

December Edition | For Students, Parents & Educators Across Our Trust Schools

Career Spotlight of the Month

Engineering

Engineers design, build, and maintain systems, structures, and technologies that shape the world around us. From bridges to renewable energy systems, engineering careers combine creativity with problem-solving.

Top Roles:

Civil Engineer
Mechanical Engineer
Electrical Engineer
Environmental Engineer
Software Engineer

Routes In:

**A Levels in Maths, Physics, or
Design Technology**
**University degrees in
Specialist engineering fields**
**Apprenticeships with local
employers/colleges**

Regional Need:

The Northeast has strong demand for engineers in advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and construction, particularly in Tees Valley and Tyne & Wear.

Careers SEND students – Personalised

Gatsby Benchmarks:

Schools across our trust use the **Gatsby Benchmarks** to ensure careers guidance is high quality and inclusive. For students with SEND, this means:

Support Includes:

Activities and experiences are **adapted** to meet individual needs
Guidance is **informed by the student's best interests**, not assumptions
Supported internships, work experience, and employer encounters are tailored
Collaboration with SENCOs ensures meaningful outcomes

Why it matters:

Every student deserves access to careers education that reflects their aspirations and abilities.

Provider Focus – Derwentside College

What they offer:

Derwentside College offers a wide range of **vocational courses, apprenticeships, and T Levels** for school leavers.

Key areas include:

Engineering & Construction
Digital Technology
Health & Social Care
Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
Education & Childcare
Hospitality & Catering

Why choose Derwentside College?

Ofsted-rated **GOOD**
Strong employer links and industry-standard facilities
Free travel, meals, and equipment for eligible learners
Flexible learning options and support for SEND students

Open Events:

10 February 2026 – 4:00–7:00pm

21 April 2026 – 4:00–7:00pm

18 June 2026 – 4:00–7:00pm

<https://www.derwentside.ac.uk/events/>

Labour Market Insight: NHS & Health Careers Northeast

The NHS is the **largest employer in the Northeast**, offering thousands of roles across hospitals, community health, and mental health services. Demand is rising due to:

An ageing population

Increased need for mental health and community care

Advances in technology and integrated care systems

Top Growth Roles:

- *Nurses (especially mental health and community)*
- *Allied Health Professionals (physiotherapists, radiographers, occupational therapists)*
- *Healthcare Support Workers*
- *Digital Health Specialists*
- *Medical Scientists*

Focus on Anxiety and Transitions – KS3 and KS4

Moving from KS3 to KS4—or from school to college—can feel overwhelming. Here are some tips:

For Students:

- **Talk to someone you trust about your worries**
- **Visit colleges early to get familiar with the environment**
- **Use careers platforms like Unifrog to explore options at your own pace**
- **Practice small steps—mock interviews, short work experience days**

For Parents:

- *Reassure your child that feeling anxious is normal*
- *Attend open events together*
- *Focus on strengths and interests rather than pressure*
- *Encourage gradual exposure to new settings*

Pathway Focus – Traineeships

What Are Traineeships?

Traineeships are short programmes (6 weeks to 12 months) designed to help young people aged 16–24 gain work experience, develop skills, and prepare for apprenticeships or employment.

Benefits:

- *Real work experience with local employers*
- *Support with English, Maths, and employability skills*
- *A stepping stone to apprenticeships or full-time work*
- *Flexible and tailored to individual needs*

Traineeships focus on employability and sector-specific skills. Common areas include:

- *Business Administration*
- *Customer Service*
- *Construction Trades*
- *Engineering Basics*
- *Health & Social Care*
- *Digital Skills*
- *Hospitality & Catering*

Who Are They For?

Students who are not yet ready for an apprenticeship but want practical experience and training.

Subject Focus of the Month - History

History develops skills in research, analysis, and critical thinking—valuable in many careers.

Careers Linked to History:

- **Archivist** – Preserving historical documents and records
- **Museum Curator** – Managing collections and exhibitions
- **Lawyer** – Using analytical skills to build cases
- **Journalist** – Investigating and reporting stories
- **Policy Advisor** – Shaping decisions based on historical context
- **Teacher** – Inspiring future generations
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Activity Idea:

Explore how historical events have shaped modern healthcare or engineering innovations.

Parent Tip of the Month – Work Experience Placements

Work experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the world of work, develop confidence, and gain skills that employers value. Parents play a key role in making this experience successful.

How Parents Can Help:

Talk about the placement – Discuss what your child hopes to learn and any worries they might have.

Help with preparation – Check travel arrangements, dress code, and any paperwork.

Encourage professionalism – Remind them about punctuality, good communication, and a positive attitude.

Reflect afterwards – Ask what they enjoyed, what they learned, and how it might influence future choices.

Celebrate the effort – Completing a placement is a big achievement!

Why It Matters:

Work experience helps students understand real workplaces, build confidence, and make informed decisions about careers.

*"The best way to predict the future is to
create it."*

– Peter Drucker