



Welcome to our latest careers newsletter. Whether you are a student dreaming of the skies, a parent supporting those ambitions, or a staff member helping to guide the way, this edition is packed with inspiration to help those goals take flight.

We are incredibly lucky to live and learn in an area with a global reputation. Farnborough is officially the birthplace of British aviation. In 1908, Samuel Cody made the first-ever sustained powered flight in the UK right here on our doorstep. Since that historic moment, Farnborough has remained at the heart of aerospace innovation. From the legendary Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) to the development of the jet engine and modern supersonic technology.

It is therefore no surprise that as Careers Advisers we speak with a lot of students who have an interest in becoming a pilot. In this edition, we explore the journey to becoming a pilot. Whether you're interested in commercial airlines, the armed forces or specialised freight, the path requires a mix of strong STEM skills, discipline, and a genuine love for adventure.

From securing your Private Pilot Licence (PPL) to the intensive hours of flight school required for a commercial "frozen" ATPL, the route is challenging but incredibly rewarding. It's not just about flying; it's about leadership, quick thinking, and technical mastery.

We hope you have a restful and inspiring Easter holiday. Keep your eyes on the horizon!

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

A WELCOME FROM YOUR CAREERS ADVISERS



Hello, we are Lorna Durbridge and Jen Dinkeldein, your Careers Advisers at **Tomlinscote School**.

Lorna will offer face to face meetings every Tuesday and Friday, and Jen will offer face to face meetings every Monday.



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 or by contacting Mrs H Khan at school.

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.

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

www.icould.com

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

www.ucas.com

[Pathways Explore](#)

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

[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 **92 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](#)

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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

Pilot



Come Fly With Me: Airline pilots fly passengers and cargo to destinations around the world.

Roles

Aircraft pilot, Co-pilot, First Officer, Captain, or have you considered becoming a Helicopter Pilot or becoming a trainee pilot through the military?

Routes In

Private Flying Schools. At 18 you could get a Commercial Pilot Licence, but you need to be 21 to get the Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). This is known as a "frozen ATPL" and becomes unfrozen when 1500 hours of flight training has been completed. There are 3 main routes.



An integrated course is the quickest but most expensive route, taking you to frozen ATPL status in around 18 months. Costing between £80,000 to £130,000 depending on the training provider.

Modular training. Gaining a private pilot's licence (PPL) which covers ground school and exams, flight training, radio training and a flight test. Completed at your own pace, allowing you to complete sections as you can afford them and work in between if needed.

The Multi Pilot Licence (MPL) is a newer and differently structured training route to becoming a commercial airline pilot. Like the integrated ATPL route, it's completed with one training provider, but it's

- Airline-specific - You're trained with a specific airline in mind, often for a particular aircraft type. If you pass, you'll usually be offered a job with that airline.
- Simulator-based - Most of your flying is done in a simulator rather than in a real aircraft. You'll still do some actual flying, but much less than on other routes.
- A Different licence - You'll finish with an MPL, not an ATPL. This lets you work as a co-pilot on multi-crew aircraft for the airline you trained with. You can later upgrade to a full ATPL once you gain enough flying experience.

You'll need to have a minimum of a [Class 2 medical certificate](#) before you start a course then you'll then need to apply for the higher level [Class 1 medical certificate](#) during your course to get your Commercial Pilot Licence. You could choose to apply for the Class 1 medical certificate before you start your course. The Honourable Company of Air Pilots also suggests you take an aptitude assessment to check suitability before applying to

companies or paying for training. More information from the [UK Civil Aviation Authority \(CAA\)](https://www.caa.co.uk).

You could apply to join a pilot training programme with a passenger airline. Companies that have started to recruit include

- British Airways
- EasyJet
- Jet2
- Ryanair
- TUI Airways

You could study for a degree e.g Aviation Management with Commercial Pilot Training, but additional costs for the pilot training.
Myth Busting- you don't need to have studied Maths or Physics for this degree.

Skills

- knowledge of maths
- leadership skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- thinking and reasoning skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to operate and control equipment
- observation and recording skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently



Day to day tasks

As an airline pilot, you'll work with a co-pilot to:

- fly the plane and communicate with air traffic control
- work out the best route using weather reports and air traffic control data
- create a flight plan and carry out pre-flight checks
- communicate with cabin crew and passengers
- follow procedures during take-off and landing to reduce noise pollution
- write reports, check data during the flight and adjust the route if necessary

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Annual Salary 47k - 150K Future Employment 1.8% increase in roles by 2029. Working hours - variable

More women are entering the profession supported by the [Women in Aviation & Aerospace Charter](#)

Do you have dreams of learning to fly?

Did you know you can have flying lessons locally [Learn to Fly! – SEMET Aviation](#) Flying lessons available for all through [Aerobility](#)



- [Careers in Aerospace](#)
- [British Helicopter Association](#)
- [The Honourable Company of Air Pilots](#)
- [Flying Start](#)
- [Pilot Careers Live](#)
- [Royal Air Force](#)
- [Royal Navy](#)
- [The British Army](#)

Upcoming Aviation Events

Pilot Careers Live (Heathrow)

If you are serious about a life in the cockpit, mark your calendars for **Saturday 18th April 2026**. **Pilot Careers Live** is taking place at the Sofitel, London Heathrow (T5). This is the UK's leading event for aspiring pilots to meet flight schools, airlines, and current pilots to get honest advice on training and recruitment.



Farnborough International Airshow: Pioneers of Tomorrow

The highlight of the summer is the **Farnborough International Airshow**. On **Friday 24th July 2026**, the show hosts **Pioneers of Tomorrow**—a dedicated day designed to inspire the next generation of aviators and engineers. You can meet world-class employers, watch breathtaking flying displays, and explore the Careers Hub.

- **Tickets:** Under-21s attend for **free**, but tickets are limited!
- **Book Here:** [Pioneers of Tomorrow Tickets](#)

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



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

Year 10 students will be completing a week of work experience 15th - 19th June 2026.

Students: The deadline to submit your Grofar placement form for work experience on Grofar is Monday 13th April.

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

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:

Careers at Sea & Shore:

Hospitality and Beyond in the Cruise Industry

Age: 14 - 19 Industry: Travel & Tourism

Type: Virtual Work Experience

Date: 23 - 24/04/2026

Application Deadline: 30/03/2026

Timings: 09.00 - 15.00 Duration: 2 days

[Read more](#)

Discover Youth Work: Youth Club Challenge '26

Age: 14 - 19 Industry: Charity & Volunteering

Type: Virtual Work Experience

Date: 20 - 21/05/2026

Application Deadline: 30/03/2026

Timings: 09.30 - 14.30 Duration: 2 days

[Read more](#)

Springpod

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

Gateway to Aviation:

Work Experience with London Gatwick

Open to anyone aged 13+, this virtual work experience will explore how one of the UK's busiest airports operates.

It covers important topics such as:

- Passenger Operations & Environment Opportunities
- Engineering Opportunities
- Employability Skills

[Start Now](#)

Smart Cities:

Building more sustainable and liveable cities

Open to anyone aged 13+, this virtual work experience will introduce you to the exciting world of smart city infrastructure - from innovative mobility ecosystems to simulation and AI.

It covers important topics such as:

- Liveable Cities
- Improving Safety
- Caring for the Planet

[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 \(Guildford\)](#)

Diploma Open Evening: Monday 20 April at 5.30pm

[Basingstoke College of Technology](#)

Open Event: Monday 27 April at 4.30pm

[Bracknell and Wokingham College](#)

Open Event: Wednesday 22 April at 4.30pm

[Farnborough College of Technology](#)

Check the website for the latest events

[Guildford College](#)

Open Event: Wednesday 22 April at 4.30pm

[Merrist Wood College](#)

Open Event: Wednesday 6 May at 4.30pm