



CAREERS AT WALSALL ACADEMY

MEET THE TEAM

B M 1

As a student at Walsall Academy you have access to a dedicated Careers Team of advisors, to help you with choices you need to make as you progress through school and your career journey.

The types of things we might be asked, on a day to day basis, can range from questions about subject choice at GCSE, A Level and Degree to questions about how much you might expect to earn as an Engineering Apprentice. We can also help with CV writing, applying to college and university or jobs as well as help you to prepare for interviews and Assessment Centres.



Mrs T Dingle
Director of Careers and Employability

In school every day 8:15 am – 5:15 pm

Contact via email tdingle@walsallacademy.com or telephone 01922 493910



Mrs N Rattenberry
Careers Co-ordinator

In school Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:15 am – 4.30 pm

Contact via email nrattenberry@walsallacademy.com or telephone 01922 493910



Mrs C Ward
Careers Co-ordinator

In school Mon – Thurs 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Contact via email cward@walsallacademy.com or telephone 01922 493910



Mrs S Lloyd
Careers Co-ordinator

Mon – Wed 8.15 am – 4.30 pm

Contact via email slloyd@walsallacademy.com or telephone 01922 493910



Mrs K Greene
Higher Education Support

Contact via email
kgreene@walsallacademy.com

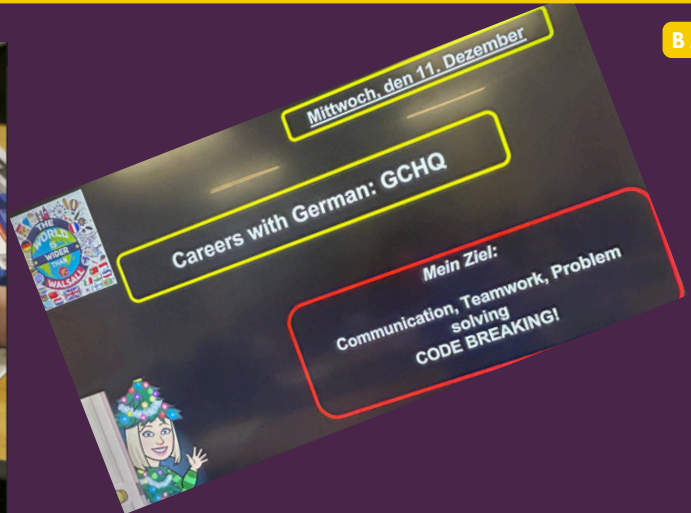


Mr B Wood
Higher Education Support

Contact via email
bwood@walsallacademy.com

CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

BM 4

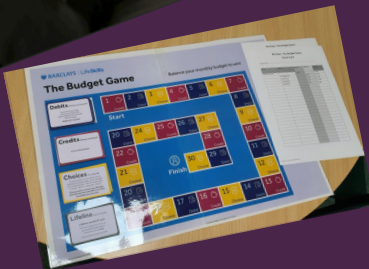


Careers with Languages

Year 10 participated in an annual GCHQ Competition exploring what it might be like to work at Government Communication Head Quarters (GCHQ).

Students were able to have a look inside the home of Britain's spy network as well as discover the types of roles available within GCHQ.

Finally students developed some of the skills needed to work at GCHQ by working as part of a team to solve problems, crack codes and keep the country safe!



BM 5

Maths and Money

Year 9 have taken part in Financial Identity workshops a part of their maths lessons. Marianne Lombardi, Mortgage Broker, visited to explain a little about her running her own business, her role and her career path. Students then learnt how credit reports work and how to look after their financial health when they are older. Students were tasked with a number of case studies and had to work out which of the fictional characters had the highest score and which the lowest? Marianne then explained how these scores impact on the ability to make large purchases such as a house and a car and how they can also impact upon things such as mobile phone contracts and even future employment opportunities.



Where Your Financial Identity Lives

Your financial identity is recorded on **your credit report**.

- Your name & address history
- Phone contracts
- Loans & credit cards
- On-time payments
- Missed payments



EXPERIENCE OF WORKPLACES

BM 5, 6



As part of National Apprenticeship Week, four of our Year 12 students visited Finning CAT, one of the world's leading engineering and heavy-equipment companies. The visit gave them a brilliant insight into Finning's engineering apprenticeships, the application and interview process, and the company's ongoing work to encourage more women into engineering.

One of the highlights of the day was taking part in a real interview task: a Lego bridge-building challenge. Students had to design a bridge strong enough for a CAT truck to be placed on top and also drive underneath.

Working in mixed teams with another school, our students communicated and problem-solved brilliantly, and one of the groups that included Walsall Academy students won the competition!



Student Testimonial

I was surprised by the breadth of potential pathways on offer from the base-level apprenticeships, not only in engineering but also in other roles like HR and marketing. The visit taught me a lot about being a female in the heavy machinery industry and the importance of raising awareness of what the role really consists of.



APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY

BM1, 2, 5, PAL

Student Testimonial

A group of students and I took part in the six week online Apprenticeship Academy. Each week was structured to help us identify and secure an apprenticeship within our preferred industry. From these sessions, I have learned how to plan my career pathway effectively by setting clear goals and having a back up option in case things don't go as expected. (Ryan, Year 13)



DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS?

The Apprenticeship Academy is a 6 week programme that provides students in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 with everything they need to know to find, apply for and interview for apprenticeship opportunities in the UK.

The sessions are run by a qualified careers advisor. Throughout the programme, you will also have the opportunity to meet 6 current apprentices and employers.



APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY

YOU'RE INVITED

This programme won't find an apprenticeship for you but it will provide you with everything you need to find an apprenticeship yourself.

On the Apprenticeship Academy programme, you will learn:

- Week 1: What Apprenticeship am I looking for?
- Week 2: Where can I find apprenticeships?
- Week 3: How can I write successful applications?
- Week 4: What will the application process be?
- Week 5: What to expect at interviews and assessments
- Week 6: How to manage my applications

EMPLOYER ENCOUNTERS

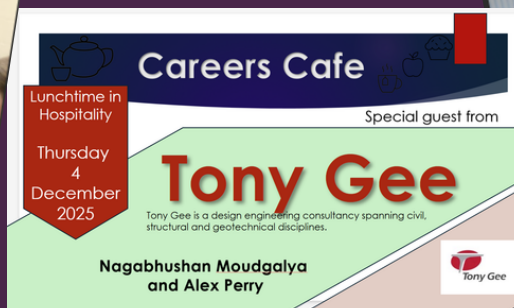
BM5, PAL



We have welcomed a number of employers, employees and apprentices to our Careers Cafe this term. Students have taken part in meaningful encounters with employers from sectors such as IT, Law, Engineering and Civil Engineering. Students have discovered more about the different organisational structures and gained an awareness of different apprenticeship routes into employment.



Our Careers Cafes provide a comfortable, relaxed and informal environment for students to find out about the different careers, pathways and roles within organisations.



YEAR 7 & 8 CAREERS CHALLENGE

BM 1,2

Year 7 Careers Competition

My Career goal is to be: _____
This is my profession/career worth _____

What?
My typical work day would be: _____

Why?
I chose this because _____

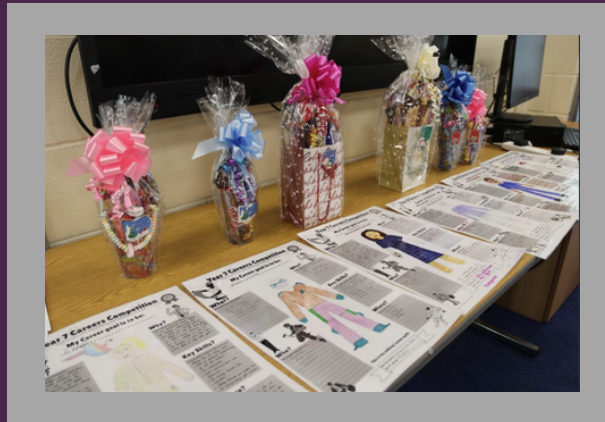
Key Skills?
The key skills I need for this career are: _____

Who?
The people I work with are: _____

Where?
I work at the: _____

Competition Closes: Friday 12th December

My full name: _____
My PT group: _____



Year 8 Careers Competition

Careers of the Future

Job Title: _____
This is the profession/career worth _____

What?
My typical work day would be: _____

Why?
I chose this because _____

Key Skills?
The key skills I need for this career are: _____

Who?
The people I work with are: _____

How?
How do I go to school/college/university? _____

Where?
I work at the: _____

Competition Closes: Friday 12th December

My full name: _____
My PT group: _____



Students in Year 7 and 8 have taken part in a Careers Design a Poster Competition. Year 7 have been thinking about the world of work and careers they might like in the future whereas Year 8 have been considering what futuristic careers might look like in 30 years.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

BM 2

WHAT IS THE LABOUR MARKET?

It's where people offer their skills, qualifications and experience to employers in exchange for paid work (labour).

LMI CAN HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD OF WORK:

- The kind and number of jobs available (by area/sector)
- The skills and jobs that are (or will be) in demand
- Entry routes, pathways and progression routes
- Salaries, earning potential, and prospect of promotion
- Working patterns, hours, employer cultures, equality of opportunity and more



Did you know that technological change, geo-economic fragmentation, economic uncertainty, demographic shifts and the green transition - individually and in combination are among the major drivers expected to shape and transform the global labour market by 2030?

The Future of the Jobs Report 2025 brings together the perspective of over 1000 leading global employers- more than 14 million workers - 22 industry clusters and 55 economies around the work.

Click here to see the full report.

https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_Report_2025.pdf

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

BM 5, 6

All Year 12 students are required to find and secure their own work experience placements for the full two weeks.

During the Autumn term, all students took part in one to one guidance sessions with a qualified Careers Advisor where their future career decisions were discussed.

At the end of this session the advisor helped students to identify a plan of action to follow in order to secure their placements for the following year.

In some cases, students wishing to pursue careers in certain sectors may be asked to consider a more long term approach or the option of completing work experience outside of school term time. This is often because the demands of the sector and the workplace require an alternative approach to block placements.

Work Experience Flow Chart and Timescale

Students complete online Work Experience questionnaire and take part in one to one IAG sessions.

STEP 1

Sept - Dec 2025

Students prepare CV's ready to send to employers upon request.

STEP 2

Sept - Oct 2025

Students begin to make contact with their identified placement providers via email, in the first instance, followed by telephone calls and in-person visits.

STEP 3

Sept 2025 - March 2026

Once secured, students log their placements onto the Careers Log App.

This can be found on their front screen on Sharepoint

STEP 4

Sept 2025 - March 2026

YEAR 12 WEX, HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY WEEK

BM7, PAL

During the last week of the Summer term, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to explore their choices at Post 18. This week will involve visits to and from Universities and Training Providers all of which will help students to make informed decisions about what to do when they leave Walsall Academy.

Those who would like to go to university can attend information sessions and workshops designed to provide support with every aspect of the UCAS process. Parents and Carers are also welcome to attend during a twilight session.

Those considering apprenticeships can attend local Training Providers as well as masterclasses aimed at improving their interview techniques.

- **Sept - One to one interviews**
- **28 March - All work experience placements to be secured by students**
- **30 May - All health and safety risk assessments and relevant checks to be completed by Careers staff**
- **29 June - 10 July - Year 12 Work Experience**
- **13 July - Year 12 Higher Education and Employability Week**



CAREERS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

BM1, PAL

YEAR 9 PREFERENCES

Please contact Mrs Dingle in Careers if you have any questions or need information, advice and guidance with upcoming decisions for GCSE preferences.

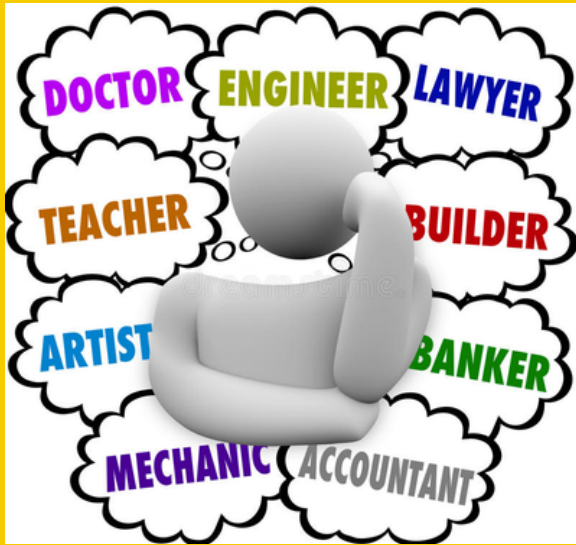
tdingle@walsallacademy.com

REMEMBER.... Log onto your Morrisby account and explore career ideas and suitable paths.



Try the Buzz Personality Quiz here!

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/buzzquiz>



YEAR 11 AND POST 16 OPTIONS

Each Year 11 student will take part in a one to one session with a qualified Careers Advisor. This will provide them with the information, advice and guidance they need in order to make decisions regarding their next steps after Year 11. Please contact Ms Challenor if you would like to request an appointment.

jchallenor@walsallacademy.com

National Careers Service

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



POST 18 OPTIONS

If you are in Year 12 or 13 and have any questions about your post 18 options, please feel free to drop in where a member of the team will be able to advise

UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com/>



Find out about apprenticeships here;
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com>



Find an apprenticeship here;
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>





**Important
Dates**

NOTICES

- **25 Feb 2026 - 25 Mar 2026
Apprenticeship Academy**
- **4 March 2026 Year 13 Finance &
Accommodation Evening 6pm**
- **18 March 2026 Careers Fair**
- **April 2026 Year 12 Post 18
Information Evening 6pm**

FEEDBACK

The Careers Department here at Walsall Academy welcome feedback from students, parents/carers, employers and guests as we strive to improve our careers provision across the school. Please click on the relevant QR codes below, in order to provide feedback, if you have recently engaged in any activities hosted by the team.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback is vital to us in Careers as it allows us to understand the help and support you need and when. This feedback helps us in planning future opportunities that will be relevant and interesting to you.

Please scan to complete



EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

We are always keen to work with employers and value feedback given in order to improve our provision, therefore if you have participated in any of our events we would welcome any feedback you may have.

Please scan to complete



PARENTAL FEEDBACK

As a parent/carer your knowledge of your child is crucial in helping us to provide information that is relevant and timely. Please provide any feedback you feel may be helpful to the Team in meeting the needs of students across the school.

Please scan to complete



or click on the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/W3tvUfGpJr>

EMPLOYER VISITS We are always keen to invite employers or businesses into school.

Please email tdingle@walsallacademy.com to make any suggestions for future career events.

We are always open to new ideas!