



Newsletter

Welcome to Easington Academy's February 2025 Careers Newsletter.

Supporting Every Student's Future at Easington Academy

At Easington Academy, we take pride in our inclusive and forward-thinking careers programme. Integrated into the curriculum, World Ready lessons, assemblies, and tailored support, our programme ensures students are equipped for success.

*Our dedicated team includes two Level 6 qualified Careers Advisors, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Wann, who collaborate with Mr. Rewcastle from our partner company, Progress Careers. Together, they provide impartial, personalised advice to help students make informed choices, develop vital skills, and confidently plan their next steps in education or employment. Stay connected for more updates, guidance, and exciting opportunities in the months ahead! Access our full Careers Programme here: [Careers information | Easington Academy](#)
For personalised advice, contact Mrs. Collins julieann.collins@easingtonacademy.co.uk and Mrs. Whan: tina.whan@easingtonacademy.co.uk*

Year 11 – Next Steps

Key Actions and Deadlines

It's important to stay on track with applications and explore all available opportunities. Here's what you should be focusing on this month:

College & Sixth Form Applications – Don't Miss the Deadlines!

Most colleges and sixth forms have application deadlines between December and February, but some fill places on a first-come, first-served basis. Students should apply as soon as possible to keep their options open. **Check deadlines for local providers** such as East Durham College, Durham Sixth Form Centre, and Sunderland College.

Apprenticeship Opportunities – Start Looking Now

If students are considering an apprenticeship, they should begin researching opportunities on websites like the **National Apprenticeship Service (gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)** and local training providers such as **Northeast Apprenticeships** and **Derwentside College**. Some employers recruit early, so registering for updates is a good idea

Taster Sessions & Open Events – Explore Before You Decide

Many providers offer **taster sessions** or open events, allowing students to experience courses before applying. Attending these can help them make an informed choice. Information is included in this Newsletter and displayed throughout school. Watch out for emails.

Careers Meetings – Book a 1:1 Guidance Session

Any student who is still unsure about their options should arrange a **careers guidance meeting** with Mrs Collins. Whether they are considering A-Levels, BTECs, T Levels, or apprenticeships, we can help them explore the best path forward.

👉 **Final Tip:** Even if students have a clear plan, they should always have a **backup option** just in case!

Would you like to add anything specific, such as a student spotlight or provider feature?



Year 9 GCSE Options – Making the right choice

Things to Consider When Choosing Your Options:

- ✓ **What Do You Enjoy?** – You're more likely to do well in subjects you find interesting and engaging. Think about what you like learning about and where you feel most confident.
- ✓ **What Are You Good At?** – Consider subjects where you have strong skills and a track record of doing well. Looking at your progress so far can help you make informed choices.
- ✓ **Future Career Plans** – If you already have a career in mind, check if certain subjects are required. For example:
 - Thinking about medicine or science careers? **Triple Science or Combined Science** may be important.
 - Interested in architecture or design? **Art, Design Technology, or Computer Science** could be helpful.
 - Want to work in a business environment? **Maths and IT** might be useful.
- ✓ **Keeping Your Options Open** – If you're unsure about a career path, choose a **broad range of subjects** to give yourself flexibility in the future.
- ✓ **What Is Compulsory?** – Everyone will study **Maths, English, Science, History or Geography** and possibly a language, depending on your school's curriculum. You will then have a choice of additional subjects.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ **Picking a subject just because your friends are doing it** – Choose what's right for **you!**
- ✗ **Choosing a subject based on the teacher** – Teachers may change, but your interest in the subject should stay.
- ✗ **Not researching your choices** – Some courses have coursework, while others are exam-based. Find out what suits your learning style.

Where to Get Support

- 💬 **Ask Your Teachers** – They can tell you more about the course content and what to expect.
- 📖 **Use Careers Resources** – Websites like **Unifrog, BBC Bitesize Careers, and National Careers Service** can help you see how GCSE subjects link to careers.
- 👤 **Talk to Older Students** – They've been through the process and can offer advice.
- 📅 **Attend the GCSE Options Evening** – **Thursday 3rd April 2025 – 4.00pm**. A great chance to ask questions and explore your choices.



Supporting Your Child with SEND Through GCSE Options

Choosing GCSE subjects can be a big decision, and for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), it's important to consider how different subjects align with their strengths, interests, and learning needs. Here are some key factors to keep in mind:

Tailoring Choices to Strengths and Learning Styles

- ◆ **What works best for them?** – Some students thrive in **practical subjects** like Art, Design Technology, or PE, while others prefer **structured subjects** with clear rules, such as Maths or Science. Consider whether coursework-based or exam-heavy subjects suit their learning style.
- ◆ **Manageable Workload** – Some subjects have more coursework, while others are mainly assessed through final exams. For students who struggle with memory or processing, coursework-based subjects may be beneficial.

Access to Support and Adjustments

- ◆ **Exam Access Arrangements** – If your child qualifies for extra time, a reader, a scribe, or other support in exams, consider how this applies to their chosen subjects. The SEND team can guide you on what adjustments are available.
- ◆ **Smaller Group Learning** – Some subjects may be taught in smaller groups, which can help students who benefit from additional support.
- ◆ **Alternative Qualifications** – Some students may find success with **BTECs or vocational qualifications** instead of traditional GCSEs, as these often involve practical learning and coursework rather than just exams.

Keeping Future Pathways Open

- ◆ **Exploring Post-16 Options Early** – If your child has a specific interest, research how GCSE choices might link to **college courses, apprenticeships, or supported employment**.
- ◆ **Balance and Wellbeing** – It's important to consider workload and stress levels. A mix of core subjects, interests, and strengths can help maintain engagement and motivation.

Where to Get Advice

- 💬 **Talk to the SEND and Careers Teams** – We're here to help with any concerns and can discuss tailored support.
- 📅 **Attend the GCSE Options Evening** – This is a great chance to ask subject teachers about course content and support.
- 🏠 **Look at Future Support in Education** – If your child has an EHCP, consider how their needs may be met in post-16 education.



St Chads College – Durham University



Year 8 and 9 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit St Chad's College at Durham University, where they gained valuable insight into university life. During the visit, students took part in a range of interactive taster sessions, explored the campus, and discovered what it's like to study at a prestigious university.

This event was designed to raise aspirations and help students feel more confident about considering higher education in the future. By experiencing university firsthand, they were able to see that higher education is an achievable and exciting pathway.

One student shared their experience:

“I really enjoyed learning about university life and taking part in the activities. It made me realise that going to university could be for me!”



Careers Spotlight: Jobs of the Future!

The world of work is changing faster than ever, and by the time you leave school, there will be jobs that don't even exist yet! New industries, technology, and sustainability are shaping exciting career opportunities.

Here are some emerging careers that could be big in the future:

- ◆ **Space Tourism Guide** – As space travel becomes more advanced, people may soon take holidays beyond Earth!
- ◆ **Virtual Reality Architect** – Design immersive digital worlds for gaming, education, and even virtual workplaces.
- ◆ **Drone Technician** – Drones are being used for everything from deliveries to emergency rescue missions.
- ◆ **Sustainable Fashion Designer** – Create eco-friendly clothing using innovative materials to reduce waste.
- ◆ **Digital Wellbeing Coach** – Help people balance their screen time and mental health in an online world.

The skills you develop now—like creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability—will help prepare you for careers that might not even exist yet!

💡 **What job do you think could exist in the future?** 🚀





Post-16 Providers – Open Events – February 2025

Date	Day	Provider	Time
04/03/2025	Tuesday	New College Durham	4.30pm - 6.30pm
04/03/2025	Tuesday	EDC – Houghall Campus – Animal Care Only	5.00pm - 6.30pm
05/03/2025	Wednesday	East Durham College – All Areas	5.00pm - 6.30pm
11/03/2025	Tuesday	East Durham College – All Areas	5.00pm - 6.30pm
12/03/2025	Wednesday	Middlesbrough College	5.00pm – 7.00pm
13/03/2025	Thursday	EDC – Houghall Campus – Land based Only	5.00pm - 6.30pm
13/03/2025	Thursday	Bede College – Sunderland	4.45pm – 6.30pm
19/03/2025	Wednesday	Hartlepool College	5.30pm – 6.30pm
18/03/2025	Tuesday	Northern School of Art	5.30pm – 8.00pm

OUR CAREERS ADVISORS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PROVIDING 1:1 CAREERS GUIDANCE TO YEAR 11 STUDENTS

College Websites

Byron Sixth Form: <https://www.st-bedes.durham.sch.uk/byron-sixth-form-college/>
 Durham Sixth Form Centre: <http://www.durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk/>
 East Durham College: <https://www.eastdurham.ac.uk/>
 English Martyrs Sixth Form: <https://ems6.bhcet.org.uk/>
 Hartlepool Sixth Form: <https://www.hartlepoolsixth.ac.uk/>
 Hartlepool College: <https://www.hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/>
 Middlesbrough College: <https://www.mbro.ac.uk/school-leavers>
 New College Durham: <https://newcollegedurham.ac.uk/>
 Northern School of Art: <https://northernart.ac.uk/>
 Sunderland College: <https://www.sunderlandcollege.ac.uk/>
 Newcastle College: [College Courses For 16 to 18 Year Olds \(ncl-coll.ac.uk\)](http://College Courses For 16 to 18 Year Olds (ncl-coll.ac.uk))

Useful Careers Websites

National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
 Prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>
 ICould: <https://icould.com/>
 Careers Box: [Home - CareersBox](#)
 Careers4U: [Careers4u –](#)



Post-16 Advice and Support for SEND Students

Choosing the right post-16 pathway is an important decision for all students, especially for those with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**. It's essential to explore the options that align with individual strengths, needs, and future aspirations. Here are some key pieces of advice and support to help SEND students and their families navigate post-16 choices:

1. Understanding Your Post-16 Options

SEND students have a variety of pathways to consider after Year 11, each offering different levels of support:

- **Sixth Form:** Many schools offer sixth form education where students can continue their studies in a supportive environment. Some sixth forms offer tailored support for SEND students, including small-group teaching and access arrangements during exams.
- **Further Education Colleges:** Colleges often provide a wider range of vocational courses, BTECs, and apprenticeships that may better suit students who learn through practical experiences. Some colleges have dedicated SEND support teams to help students thrive in their chosen courses.
- **Apprenticeships and Traineeships:** For students interested in a more hands-on approach, apprenticeships provide on-the-job training while earning a salary. Traineeships are also available to students who need further preparation before starting an apprenticeship.
- **Supported Internships:** These are workplace-based programs for students with SEND that offer practical experience and skills development, with extra support to help transition to work.

2. Focusing on Strengths and Interests

It's important for SEND students to choose a pathway that aligns with their strengths and interests. Consider subjects or vocational courses that cater to their skills and passions, such as:

- **Creative Industries:** For students with artistic abilities, courses in graphic design, media, or performing arts might be ideal.
- **Practical Skills:** If a student enjoys hands-on work, vocational qualifications in areas like construction, hairdressing, or animal care could be a great fit.
- **STEM Subjects:** For students with an interest in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, looking into supported routes in these fields can open doors to many exciting careers.

Financial Support

Some post-16 providers may offer financial support for SEND students to help with things like travel, equipment, or extra learning materials. Check with the provider about available bursaries or funding options.



Labour Market Information (LMI)

Northeast England Labour Market Highlights

- **Employment Rate:** The Northeast had the lowest working-age employment rate among the nine English regions during the September to November 2024 period.

evidencehub.northeast-ca.gov.uk

- **Older Workers:** For individuals aged 50 to 64, the Northeast recorded an employment rate of 64.2%, the lowest among English regions.

[GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)

- **Construction Sector:** The region's construction industry faced challenges, with residential building experiencing the weakest performance, reflecting broader national trends.

[Financial Times](https://www.ft.com)

Implications for Students and Career Planning

Understanding these labour market trends can aid students in making informed decisions about their education and future careers:

- **Industry Demand:** Despite regional challenges, sectors like **technology, healthcare, and green energy continue to offer opportunities.**
- **Skill Development:** Focusing on skills relevant to growing industries can enhance employability.
- **Further Education:** Considering post-16 options that align with market needs can provide a competitive edge.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the following sources:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/uklabourmarketseptember2024>

<https://evidencehub.northeast-ca.gov.uk/report/regional-labour-market-latest>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9366/>

