



North East
Learning Trust

CAREERS

NEWSLETTER

Issue: July 2025

Welcome to the second edition of Future Focus; This issue continues to bring you up-to-date guidance on career pathways, employer insights, and tailored support for all learners. Whether you're beginning to think about your next steps or refining your long-term goals, you'll find useful tips, opportunities, and inspiration right here.

Career Spotlight of the Month

Digital & Technology

The Digital & Technology sector is one of the most dynamic and fast-growing industries in the UK, with roles available in everything from cybersecurity to software development. As more businesses move online, demand for digital skills continues to rise.

Top Roles:

Software Developer

Cyber Security Analyst

Data Analyst

Web Developer

Network Engineer

Routes In:

T Levels in Digital
Production,

Design & Development.

BTECs or Diplomas in IT &

Computing

Degrees in Computer

Science or IT

Regional Need:

Digital hubs in Newcastle, Sunderland, and Middlesbrough are growing rapidly, with tech firms and public sector employers offering exciting opportunities.

Find out more: <https://www.tpdegrees.com/tech-careers/>

Careers Support for EAL Students.

We understand that students who are new to English or who speak another language at home may face extra challenges when exploring career options — but language should never be a barrier to success.

Support Includes:

- One-to-one careers guidance with additional support for understanding key terms
- Help preparing for interviews, writing applications, or translating qualifications
- Support with college applications, including help understanding entry requirements

Top Tips for EAL Students:

- Don't be afraid to ask for help — careers staff can explain things step by step
- Use online translators or bilingual glossaries to explore new career vocabulary
- Think about how your language skills can be a strength — many employers value bilingual or multilingual employees

Provider Focus - Newcastle College:

What they offer:

Newcastle College is one of the largest further education providers in the Northeast, offering a wide range of vocational courses, T Levels, apprenticeships, and higher education pathways.

Courses Include:

Vocational & Technical Courses:

- Engineering, Construction, Digital Technologies, Hospitality, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, Travel & Tourism, Performing Arts

T Levels (with industry placements):

- Health, Education & Childcare, Digital Production, Building Services Engineering

Apprenticeships:

- Business, Engineering, Construction, Health, IT, and more — combining paid work with study Access to HE &

Higher Education:

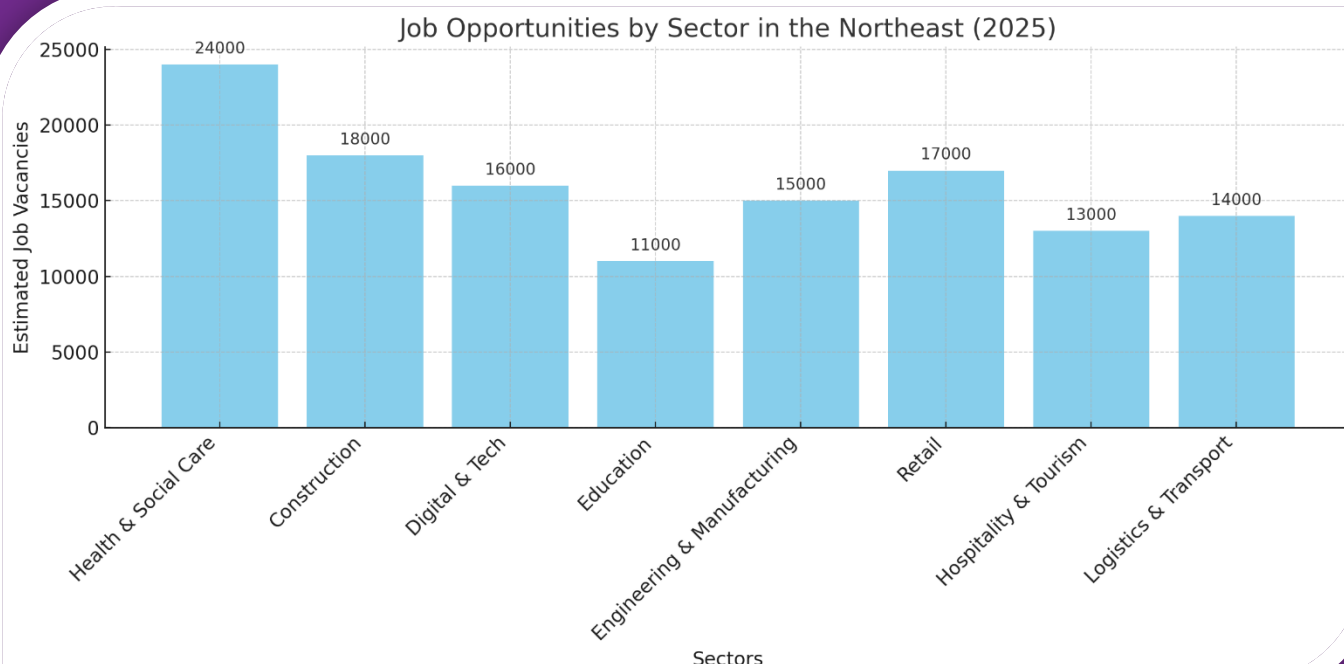
- Degree-level courses delivered on campus through Newcastle College University Centre

Why choose Newcastle College?

- ✓ Strong links with local employers and real-world work experience
- ✓ Tailored support for SEND, EAL, and care-experienced learners
- ✓ Progression routes from entry level to degree

Open Events:

Check their website regularly: www.ncl-coll.ac.uk



Key Insights:

- **Health & Social Care** continues to lead the region with the highest number of vacancies
- **Construction** and **Digital & Tech** are growing quickly, offering skilled jobs in trades, engineering, and digital development.
- **Retail** and **Hospitality & Tourism** still provide many entry-level opportunities.
- **Logistics & Transport** is expanding, driven by online shopping and supply chain demands.

Focus on SEND Learners & the World of Work

We believe every student deserves access to meaningful career opportunities, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Preparing for employment might look different for everyone — and that's okay. There are plenty of supported pathways to help build confidence and skills for the future.

Top Tips for Students with SEND:

- Explore **Supported Internships** and **Traineeships** — these offer real work experience with extra help.
- Look for employers who are part of the **Disability Confident** scheme — they actively support inclusive recruitment.
- Talk to your SENCO or Careers Advisor about **access to work support** like job coaches or adjustments for interviews.

Useful Resources:

- <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/> – post-16 support & employment guidance
- <https://disabilityconfident.campaign.gov.uk/> – Inclusive employers list

 Did you know? Many employers now offer neurodiversity-friendly apprenticeships and work experience.

Parent Tip of the Month

“How to Support Your Child with Post-16 Choices at Home”

Choosing what to do after Year 11 can feel overwhelming — but parents and carers play a key role in helping young people explore their options with confidence.


Ways to Help at Home:

Start early: Talk regularly about future goals, interests, and strengths — not just in Year 11.

Keep it positive: Focus on what your child enjoys and is good at, not just grades.

Explore together: Visit provider websites, attend open events, and look at online tools like National Careers Service.

Encourage independence: Support them to research and make applications themselves — you're there to guide, not decide.

Be realistic but supportive: Help them balance ambition with backup plans.  **Top Tip:** Let your child lead the conversation when possible. It builds confidence and gives them a chance to see how they feel in the new environment.

What are Vocational Courses?

Vocational courses are practical, career-focused qualifications designed to help you gain skills and knowledge in a specific industry. They are usually studied at college after Year 11 and can include options like BTECs, T Levels, NVQs, or other diplomas.

Who are Vocational Courses for?

- ✓ Students who enjoy hands-on learning
- ✓ Those who want to prepare for a specific career (e.g. childcare, engineering, media)
- ✓ Students who prefer coursework-based assessment over exams

Things to consider:

- ✓ Vocational qualifications are often assessed through coursework, projects, and practical work
- ✓ T Levels include a 45-day industry placement as part of the course
- ✓ Entry requirements vary – many courses ask for 4 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (including English or Maths)

Where can T Levels lead?

- University (many BTECs and T Levels are accepted)
- Apprenticeships or employment in a specific sector
- Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) or further college-level training

Subject Focus of the Month - Geography

Did you know Geography doesn't just teach you about maps and volcanoes – it opens doors to a wide range of exciting careers?

What Skills Does Geography Give You?

- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Understanding global issues
- Research and fieldwork skills
- Teamwork and communication
- Data interpretation and report writing

Careers Linked to Geography

- Environmental Consultant
- Town Planner
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst
- Meteorologist
- Transport Planner
- Conservation Officer
- Hydrologist
- Disaster Risk Manager

Post-16 Pathways

You can study A-Level Geography, or combine it with science and maths for STEM careers. Vocational options include:

- T Level in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- BTECs in Travel & Tourism or Environmental Sustainability

Employer Links:

The Environmental Agency

Local Councils

Engineering Firms

Companies

NGOs and charities on global issues

National Trust

Ordnance Survey

Renewable Energy

Mock Employer Interviews

This week, our students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in mock interviews with local employers as part of our ongoing careers programme. A huge thank you to all the businesses who gave up their time to support and inspire our young people. It's a valuable experience that gave students a real taste of what future interviews could be like!



Year 8 Sunderland University Campus Visit

This week, our students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in mock interviews with local employers as part of our ongoing careers programme. A huge thank you to all the businesses who gave up their time to support and inspire our young people. It's a valuable experience that gave students a real taste of what future interviews could be like!



East Durham College Year 10 Taster Day

Our Year 10 students had a fantastic time at East Durham College for their taster day! From construction to hair & beauty, animal care to sport, they got a real insight into college life and explored the exciting pathways available after Year 11. 🤖 🐾 🏆 **#FutureReady**
#Post16Options



Year 8 Build a Bridge Project

Our students were buzzing after taking part in the Build a Bridge workshop led by Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd! From designing to building (and even walking across!) their own bridge, it was a day full of teamwork, confidence, and hands-on learning. 🌟



Hartlepool 6th Form Taster Day

Year 10 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit **Hartlepool Sixth Form College** for a taster day! They experienced a range of subject sessions, explored the college environment, and got a real feel for what post-16 education has to offer.

A big thank you to the team at Hartlepool Sixth Form for such a warm welcome and engaging sessions — our students left feeling inspired and excited about the future!

