



Newsletter

Welcome to Easington Academy's March 2025 Careers Newsletter.

Welcome to this month's Careers Newsletter! As we move further into the academic year, students across different year groups are working towards key milestones—whether it's preparing for GCSE exams, choosing options, securing work experience, or reflecting on their first year of secondary school.

This issue covers important updates, helpful advice, and a special feature on **emerging careers** that could shape the future job market. We also highlight the importance of **attendance and punctuality**, which are essential for both academic success and future careers.

Read on to find out more!

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 – Final Push Towards Exams & Securing Next Steps

GCSE Revision Tips

With exams fast approaching, effective revision is key. Here are some top tips to help you stay on track:

- ✓ Make a Revision Timetable – Plan your study sessions in advance and stick to them.
- ✓ Use Active Revision Techniques – Flashcards, mind maps, past paper questions, and teaching someone else are all great ways to retain information.
- ✓ Take Regular Breaks – Studies show that short breaks improve concentration and reduce stress.
- ✓ Utilise Online Resources – GCSE Pod, Seneca, BBC Bitesize, and your school's Student Pod have excellent revision materials.

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



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Post-16 Applications – What's Next?

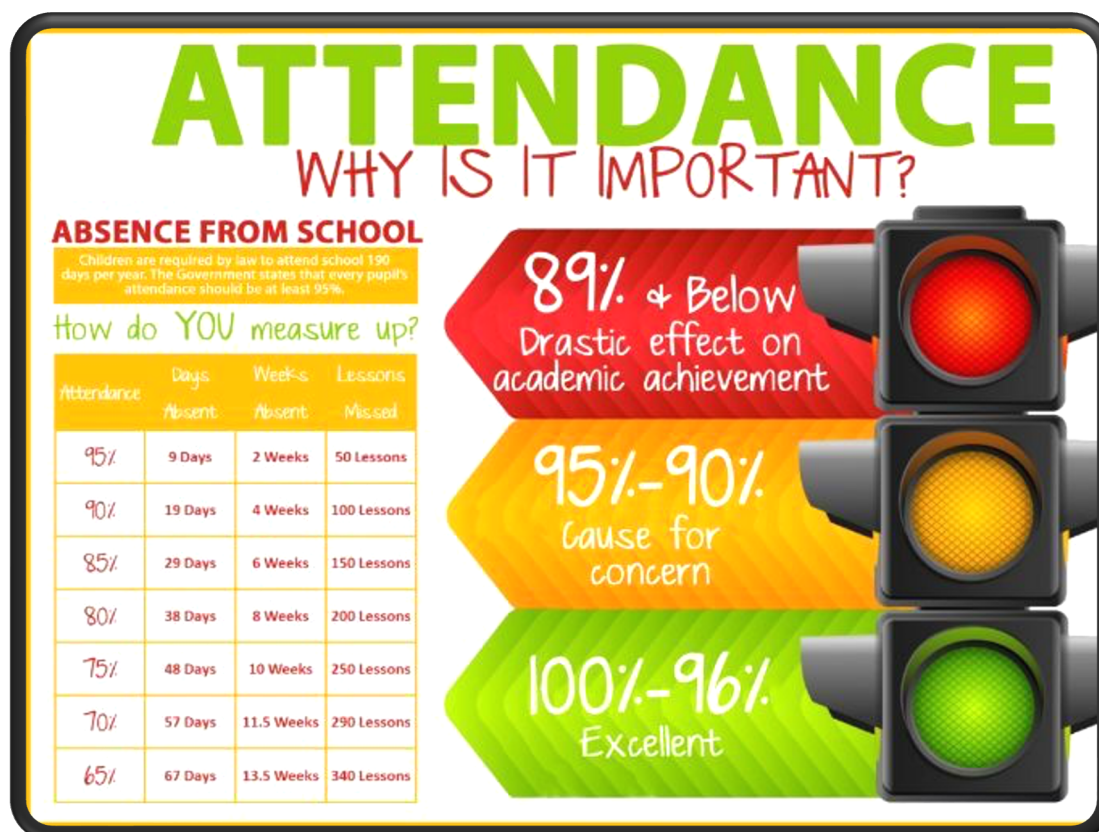
By now, most Year 11 students should have applied for their post-16 choices. If you haven't, **it's not too late!** Speak to your careers advisor for support. - **Mrs Collins**

- ◆ **Still unsure?** – Book a careers appointment.
- ◆ **Offers received?** – Make sure you understand any conditions attached to them.
- ◆ **Apprenticeships?** – If you're looking for an apprenticeship, check out **Find an Apprenticeship (gov.uk)** and **local employer websites** for opportunities.

Apprenticeship Updates

Several local employers have recently opened applications for apprenticeships starting in September. Keep an eye out for:

- **Engineering & Construction Apprenticeships** (Hitachi, Esh Group, Nissan).
- **Health & Social Care Apprenticeships** (NHS, local care providers).
- **Business & IT Apprenticeships** (local councils, small businesses).



| | | | |
|-----|---------|---------|-------------|
| 95% | 9 Days | 2 Weeks | 50 Lessons |
| 90% | 19 Days | 4 Weeks | 100 Lessons |



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Year 9 – Preparing for GCSE Options Evening (Thursday 3rd April 2025- 4pm)

Choosing the Right Options

This is an exciting (but sometimes overwhelming) time for Year 9 students! Here's how to make the best choices:

- ✓ **Think about what you enjoy** – You'll perform better in subjects that interest you.
- ✓ **Consider future careers** – Some jobs require specific GCSEs (e.g., Medicine needs Science).
- ✓ **Keep options open** – If unsure, choose a good mix of subjects to give yourself flexibility.
- ✓ **Speak to teachers** – They know your strengths and can give great advice.

What to Ask at Options Evening

Make the most of your **GCSE Options Evening** by asking teachers and careers staff questions such as:

- "What skills will I develop in this subject?"
- "How is the subject assessed (exams/coursework)?"
- "What careers or courses could this subject lead to?"

Future Pathways – Why Your GCSE Choices Matter

Your GCSE choices can shape your future. Some post-16 courses require specific subjects. For example:

- **A Levels in Science?** – You'll need strong GCSE Science and Maths.
- **A Career in Design?** – Consider Art & Design, Graphics, or DT.
- **Law or Business?** – History and English can be useful.

Explore careers on **Unifrog** to see how subjects link to jobs!

GCSE Options



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Year 10 – Work Experience Placement Search

Why Work Experience Matters

Work experience gives you:

- ✓ Real-world insights into careers.
- ✓ Stronger applications for apprenticeships/college.
- ✓ Essential employability skills (communication, teamwork).

Securing a Placement

By now, you should have secured a placement. If Not... Follow these steps:

- 1 Make a list of industries you're interested in.
- 2 Contact employers directly – Visit businesses or send emails with your CV.
- 3 Ask family/friends for contacts.
- 4 Speak to school staff for support.
- 5 Follow up emails with telephone calls

 **Top Tip:** If struggling, consider virtual work experience opportunities!

Year 7 – Almost a Year into Secondary School!

What Have You Learned?

As your first year at secondary school comes to an end, take time to reflect:

- What subjects do you enjoy most?
- Have you discovered any new talents or skills?
- What clubs or activities have you tried?

Exploring Careers Early

Even in Year 7, it's never too early to start thinking about careers! Try:

- ✓ **Unifrog Quizzes** – Find out what careers match your interests.
- ✓ **Talking to adults** – Ask family members about their jobs.
- ✓ **Visiting a workplace** – See what different jobs look like in action!



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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.






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Attendance & Punctuality – Your Future Starts Now!

Why It Matters

Your attendance and punctuality **impact your success** in school and your future career. Employers and colleges check school attendance when making decisions.

 **Fact:** Students with over **95% attendance** are more likely to achieve strong GCSE grades.

Ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time is one of the most important ways to support their education and future career prospects. Employers and colleges place a high value on **good attendance and punctuality**, so building these habits early is essential.

Why Attendance & Punctuality Matter


- ✓ **Higher achievement** – Students with **95%+ attendance** perform significantly better in their GCSEs.
- ✓ **Developing life skills** – Punctuality and reliability are crucial for the workplace.
- ✓ **Building resilience** – Regular attendance helps students stay engaged and reduces stress caused by missed lessons.
- ✓ **Future opportunities** – Colleges, apprenticeships, and employers look at attendance records.


How Parents Can Support Their Child

- ◆ **Set a consistent routine** – Ensure your child goes to bed and wakes up at the same time every school day.
- ◆ **Prepare the night before** – Encourage your child to pack their bag, lay out their uniform, and check their timetable before bed.
- ◆ **Talk about the importance of school** – Show interest in their lessons and future aspirations to keep them motivated.
- ◆ **Monitor attendance** – Keep an eye on their attendance percentage via the school's online system or reports. If you notice a dip, speak to your child about any concerns.
- ◆ **Address barriers early** – If your child is struggling with friendships, mental health, or academic pressure, speak to their Year Manager or the pastoral team for support.
- ◆ **Minimise unnecessary absences** – Book medical appointments outside of school hours when possible and encourage attendance even if they have minor colds (unless advised otherwise).
- ◆ **Be a role model** – Show the importance of commitment and punctuality in your own daily routines.

Rewarding Good Attendance

Many schools, including Easington Academy, have **attendance rewards** to recognise students who attend regularly. You can reinforce this at home by:

 **Praising effort** – Acknowledge and celebrate their consistency.

 **Small incentives** – Treats, extra screen time, or fun outings for good attendance can be motivational.

By working together, we can help every student build habits that will support them throughout school and beyond! 💡 📅



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Careers Spotlight: Jobs of the Future!

- 🌱 **Green Energy Engineer** – Design and develop renewable energy sources.
- 🎮 **Esports Manager** – Manage professional gaming teams and tournaments.
- 🧠 **AI & Robotics Developer** – Work on cutting-edge technology in artificial intelligence.
- 👩 **Healthcare Support Roles** – Growing demand for paramedics, mental health workers, and NHS support staff.

Think about how your GCSE choices and skills can prepare you for these exciting careers!





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**OPEN
EVENTS**

Post-16 Providers – Open Events – February 2025

| Date | Day | Provider | Time |
|------------|-----------|--|-----------------|
| 01/04/2025 | Tuesday | New College Durham - Apprenticeships | 4.30pm - 6.30pm |
| 01/04/2025 | Tuesday | EDC – Houghall Campus – Foundation Studies | 5.00pm - 6.30pm |
| 02/04/2025 | Wednesday | East Durham College – Houghall – Animal Care | 5.00pm - 6.30pm |
| 04/04/2025 | Thursday | Durham Sixth Form Centre | 4.30pm - 7.30pm |
| 07/04/2025 | Monday | EDC – ED6 – A Levels | 5.30pm – 6.30pm |
| 09/04/2025 | Wednesday | EDC – Technical Academy | 5.00pm - 6.30pm |
| 29/04/2025 | Tuesday | East Durham College – Houghall – All Courses | 5.00pm – 6.30pm |
| 30/04/2025 | Wednesday | East Durham College – Houghall – All Courses | 5.00pm – 6.30pm |

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 \(ncl-coll.ac.uk\)](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/college-courses-for-16-to-18-year-olds/)

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 –](#)



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Labour Market Information (LMI)

North East England Labour Market Overview:

Employment Rate: As of December 2023, 72.8% of people aged 16 to 64 in the North East were employed, an increase from 70.5% the previous year. [stthomasmore.org.uk+4Office for National Statistics+4Office for National Statistics+4](https://stthomasmore.org.uk+4Office+for+National+Statistics+4Office+for+National+Statistics+4)

Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate in the Northeast was 4.8%, higher than the England-wide average. [Lancaster University](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/research-projects/northeast-evidence-hub/)

Economic Inactivity: Approximately 24.2% of the working-age population in the Northeast were economically inactive, down from 26.0% the previous year. [Office for National Statistics+1North East Evidence Hub+1](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/bulletins/economicinactivityinthenortheast)

Workforce Jobs: The number of workforce jobs in the Northeast increased by about 31,000 over the year, representing a 2.5% rise, which was higher than England's 1.4% increase. [North East Evidence Hub](https://www.northeast-evidence-hub.org.uk/)

Sector Growth: Industries with the largest 12-month increases in the Northeast were accommodation and food services, and health and social work activities. [North East Evidence Hub+1Office for National Statistics+1](https://www.northeast-evidence-hub.org.uk/)

Earnings: Newcastle upon Tyne had the highest average weekly wages in the region at £584, which is £46 below the national average.

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/>

UK Labour Market Overview:

- **Employment Levels:** Between November 2024 and January 2025, the UK had 33.92 million people aged 16+ in employment, with an employment rate of 75.0%. This marks an increase of approximately 600,000 people over the past year. [Research Briefings](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/bulletins/economicinactivityinthenortheast)
- **Unemployment Rate:** The national unemployment rate held steady at 4.4% during the same period. [The](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/bulletins/economicinactivityinthenortheast)
- **Economic Inactivity:** Across Great Britain, 21.2% of people aged 16 to 64 years were economically inactive, compared to 21.5% in the previous year. [stthomasmore.org.uk+2Office for National Statistics+2Office for National Statistics+2](https://stthomasmore.org.uk+2Office+for+National+Statistics+2Office+for+National+Statistics+2)
- **Average Earnings:** Full-time workers in the UK had an average annual salary of £34,963, with men earning £37,382 and women earning £31,876. [Statista](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1111111/average-annual-salary-in-the-uk/)



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