

WMAT CAREERS SERVICE NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to this month's edition of our Careers newsletter, where I am delighted to tell you that at the recent education awards **The Prospect Trust Careers Services was named UK's Best School Careers Guidance Service of the Year 2026** which we are hugely proud of!

In this edition of the newsletter we are turning the spotlight onto a sector that forms the very backbone of our society: **Protective Services**.

From the local streets of our community to international airspace, the professionals in this sector share one common, vital mission—keeping us safe. This is a field for those who are driven by a sense of duty, resilience, and the desire to make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

When you think of protective services, you might immediately picture a police officer or a firefighter. But the "vast array" of roles in this sector is truly incredible. It includes the rapid response of paramedics, the strategic minds in cybersecurity and intelligence (like MI5), the dedicated service of the Armed Forces, and the vital work of border control and maritime rescue.

Whether you are in Year 7 beginning to explore your strengths or in Year 11 looking at your post-16 options, we hope this feature inspires you to think about how your unique skills - be they physical, analytical, or interpersonal - could one day protect the next generation.

Stay curious and stay inspired!

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@propsecttrust.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](#)

[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.

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Did you know that within **10 miles** of Tomlinscote School there are currently **75 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?



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 2026](#)

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

Careers in Protective Services

What are Protective Services?

Protective Services are careers where you help keep people safe, protect the public, and respond to emergencies or threats.



Why Choose a Career in Protective Services?

- Make a real difference
- Get paid to keep people safe
- Great career progression
- Job variety – every day is different!
- Opportunity to travel (especially in the armed forces)

Main Careers in Protective Services

Police Officer.

Skills: Good communicator, calm under pressure, physically fit.

Routes into this career: Police apprenticeships, college courses in Uniformed Services or Protective Services.

Firefighter.

Skills: Physical strength, teamwork, quick thinking.

Routes into this career: Fire Service recruitment, Uniformed or protective services college courses.

Border Force Officer.

Skills: Attention to detail, confidence, following rules.

Routes into this career: Apply after age 18 with GCSEs; security or uniformed services course helps.

Armed Forces (Army, Navy, RAF).

Skills: Discipline, fitness, teamwork, leadership.

Routes into this career: Army Careers Centre, cadets, public services or protective services college courses.

Prison or Security Officer.

Skills: Maturity, communication, confidence.

Routes into this career: Apply to HM Prison Service or private security companies.

Careers in the Ambulance Service (UK)

Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), 999 Call Handler / Emergency Dispatcher, Paramedic.

Routes into this career: A levels or equivalent (including a science subject) **OR** a Level 3 extended diploma. Then, apply for a university degree in paramedic science (usually 3 years).

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Pathways After Year 11

A level choices can be dependent on career choice such as Paramedic.

Public/Uniformed/Protective Services Course at College level 2 and level 3

Apprenticeships Earn while you train in areas like policing, armed forces, or security always check on age for application

Useful Links

 <https://www.prospects.ac.uk>

 <https://www.joiningthepolice.co.uk>

 <https://apply.army.mod.uk>

 <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

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.

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:

Explore The World of Publishing

Age: 14 - 19

Industry: Science

Type: Virtual work experience

Date: 26 - 28/10/2026

Timings: 10:00 - 15:00

Duration: 3 days

[Read more](#)



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

How does TUI design holidays?

Open to anyone aged 14+, this virtual work experience allows you to explore the exciting careers on offer at the holiday and airline giant TUI

It covers important topics such as:

- Different jobs within the TUI airline
- Developing TUI as a digital brand
- The importance of customer services

[Start Now](#)

LOCAL COLLEGES & SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORMS

Upcoming Events and Open Days, book early to avoid disappointment. **Not sure where they are?** [Here's a map](#) and transport links for local schools and colleges!

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

Check the website for the latest events

[Basingstoke College of Technology](#)

Open Event 12 October 4.30 - 7.00pm

Open Day 21 November 10.00 - 12.30

[Bracknell and Wokingham College](#)

Open Event 14 October 4.30 - 7.00pm

Open Event 14 November 9.30 - 12.00

[Farnborough College of Technology](#)

Check the website for the latest events

[Guildford College](#)

Open Event 10 October 9.30 - 12.00

Open Event 18 November 4.30 - 7.00pm

[Merrist Wood College](#)

Open Event 7 October 4.30 - 7.00pm

Open Event 14 November 9.30 - 12.00

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The Prospect Trust Careers Services Named UK's Best School Careers Guidance Service of the Year 2026!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that The Prospect Trust Careers Services (now the WMAT Careers Service) has been officially named the Best School Careers Guidance Service of the Year at the 8th annual Education and Training Awards 2026!

This prestigious national accolade highlights the team's unwavering commitment to empowering students, providing top-tier career education, and delivering innovative guidance that helps young people successfully navigate their next steps. Amidst incredible competition from across the UK, the Trust's exceptional standards, personalised approach, and dedicated team stood out to the judges as a benchmark for excellence in education.

A massive congratulations to our incredible careers team whose passion and hard work make a life-changing difference for our students every single day!

That's it for this academic year - thank you for reading and have a lovely summer!

