



# Careers Café...

In this section of the newsletter, we bring students, parents and carers information on careers and the world of work.

## National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week began on 9th February 2026. We gave students across all year groups the chance to explore apprenticeships and the wider world of work.

This national initiative helped students understand the full range of pathways available after age 16. It also supported our responsibility to provide high-quality, impartial careers information and to challenge common misconceptions about apprenticeships. Most importantly, the activities inspired many students and opened doors to future possibilities they may not have previously considered.

Across tutor time and lessons, students took part in a wide range of year-group-specific activities, including short videos, real apprentice stories, myth-busting tasks, quizzes, and resources designed to develop career awareness and employability skills.

We were delighted to welcome external speakers who brought apprenticeships to life through real insight and experience:

- **Year 9 – Crawley College**

Nick from Crawley College spoke to students about local apprenticeship opportunities and the variety of practical, skills-based pathways available in the area. They encouraged students to start thinking about career interests and the benefits of hands-on learning.

- **Year 11 – East Surrey College**

Mark Scrimshaw delivered an informative session titled “*What is an Apprenticeship?*” Students learned what life as an apprentice involves, including how training is split between the workplace and college. Mark explained that apprentices:

- Developed both practical skills and the theory behind them.
- Built a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their achievements.
- Completed assessments, which could be practical or written depending on the course.

This gave Year 11 a clear and realistic understanding of what to expect if they chose this pathway after Year 11 or Year 13.

Subject teachers also made use of newly updated resources to help students see where different subjects could take them. Many shared real local examples of apprentices linked to their curriculum areas, and students had the chance to explore the new *Apprenticeship Arcade*, a fun and interactive set of games designed to build careers knowledge.



# Careers Café Continued...

## APPRENTICESHIP SECTORS AT OSC

We offer a range of apprenticeships across the following sectors:



Creative & Design



Business & Administration



Construction



Engineering & Manufacturing



Digital & IT



Accounting & Finance



Early Years & Childcare



Hair, Beauty, Make-up & Spa



## SEARCH & APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

### HOW TO SEARCH

There are several ways to find an apprenticeship vacancy.

#### Option 1

##### Visit Find An Apprenticeship

This is the government apprenticeship vacancy portal with free access to a large number of vacancies across England.

[findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

#### Option 2

##### Visit specialist job sites

There are many specialist websites for school and college leavers looking for their next step. They offer free advice and vacancies:

[Getmyfirstjob.uk](http://Getmyfirstjob.uk)

[Notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://Notgoingtouni.co.uk)

[UCAS.com](http://UCAS.com)

#### Option 3

##### Speak to an Employer directly or visit their website

Search the careers section of the website to view current vacancies. Alternatively, you can contact an employer by telephone or email.



### AND ALSO...

Social Media is a great place to follow different employers and see vacancy ads. Look at different platforms including **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram** and **TikTok**.

## Crawley College Open Event - Tuesday 10 March 2026

By Chichester College Group

Crawley College - Crawley, West Sussex

Tuesday, Mar 10 at 16:30 GMT

### Overview

Crawley College Open Event - Tuesday 10 March 2026

It's time to explore our campus to find out in person about studying with us!

# Careers Café Continued...

## Year 11 Careers Achievement Celebration

Just before the half term break, we held an invite-only celebration event with biscuits and drinks for Year 11 students who performed particularly well during our Careers Mock Assessment Centre on the Post 16 Apprenticeship and College Taster Day. The celebration recognised students who demonstrated exceptional employability skills, teamwork, communication, and leadership during the assessment activities.

Our guest facilitator, Eppie, who had led the mock assessment sessions, commented on what a pleasure it had been to work with our students, saying: *“Thank you for inviting me into your warm, welcoming school. I had a fantastic day.”*

In line with the criteria for meaningful employer encounters, Eppie prepared a follow-up reflection session for students, which was shared at the celebration event. Although all students received personalised feedback on the day, she also highlighted five standout students from each group, praising their specific contributions. In addition, she singled out six students overall for their *outstanding* performance across the assessment centre task.



The celebration concluded with a recap of the key competencies discussed during the assessment activities, ensuring students could clearly see how their strengths aligned with real workplace expectations.



### Overall Exceptional Candidates

**Joseph** - Group B  
**Riad** - Group D  
**Mikey, Reuben, Stefan, Mali** - Group A

Congratulations!

West Sussex,  
Brighton and Hove  
CAREERS HUB

CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
SCHOOL

### A quick recap of those key skills...

<p><b>Working Together</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages teamwork</li> <li>• Gets involved and takes a role in the team</li> <li>• Listens</li> <li>• Interacts with others</li> <li>• Involves others</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning &amp; organising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers objectives</li> <li>• Manages time</li> <li>• Prioritises tasks</li> <li>• General organisation</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision Making / Initiating Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers good solutions / ideas</li> <li>• Identifies problems and opportunities</li> <li>• Provides reasoned rationale</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listens to others</li> <li>• Can express clearly and concisely</li> <li>• Builds on others' ideas</li> <li>• Brings others into the task</li> </ul> <p><b>Dealing with pressure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remains calm when objectives change</li> <li>• Responds to others calmly</li> <li>• Can evaluate progress</li> </ul>
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Celebrate + Improve

### Plumpton College Open Event

Plumpton College is holding an Open Event on **Saturday 21 March from 9am to 12pm**. Visitors can look around the facilities and speak with staff and students about the courses on offer.

[Upcoming Events - Plumpton College](#)