

This month, Hazelwick took part in National Careers Week (NCW) . This is a national celebration of careers education designed to help young people explore future pathways. The theme for 2026, “Own Your Future,” encourages students to build confidence, recognise their strengths and take small steps towards shaping their futures.

Across the week, students took part in assemblies, talks and activities designed to broaden their understanding of the world of work. They were also signposted to the NCW Virtual Careers Fair, an interactive online space where students and parents can explore employers, universities, apprenticeships and sector-specific information: <https://ncw26.co.uk/#intro>.

Our younger students had assemblies delivered by Mrs Andrews focused on developing self-awareness and key skills. Year 7 explored how their interests and habits influence their futures, learning that many jobs they will one day consider do not yet exist, especially in fast-growing areas like technology and sustainability. They also discussed the importance of resilience, communication, and critical thinking. Year 8 explored the many routes available into different careers, emphasising curiosity, trying new things and recognising how learning and experience shape future choices. Year 9 took part in a video-based assembly encouraging them to reflect on how different careers connect to personal strengths and interests.

Older students enjoyed a series of external speakers. Year 11 students heard from Sarah, a Student Ambassador at the University of Surrey, who shared insights into academic life, independence and the value of placements and study-abroad programmes. Steph Ward from the University of Sussex helped Year 12 students understand how to choose a course, research universities, and consider factors such as accommodation, support, and study-abroad opportunities. They also met Mohammed Ahmed from National Grid, who explained the wide range of roles in the energy sector, including engineering, cyber-security, IT, and business, along with apprenticeship and graduate opportunities. In addition, Year 10 welcomed Ciaran Moynan from Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), who described the many career routes within the rail industry and how apprenticeships provide hands-on entry into roles ranging from engineering and signalling to customer service.

Throughout the week, staff across the school supported NCW by highlighting career links within subjects and using form-time activities focused on the “Own Your Future” theme to help students make meaningful connections between lessons and real career pathways.

Parents and carers can also explore a range of free resources to support conversations at home: <https://ncw2020.co.uk/booklets-guides/>. These include *The Parents’ Guide to NCW 2026*, which provides straightforward explanations of post-16 and post-18 options, qualification levels, and the different routes into careers such as apprenticeships and university. The guide also offers practical advice on building skills employers value, such as teamwork, resilience and communication, and guidance on finding work experience, including virtual placements, volunteering, and shadowing.

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2ND-7TH MARCH 2026

#NCW2026

Own YOUR  
*future*

TAKE CONTROL  
OF YOUR NEXT  
CHAPTER.

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National Careers Week  
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NATIONAL CAREERS  
WEEK 2026



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