscote School there are currently **126 apprenticeships** being advertised?

**Click on the picture below** and read the one-page guide to uncover the 5 steps you can take if you think you are interested in apprenticeships.

**I'M INTERESTED IN  
APPRENTICESHIPS...WHAT NOW?**

  
Amazing  
Apprenticeships

  
Amazing  
Apprenticeships

Check the [Gov.UK webpages](#) for more information, or [watch this video from Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Read the article from HigherIn on the [Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers for 2025](#)

  
HIGHERIN

**PARENT & CARER ZONE**

EXPLORE THE OPTIONS TO SUPPORT AND ADVISE YOUR CHILD

**Parents and Carers** can download the [Hints & Tips for Parents & Carers](#) guide, or take a look at the [Parents and Carers Zone](#).

## CAREERS SPOTLIGHT

### Working with Children - Early Years

*Start Here...Go Anywhere!*



The early years sector focuses on the learning, development and care of children and includes jobs working as childminders and nannies, in nurseries, crèches and preschools.

#### What roles are available?

Childminder  
Nanny  
Nursery Worker  
Nursery Manager  
Teaching Assistant  
SEN support



#### But what about . . ?

Play Worker  
Play Therapist  
Early Years Teacher  
Montessori Teacher  
Speech & Language Therapy

**To learn more, check out Careerpilot: [Child Development](#)**

#### How to get a job in the Early Years Sector?

The routes will depend on the job you are applying for. For example, a Nursery Worker usually only requires GCSEs including Maths and English, where you can apply directly or follow the apprenticeship route at Intermediate level 2 (Early Years Practitioner) or sometimes Advanced level 3 (Early Years Educator).

For other roles you may need level 3 qualifications or higher level qualifications e.g teaching or nursing. Look at this current campaign by Hampshire County Council [Early Years](#)

Most roles working with children will also need a DBS check for safeguarding purposes.

## Skills

Hard skills include knowledge of child development, first aid and child protection. Whilst soft skills encompass patience, empathy, communication, creativity and problem-solving abilities, organisation & time management and teamwork. The transferable skills and experience can lead to to other roles

## Day to Day

As a nursery worker you could:

- plan and supervise activities like arts and crafts, music and cooking
- help children to learn numeracy and language skills through games, singing and storytelling
- take children on outings
- feed and change babies
- keep indoor and outdoor areas clean and safe
- record children's development and share with parents, carers and nursery staff



## Labour Market Information

Average salary £16K-24K, 30-40 hours per week.  
3.8% increase in jobs by 2029

## Colleges

[The Sixth Form College Farnborough](#)

[Farnborough College of Technology](#)

[Farnham College](#)

[Guildford College](#)

[Basingstoke College of Technology](#)

[Queen Mary's College Basingstoke](#)

## Useful Websites



[Start Here, go anywhere toolkit from Hampshire Futures](#)

[Start your career | Jobs and volunteering | Hampshire County Council](#)

[Careers in Childcare - PACEY](#)

[#Firstfiveyearscount - NDNA](#)

[Become an early years teacher | Get Into Teaching](#)

[GOV.UK](#)

[Health play staff](#)

## WORK EXPERIENCE - YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE!



Work experience helps you to learn new skills, decide what you do and don't like doing and supports you in choosing a future career.

Work experience will be launched to Year 10 in January at the KS4 Progression Evening on Monday 19th January 2026. Year 10 will be completing a week of work experience from 15th-19th June 2026.

See [this video](#) from The Careers & Enterprise Company which outlines why work experience is so important.

### **Calling all parents and carers - Can you help?**

We are always looking for employers to support us. If you or someone you know might be able to help, our friendly work experience team would be delighted to hear from you:

[wex@prospecttrust.org.uk](mailto:wex@prospecttrust.org.uk)

### **Current virtual work experience opportunities:**

Virtual work experience and insight days can provide an overview of an industry and give a taster of the sorts of careers available. All of these include talks from those who work in the industry, plus live webinars and a certificate of completion.

## FUTURES FOR ALL

Lots of exciting virtual opportunities can be found on the [Futures For All](#) website, including:

### **Step into the Music Industry - UK Music Insight Day!**

Age: 14 - 19

Industry: Media & Film

Type: Virtual work experience

Date: 11/03/2026

Timings: 10:00 - 15:00

Duration: 1 day

[Read more](#)

## Launch your career into Space - UK Space Insight Day!

Age: 14 - 19  
Industry: Engineering  
Type: Virtual work experience  
Date: 17-18/03/2026  
Timings: 10:00 - 14:30  
Duration: 2 days

[Read more](#)



Have a look at the [Springpod](#) virtual work experience platform for upcoming opportunities including:

### Your Future, Edited - Penguin Publishers

Open to anyone aged 13+, this interactive experience allows you to step inside the world of Penguin and discover the creativity and strategy needed to shape an idea into a book. It covers important topics such as:

- How to pitch a story
- The process of turning a manuscript into a finished book
- BookTok campaigns & innovative marketing
- Beyond the book, what job roles are there in the world of publishing

[Start Now](#)

### SkyHook Games - Digital & Creative Media

Open to anyone aged 13+, this interactive experience gives you the chance to explore a career where imagination meets innovation as well as putting your own creativity to the test. It covers important topics such as:

- The creative process from concept art to digital design
- Discover how AR, VR and AI are transforming creativity
- Learn how design can tell a story
- Find out how to showcase your work & build a strong portfolio

[Start Now](#)

## LOCAL COLLEGES & SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORMS



Upcoming Events and Open Days. You will need to book to attend these events, so book early to avoid disappointment.

### [Academy of Contemporary Music \(Guildford\)](#)

Check the website for the latest Open Evenings.  
*Regular Campus tours are also available.*

### [Basingstoke College of Technology](#)

Monday 27 April

### [Bracknell and Wokingham College](#)

Wednesday 11 February

### [Farnborough College of Technology](#)

Wednesday 11 February, plus Thursday 12 February at Aldershot Construction College.

### [Guildford College](#)

Wednesday 25 February

### [Merrist Wood College](#)

Wednesday 11 February



Thank you for reading our  
newsletters this year, see you in  
2026!