

HGSF Weekly Newsletter

Monday 17th November 2025



PT Time	
Monday	Key Messages
Monday Launchpad	<p>Year 12 (Atrium) : Degree Apprenticeships visiting speaker MMU</p> <p>Year 13 are very welcome to join</p> <p>www.mmu.ac.uk/study/apprenticeships</p>
Tuesday	Notices & Week Ahead
Wednesday	<p>Year 12 : The Big Conversation</p> <p>Year 13 : The Big Think</p>
Thursday	PT Quiz
Friday Extended PT	Year 12 & 13 (Atrium) : How does society support men's mental health? International Men's Day & Movember.

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What's on this week


W/C Monday 17th November	Year 13 Common Assessments
Thursday 20th November	Spanish Exchange visiting students join us at HGSF, the students will stay with us until Tuesday 25 th November
Friday 21st November	History of Art Lectures at Didsbury Sixth Form - <i>Year 13 students involved have been advised</i>

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Upcoming

W/C Monday 24th November	Year 13 Common Assessments
Monday 1st December	Inset Day
Thursday 11th December	Voice Coaching with Tom Morrison - <i>students involved have been advised</i>
Friday 19th December	Finish for Christmas 
Monday 5th January	Return to Sixth Form

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Student Notices:

Room Temperature: Please do not adjust the temperature in the classrooms, the units are set centrally by our estates team and only staff are able to adjust this. This includes the Study Centre. If a room you are working in, including the Study Centre, feels too hot or too cold, and there is no staff member present, please report this to the office.

Classroom use/Food in classrooms: We are noticing an increase in food and drink waste in classroom bins. Please note, we do not allow food and drink in classrooms so this should not be happening. Please ensure all food and drink is consumed in the refectory where possible. If using a classroom at lunch you MUST book this out via the Room Booking sheet.

Room Bookings: Please note, you can no longer book SF9 at any time.

The 16-19 Bursary: The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help students facing financial hardship to continue in full time education after Year 11. We would encourage all students to read the information [here](#), or to see Mrs Gill for further advice. The bursary is discretionary and you do not always need to meet the criteria outlined.

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target jobs
Future Apprentice
of the year 2026

Are you the Future Female Accounting Apprentice of the Year?

We're searching schools, colleges, and sixth forms across the UK to find the next Future Female Accounting Apprentice of the Year.

In partnership with EY, this award seeks to identify aspiring female accountants who have a passion for numbers, a curiosity for business, and a desire to make a positive impact on the world of finance.

To enter, you must:

- Be in year 12 (or equivalent)
- Have a minimum of a GCSE Grade 4 in Maths & English Language
- On track to complete 3 A-Levels (or equivalent)

Apply Now - It only takes 10 minutes!

- You could win a personal experience hosted by our Audit or Tax teams at one of our EY offices. There, you'll learn what it's like to work at a global professional services firm.
- Finalists will also be considered for a place on EY's 2027 apprentice programme!

Apply Today!

[Click here to apply.](#)

Application deadline
5th January 2026



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
SHL



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Arts and Humanities

Leeds Futures

Y12 students can express their interest now

Are you interested in English, History, Music, Creative Arts or Theatre & Performance? Then Leeds Futures will be a great opportunity for you!

Leeds Futures is a national outreach programme designed for individual learners in Year 12. The programme consists of a sustained series of activities throughout Year 12 until the point of submitting their UCAS application in Year 13/Year 2.

[Find out more](#)

Reach for Excellence applications open now!

This flagship widening participation scheme is open for applications from Year 12 students.

The Reach for Excellence (RfE) scheme provides support to students with the potential to gain a place at a research intensive university, but who may not have considered it (or who may perceive barriers to entry). Successful applicants can engage with a variety of subject-specific academic tasters, personal development workshops, intensive research and study skills sessions.

Events primarily take place at the University of Leeds campus during school holiday periods. Students can apply online and supporting references will be requested from a teacher or tutor at the school.

[Find out more](#)

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Explore early Careers with the UK Government Economic Service and Government Social Research - Gain Insights into the UK's Economic & Social Research Professions

Ready to tackle the big questions that shape our country's future? Join us for an exclusive virtual insight event with the UK's Government Economic Service and Social Research Department on **Tuesday, 18th November (5pm - 6pm)** and discover the exciting apprenticeship career opportunities available in the heart of government.

The UK government's economic and social research professionals provide recommendations to policymakers so they can make the best decisions. This event is a must-attend for Year 12 and Year 13 students who want to explore a career in economics or social research while earning a salary through an apprenticeship.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, 18th November

Time: 5pm – 6pm

Location: Zoom (link provided upon registration)

For: Year 12, Year 13

Why Attend?

- Explore Apprenticeships in the UK Government – Learn about opportunities in economics and social research.
- Discover the Government Economics Service Degree Apprenticeship Programme (GES DAP) and the Government Social Research Degree Apprenticeship Programme (GSR DAP) – A unique opportunity to earn a degree in economics or social research while working in government.
- Gain Insider Insights – Hear directly from government economists and social researchers about their work and career journeys.
- Live Q&A Session – Ask your questions to the Government Economic and Social Research Team.

Why the UK Government Economic and Social Research Professions?

They are the heart of government decision-making, informing policies that impact businesses, individuals, and the economy. As an apprentice, you'll gain hands-on experience, work on real government projects, and develop skills that will set you up for a successful career in government.

[Apply Here!](#)

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FARRER & Co

Insight into Farrer & Co

Virtual Law Event for Y12, 13 and University Students

Are you considering a career in law? Join us for an exclusive virtual event with Farrer & Co, one of the UK's most prestigious law firms, to gain invaluable insights into the legal profession and explore how to kickstart your journey through their highly-regarded solicitor apprenticeship programme and training contracts.

Event Details:

- Event: Insight to Farrer & Co
- Date: Monday, 24th November 2025
- Time: 5pm - 6:30pm
- Location: Virtual (link provided upon registration)

Why Attend?

Farrer & Co is renowned for its work with high-net-worth individuals, charities, institutions, and businesses across the UK and beyond; they also represent the Royal Family. This event is your chance to learn directly from professionals at the firm and gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to work at the forefront of the legal world.

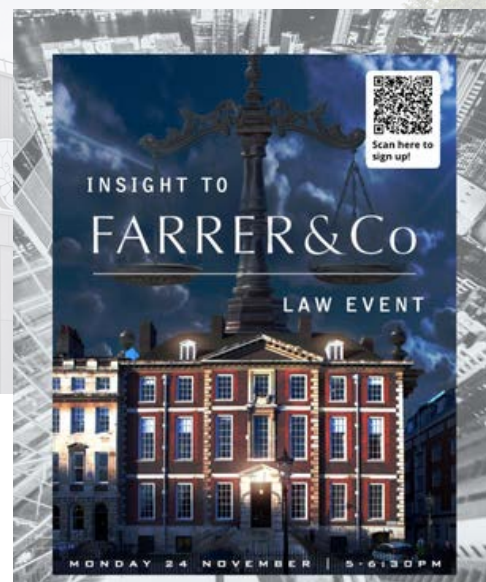
Here's what you'll experience during the event:

- Exclusive Insights from Legal Experts: Hear from Farrer & Co lawyers and trainees as they share their career journeys, daily experiences, and advice for aspiring legal professionals.
- Understanding Farrer & Co: Learn about the firm's practice areas, including private client work, intellectual property, commercial law, and more.
- Career Pathways: Explore the opportunities available for students, including solicitor apprenticeships, internships, training contracts, and work experience programmes.
- Application Advice: Receive practical tips on how to stand out in your applications and interviews to secure a future in law.
- Interactive Q&A Session: Ask your questions directly to the Farrer & Co team and get tailored advice for your career aspirations.

Why This Event is Perfect for You

Whether you're considering a legal career or want to explore opportunities with a leading firm, this event provides unparalleled insights to help you make informed decisions about your future.

[Apply Here!](#)



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Applications for the **free** National NHS Virtual Work Experience programme have now opened for 2025-2026!

Developed in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this carefully curated 6-month medical and 4-month dental programme offers a unique insight into the medical and dental profession. The e-learning format allows students to complete their placements in their own time. Covering ethics, procedures, wider team roles, and facilitating direct conversations with doctors and dentists, this virtual experience serves as an excellent foundation for your students' future careers. Not only does it enrich their UCAS applications, but it also strategically prepares them for in-person work experience placements.

Taking part in the Virtual Work Experience will provide:

- **Comprehensive Insights:** The programme covers a range of specialities, providing a holistic understanding of medical and dental practices. Each month, a new focus area is introduced, allowing participants to delve into different aspects of the field.
- **Flexible Participation:** Tailored for students from years 10-13/S3-S6/NI10-14, the programme accommodates various schedules by being virtual. Participants have one month to complete each specialty, ensuring flexibility and ease of participation.
- **Recognised Certification:** Upon successful completion of all specialities, students will receive a certificate from Medic Mentor and UHB, validating their active participation to include in their UCAS and apprenticeships applications.

This month's focus is on Surgery or Paediatric and Dental Surgery, offering a firsthand look into the life of a doctor/dentist and the intricacies of procedures, treatments and patient care.

Registering for these programmes is simple – students just need to complete the free online application form:

Medicine: <https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Dentistry: <https://dental-mentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

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Medicine and Dentistry FREE virtual LIVE Get into conferences:

Medicine:

- Saturday 16th November from 9am - 1:30pm
- Sunday 22nd November from 9am - 1:30pm

[Register HERE](#)

Dentistry:

- Sunday 30th November from 9am - 1:30pm

[Register HERE](#)

All aspiring doctors and dentists in years 12 are invited to register.

These conferences offer tailored advice for medicine and dentistry, covering a range of crucial topics:

- Tactically choosing universities
- Personal statements
- UCAT
- Medical/Dental interview skills
- National Leadership Programmes
- Awards Programmes
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Applying for scholarships

We encourage both students and parents to participate in these invaluable sessions.

Here's how the day will run:

9:30am - Why medicine/dentistry? Overview of GMC/GDC Standards, skills and training pathways. Academic requirements and Widening Access

10:10am - Break (Q&A optional) 10 minutes

10:20am - Competition Ratios, Entry Requirements, Work Experience, Volunteering, Guided Pathways

10:55am - Break (Q&A optional) 10 minutes

11:05am - Personal Statements, Extra and Supra-curricular activities

11:30am - Top Tips from a Successful Applicant (Current Med/Dent Student)

11:45am - Break (Q&A optional) 10 minutes

11:55am - UCAT entrance exam

12:25pm - Break (Q&A optional) 10 minutes

12:35pm - Medical/Dental school interviews & Comprehensive Application Support

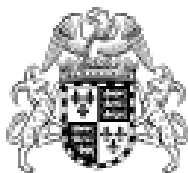
1:00pm - Successful Medical/Dental Applicant (Current Student)

1:15pm - Final Q&A and attendance link for certificates

Our doctors, dentists and current scholars look forward to welcoming your students at the conferences.

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Target Oxbridge Y12 Programme – Extended Deadline 23rd November 2025

Who: Black African/Caribbean students or students of mixed race with Black African/Caribbean heritage in Y12 attending UK state schools hoping to apply to Cambridge or Oxford.

When: 2026-27 Programme

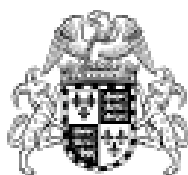
Details: The Target Oxbridge Programme involves mentoring, supercurricular sessions, admissions test and interview prep, and the opportunity to visit Cambridge or Oxford for a residential experience.

Please see the link for eligibility requirements

Link: <https://targetoxbridge.app.candidx.io/roles>



Medical
Schools
Council



Medical Schools Council Residential Summer Schools 2026 – Deadline 30th November 2025

Who: Y11 and Y12 students from underrepresented backgrounds.

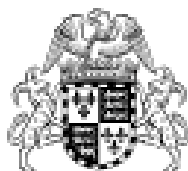
When: Residential in Summer 2026, online sessions before

Details: This programme gives participants an overview and insight into careers in medicine and dentistry, a residential experience, and advice and support on application process. Please follow the link for more details.

Link: [Medical Summer School applications now open! - Medical Schools Council](#)

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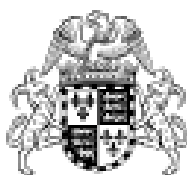
You'll Fit In – Trinity Hall – Deadline 8th December 2025

Who: Y12 students in the UK, from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds (see website for full list).

When: December 2025–September 2026

Details: You'll Fit In is a free programme that supports students with the Cambridge admissions process but also aims to reassure potential applicants that, if they were to apply and obtain an offer, they would not feel out of place socially while studying at Cambridge. This includes online webinars and a limited number of super curricular exploration sessions.

Link: <https://www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/study-with-us/access-and-outreach/widening-participation/youll-fit-in/>



Women in Computer Science seminars

Who: Y12 students with an interest in Computer Science

When: Tuesday evenings, 5-6pm, from 20 January – 24 February 2026

Details: This is a series of seminars delivered by female and non-binary members of the Department of Computer Science and Technology, each with a different focus. Students who demonstrate active engagement in the seminar series are able to apply for the Women in Computer Science programme in February 2026.

Link: <https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/outreach/wics-seminar-series>

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**SOCIAL
MOBILITY
FOUNDATION**

Unlock your potential with the Aspiring Professionals Programme - Y12

Gain firsthand experience in the top professions and the skills needed to achieve your aspirations. We provide:

- ✓ Mentoring with a professional via email
- ✓ Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
- ✓ University application and degree apprenticeship support and guidance
- ✓ Work experience with top employers

[Further details](#)

Apply Now!

**SOCIAL
MOBILITY
FOUNDATION**

ASPIRING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME

Apply
Here!



Your ideal career:

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
MAKE IT HAPPEN**



Apply to our 5-Year Programme to unlock...

University and
Degree
Apprenticeship
support

A professional
mentor

Skills sessions to
support you now
and through uni

Work experience
opportunities and
support

Applications open until Friday, 12th December @ 12PM!

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Member of UK Youth Parliament Stockport Elections 2025

The UK Youth Parliament is made up of more than 300 young people aged between 11 and 18 years, elected as Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) to represent the views of their peers. It provides opportunities for young people to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

Funded through a grant from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, the UK Youth Parliament brings young people into the policymaking and parliamentary process, with direct access to decision makers.

What are the benefits of doing it?

- Experience to be the voice for young people across Stockport on the national political stage
- Opportunity to influence policy that will affect young people in Stockport, with the aim to improve their lives
- A Leadership and Service opportunity for you to develop your understanding and experience of being a leader
- Excellent experience of working in politics and with young people from across the country
- A very unique experience for you to add to your UCAS/CV/College Applications to make you really stand out

Please refer to the Email Mrs Lambert sent to you for further Information and the Application Pack

Closing Date Friday
30th November



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Child Trust Fund

Background

In 2000 Gordon Brown's government created Child Trust Funds – every child born between 1 Sept 2002 and 2 Jan 2011 received a £250 voucher (it did reduce to £50 in 2010) that parents could invest. Many have morphed into a Junior ISA. At 18, the child gets access to it. The £250 could now be worth £1900 so can pay for driving lessons, university support etc. When parents had done nothing with the £250 by the child's 1st birthday it was invested by HMRC. It is estimated that there are 2 million young adults who this applied to resulting in £2bn of "disconnected accounts" – the children or young adults do not realise they have one. Equally even if parents did invest in something, they may have forgotten about it.

Action for YOU!

Please ask your parents/carers if they know where your CTF is.

If they don't remember, or never invested it, or if you want to find out yourself: visit <https://findctf.sharefound.org/> or <https://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund> to find the money – they will do a check against the CTF Register.

You will need your National Insurance number. Always seek appropriate financial advice if you are unsure about the best option for your situation.

CTF Maturity

18

Before reaching age 18 the individual will be informed of their options and outline next steps



Instruction Received

TRANSFER INTO AN ISA

And/or

TAKE CASH

No Instruction Received

MONEY PLACED IN A PROTECTED ACCOUNT
(maybe called either a Matured CTF or Protected ISA)

NOTES:

1. Will not use up ISA allowance. Will use up LISA allowance
2. Normal proof of identity will be required

NOTES:

1. Can be full or partial Withdrawal
2. Only an instruction covering the full proceeds will be accepted
3. Normal proof of identity will be required

NOTES:

1. Held in the account until Instruction received and then as above
2. No further payments allowed
3. No significant change to investments, charges or other terms and conditions
4. If it remains unclaimed could be paid to charity as a dormant account, although could still be reclaimed later.