



PARENT/CARER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

For parents and carers of young people in mainstream education

Welcome

Welcome to the Careers Wales spring newsletter for parents and carers of young people in mainstream education. In this edition we're sharing top tips for year 9 to 13 as well as those leaving education this summer. You'll also discover interesting facts about apprenticeships and hear from 16-year-old Kian, who faced a decision between college and an apprenticeship and how we supported him. Additionally, we're pleased to share news about our latest events, the Valued Partner Awards for employers and the launch of new features on our Minecraft game, CareersCraft.



Parent Voice

Careers Wales are eager to hear feedback about our services from parents and carers across Wales. Your opinions and preferences can help us improve and plan our services.

Would you be willing to share your feedback with us?

If so, please e-mail

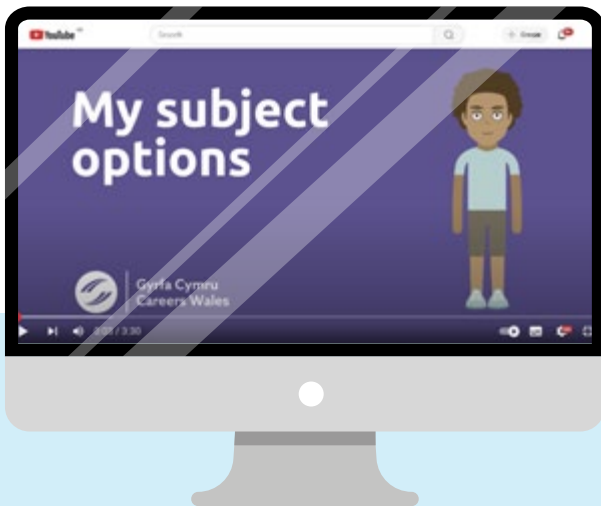
parents@careerswales.gov.wales by 25 April 2025



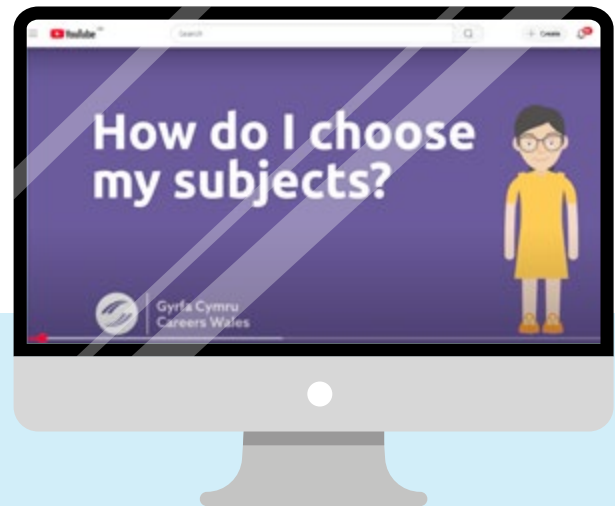
Career Planning

Years 9 and 10

In year 9, your child will be asked to choose which subjects to take in years 10 and 11.
Our options videos can help:



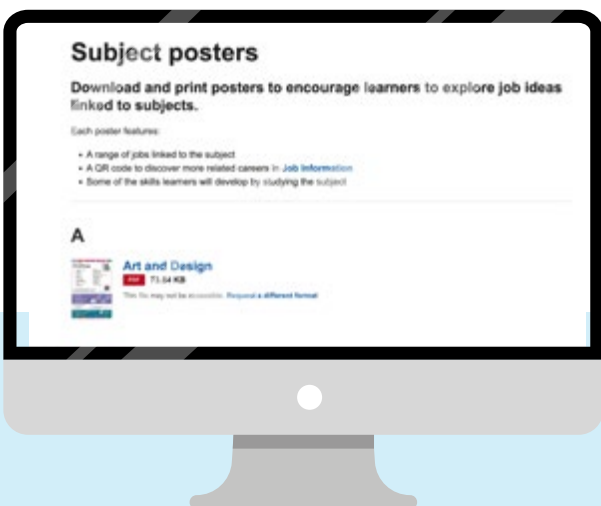
Year 9 Subject Options



How do I choose my subjects?



Our subject posters encourage learners to explore job ideas linked to subjects.



Subject Posters



In year 10 your child will be busy working towards their first qualifications. This is an excellent time to start thinking about next steps. What options are available after year 11?
Work experience and working part time in year 10 is one of the best ways to understand what it's like to work in a job or industry.

Year 11

In year 11 your child should, by now, have been invited to a careers interview with their Careers Wales adviser. This will give them the opportunity to talk through their ideas and plan their next steps with an independent and impartial, professionally qualified, careers adviser who can provide insights into future job trends and the labour market. It is a good idea to speak to your child about their careers interview and support them with any agreed action points.

Year 12

In year 12, your child should start to think about their future options. The Easter term is the perfect time to do some research into different options and attend university open days. You can also use this time to research student finance options.

Top tip: Follow UCAS on social media for up-to-date information. The application deadline for most courses through UCAS is in January every year, but it is earlier for some courses such as medicine.

Year 13

Year 13 pupils will be leaving school this summer. By now your child will probably have a plan in place for the next step. Remember, if things don't go to plan, [Careers Wales](#) can help.

Ready for Work?

Is your child leaving education this summer and ready for work? We can help.

Our careers advisers can:

- ➔ Discuss next steps - apprenticeships, training, self-employment or employment.
- ➔ Support your child with their CV.
- ➔ Give tips for interviews and application processes.
- ➔ Share live vacancies [Job Bulletin | Careers Wales](#).



Apprenticeships

Is your child thinking of an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are a great way to gain qualifications whilst working and earning a wage.

There are four different types of apprenticeships, each offering different levels:

- 1** Foundation apprenticeship
- 2** Apprenticeship
- 3** Higher level apprenticeship
- 4** Degree apprenticeship

For more information on the the apprenticeship levels visit



careerswales.gov.wales/apprenticeshiplevelsexplained



How to find an apprenticeship?

There are many ways to find apprenticeship vacancies, including:

- Visit our [Apprenticeship Search](#) tool
- Research [employers who offer apprenticeships](#)
- Visit employer websites directly
- Use [Online job websites](#) to help with your search
- Attend employer events and open days. Some employers will hold their own recruitment open days.



To apply for an apprenticeship, your child will need:

- a [well-written CV](#) or [application form](#)
- the instructions and information about the apprenticeship application process
- a [covering email](#) or [covering letter](#)
- to prepare for interviews and assessments

How we can help your child

Real life stories

Kian, a 16-year-old pupil from Ystrad Mynach, struggled with deciding if he wanted to go to college or to do an apprenticeship. He was keen to do a course in plastering but also wanted to start working and gaining practical experience.

Support from Careers Wales

Lisa, a Careers Wales adviser at Kian's school, was there to help pupils think about their future career paths and explore different options. After their initial meeting, Kian asked to have one-on-one sessions with Lisa.

Kian explained: "Lisa sat down with me and helped me find a course in plastering at the local college. She also helped me apply."

With Lisa's help, Kian successfully applied for the plastering course at Coleg y Cymoedd. He managed to arrange his schedule to balance both college and an apprenticeship with a local company.

Kian said: "Lisa was really helpful. She showed me how to use the Careers Wales website, talked to me about different career options, and even showed me some leaflets and slideshows about college and apprenticeships.

"She made me feel more confident about my choices."



Kian's story

Following support from a careers adviser, Kian successfully applied for the plastering course at Coleg y Cymoedd

Advice to others

"If you're not sure what to do, speak to your careers adviser. They can really help point you in the right direction."

Kian

Future Jobs Wales

Five new industries have been added to our Future Jobs Wales web page. You can now explore national and local labour market information for 12 industries in the four regions of Wales.

The 5 new industries are:



**Jobs in
Agriculture
and Land**



**Jobs in
Education**



**Jobs in
Manufacturing**



**Jobs in
Public Services**



**Jobs in Tourism,
Hospitality,
Sport and Leisure**

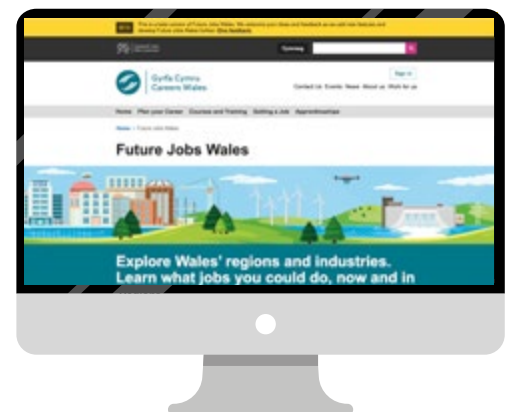


Coming soon:

The following 4 industries will also be available soon, completing the suite of 16 different industries across Wales:

- **Jobs in Finance, Insurance and Legal**
- **Jobs in Science and Research**
- **Jobs in Business and Administration**
- **Jobs in Transport and Storage**

We welcome your feedback as parents. Send us your comments or suggestions on Future Jobs Wales, through the BETA link at the top of the webpage ([Future Jobs Wales](#)) or email information@careerswales.gov.wales



Working with employers

Valued Partner Awards

The Valued Partner Awards is a way for Careers Wales to recognise and thank the businesses that work with us.

Every year, we celebrate the work employers have done to help schools and young people to engage with the world of work,

Partnership between businesses and schools provide young people with inspiration and motivation. Valuable work-related knowledge and experiences help young people link what they learn in school and the world of work.

The 2025 awards took place in January at the Senedd. 36 nominated businesses attended. Nine winners were announced on the day by our host, journalist Sian Lloyd.

Jack Sargeant, Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership attended and said:

"This recognition highlights the dedication and impact Welsh businesses have in shaping the futures of young people.

"Congratulations to all winners and nominees for their commitment to empowering the next generation with skills, confidence and invaluable career experiences. Your efforts are inspiring!"

You can read more about the awards and the winners on the Valued Partner Awards page on our website.



[Valued Partner Awards](#)

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Jack Sargeant
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



CareersCraft

CareersCraft is a Minecraft world that features Welsh landmarks. It is designed to inspire and motivate school children aged 8 to 13. Each landmark connects to an Area of Learning within the Curriculum for Wales or a specific career sector.

Young people can explore different landmarks and complete challenges in the game. This encourages them to think about their own skills, strengths and interests which will help them with their career ideas.

Bluestone, located near Narberth, is a new addition to the seven landmarks already within the CareersCraft world. To celebrate the release of the new landmark, Careers Wales hosted a launch event at the Bluestone resort with pupils from Templeton Community Primary School.

Nikki Lawrence, Chief Executive at Careers Wales, said: "It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with our colleagues at Bluestone and Visit Wales and launch the exciting new Bluestone landmark within CareersCraft.

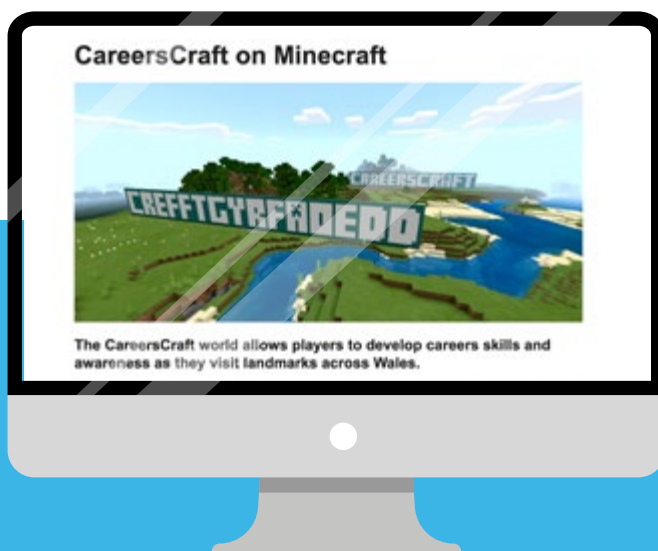
"Bluestone is an iconic holiday resort. This new landmark enables players to explore the vibrant hospitality industry and discover the opportunities within this sector in Wales.

"It's fantastic to see local school pupils exploring the new features of CareersCraft, developing their careers knowledge and expanding their horizons, all whilst in the beautiful setting of Bluestone itself."

CareersCraft is available to all pupils in schools across the country through Minecraft Education Edition. You can find all the details on our website.



CareersCraft



"It's fantastic to see local school pupils exploring the new features of CareersCraft."

Nikki Lawrence,
Chief Executive at Careers Wales



Book an appointment

Did you know we support adults too? Our Working Wales service provides a wide range of support including accessing training, upskilling, funding, and help with CV writing and interview techniques.

**Cymru'n Gweithio
Working Wales**



[You can book an appointment with a careers adviser here](#)

Working Wales offers free and impartial careers advice and guidance if you are aged 16 or above.

Visit our website to discover the range of ways that we can support you in your next steps:



[Work advice](#)



[Job Bulletin](#)



[Redundancy support](#)



[Apprenticeships](#)



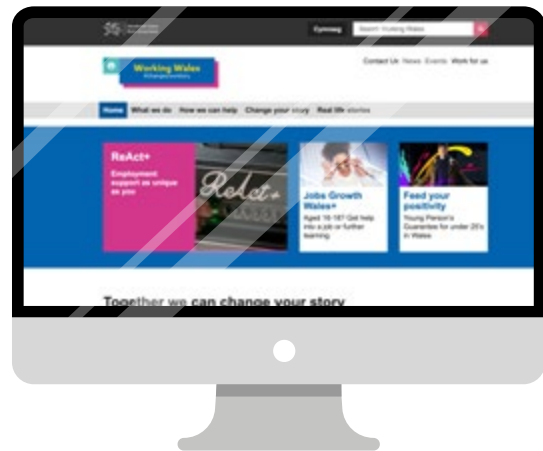
[School leavers](#)



[Young Person's Guarantee](#)



www.workingwales.gov.wales



Contact us



You can contact a careers adviser at school or by phoning 0800 028 4844



We have a Wales-wide live chat facility available via www.careerswales.gov.wales



Email post@careerswales.gov.wales



Drop into one of our [careers centres](#)



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