

Welcome to Future Focus, your monthly careers newsletter for students, parents, and staff across our Trust Schools. Each issue brings you the latest information on career pathways, local labour market trends, support for all. Whether you're exploring your first steps or planning for the long term, there's something here for everyone.

Career Spotlight of the Month

Health & Social Care

The Health and Social Care sector is one of the fastest growing industries in the Northeast, with huge demand for skilled workers. Whether you're interested in working with children, the elderly, or in mental health services, there are a wide range of rewarding career paths.

Top Roles:

Paramedic
Care Worker
Occupational Therapist
Mental Health Nurse
Social Worker

Routes In:

T Levels in Health
Health & Social Care Courses
Apprenticeships
Degrees in Nursing,
Psychology, or Social Work

Regional Need:

The NHS and local care homes in County Durham and Northumberland are actively recruiting now. Find out more: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

Careers and Looked After Children

We recognise that care-experienced students may face different barriers – and we're here to help.

Support Includes:

- Personalised Careers support
- Support to access college events/interviews
- 🕒 Contact Careers Advisor for personal guidance.

16-19 Bursary Fund: The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education: Find out more: [16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

🧠 Focus on Neurodiverse Learners & Mental Health

We understand that students with **ADHD, autism, anxiety, or other mental health challenges** may need careers guidance that reflects their unique strengths and support needs. We're committed to helping every student prepare for life beyond school, including those who may find busy environments or change difficult.

💡 Top Tips for Students:

- Take your time — there's no "right" speed for planning your future.
- Think about careers that play to your strengths (e.g. focus, creativity, memory for detail, empathy).
- Ask your SENCO or Careers Advisor if you'd benefit from a quieter 1:1 career meeting.

🌐 Useful Resources:

https://autismforward.org.uk/_Career_Mentoring
https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/_Employability

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

📊 Northeast Labour Market Snapshot – June 2025

Sectors with the most job growth this year:

- ✅ Health & Social Care
- ✅ Green Energy / Environmental Tech
- ✅ Logistics & Distribution
- ✅ Digital Technology

Did you know?

Durham and South Tees are set to benefit from new investment in hydrogen power and offshore wind energy – over **2,500 new jobs** expected by 2030.

Explore local LMI here:

Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics

👨👩👧👦 Parent & Carer Corner

This Month's Tip:

Apprenticeships aren't just for school leavers – they now include higher and degree level options too!

🏠 Pathways to Consider After Year 11:

- A Levels
- T Levels
- Vocational College Courses
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships

[The Apprenticeship Guide listing all apprenticeships available:](#)



Pathway Focus – A Levels

What are A Levels?

A Levels (Advanced Level qualifications) are academic courses usually studied over two years after Year 11, often in a sixth form or college. Students typically choose **3 subjects**, sometimes 4, that interest them or link to a future career goal.

Who are A Levels for?

- ✓ Students who enjoy academic learning
- ✓ Those considering university, especially competitive courses
- ✓ Anyone unsure about a specific job, but wanting to keep options open

Things to consider:

- ✓ Some university courses have subject requirements (e.g. Medicine needs Chemistry & Biology)
- ✓ A Levels are mostly exam-based — good revision skills are important
- ✓ You'll usually need **at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above**, including English and Maths — some subjects require grade 6 or higher.

Where can A Levels lead?

- University or degree apprenticeships
- Higher apprenticeships or work
- Further training in a specialist area

Parent Tip of the Month

“Questions to ask on an open evening”

- How is the course assessed (exams, coursework, practical)?
- What are the entry requirements?
- How do you support students who are struggling or have additional needs?
- What does a typical week/timetable look like?
- Are there enrichment activities (clubs, trips, volunteering)?
- What do students go on to do afterwards — university, apprenticeships, jobs?
- Do you offer careers advice and help with applications or CVs?
- Can you help students get work experience?

📌 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.

Provider Focus

Durham Sixth Form Centre:

What they offer:

Durham Sixth Form Centre specialises in A Level courses, offering over 30 subjects including:

- Traditional subjects like Maths, English, Sciences, and History
- Creative subjects such as Art, Photography, Media Studies, and Drama
- Social sciences like Psychology, Sociology, and Law
- STEM options including Further Maths, Computer Science, and Chemistry

They also offer Level 3 vocational courses such as Applied Science, Business, Criminology, Health & Social Care, and Sport Science.

Why choose Durham Sixth Form Centre?

Consistently strong results at A Level and BTEC
Excellent progression rates to university, apprenticeships, and employment
Specialist support for Oxbridge, medicine, veterinary, and law applicants
A focus on independent learning and personal responsibility
Wide range of enrichment and leadership opportunities

Open Events:

Visit their website for up-to-date open evening and taster event information:

 [Durham Sixth Form](#)

