Weston Secondary School's Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Programme 2026-2027

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Introduction

Good careers guidance will enable all students to make the right choices to set them on the path to rewarding future careers by developing the skills, confidence and inspiration to be successful beyond school. At Weston Secondary School, promoting a career development culture is part of our mission in supporting the aspirations of our students and to ensure that they gain the necessary skills, knowledge and experience that they need to make progress and succeed in learning, work and employment.

Our expectation is that all students **Aspire** and **Believe** in themselves so that can **Achieve** and become the very best in everything that they do as they develop and plan appropriate next steps for their futures.

We believe that effective careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) not only contribute to the wellbeing of our students but also to the wellbeing of their families, the communities in which they belong, wider society, businesses and the economy.

In line with this, an excellent careers programme ensures that students aims and aspirations are the best that they can be.

Students leaving Weston Secondary School will "have acquired and developed the employability skills and experience which businesses and higher institutions value".

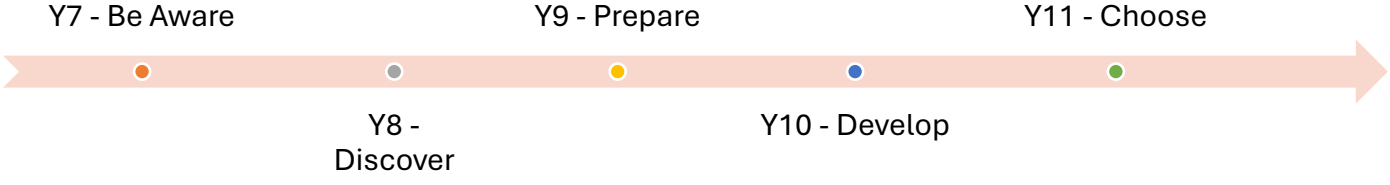
Year 7 - An introduction to careers education. Raising student's awareness of a wide range of careers and pathways. Identifying careers preferences based on areas of interest or suitability.

Year 8 - Students discover various careers options and their career pathways that match their interest and suitability. Students understand LMI and the experiences and qualifications that support specific career pathways.

Year 9 - Students make decisions about GCSE options that have clear link to careers in preparation for future progression and post 16 choices.

Year 10 - Students refine their career aspirations and recognise the next steps. Students develop their knowledge and employability skills.

Year 11 - Students make smart choices about their post 16 career pathways making plans for colleges, training providers and apprenticeships.



For our students to actively manage their future careers takes skills, knowledge and the right attitude which will require continued development throughout their lives.

At Weston Secondary School we aim to align our careers programme with the Career Development Institute Framework (CDI) by clarifying skills, knowledge and attitudes that our students will need in order to have a positive career. This helps to ensure a focus on specific learning outcomes from each activity with a view of making them meaningful, deliberate and relevant.

Click the link for more information regarding the Career Development Institute Framework and objectives.



All Year Groups

Learning Objectives	Event	Information	Benchmark(s)	When
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Balance life & work	Royal Navy Activities	Engaging and fun physical and mental activities centred on employability and skills for life	2, 3, 5	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Provider Access Encounters	Information about technical and apprenticeship providers, an overview of training and the future career pathways on offer	3, 4, 5	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Balance life & work See the bigger picture	National Apprenticeship Week	An opportunity to learn and dive into the world of apprenticeships delivered in PSHE	2, 3, 5	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Balance life & work See the bigger picture	National Careers Week	To help you become more aware of your career and make you more aware of your future	2, 3, 5	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities	Linking Curriculum Learning to the Curriculum	Embedded in the curriculum and seen in lessons	4	Ongoing

Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Opportunities for a variety of assemblies, information sessions & workshops	Encounters with Further and Higher Education, training and apprenticeship providers, employers, employees. Deepening understanding of different pathways	2, 4, 5, 7	Ongoing
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Balance life & work	Personal Career Guidance	Offered to all students upon request. Priority appointments for year 11	8	Ongoing
Grow throughout life Balance life & work See the bigger picture	PSHE lessons*	Aspects of career, education, information, advice and guidance in lessons	1, 3	Ongoing
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Create opportunities	Subject related activities, trips and visits	Exposure to employers, employees and places of work. Challenging misconceptions and linking curriculum learning to careers	4, 5, 6	Ongoing

Key Stage 3

Year 7

Learning Objectives	Event	Information	Benchmark(s)	When
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities	Introduction to University	Raising aspirations and introducing the concept of university	3, 4, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities See the bigger picture	Learn with US	Workshops and campus activities that introduce university and course exploration	3,7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities	Inspiring STEM 2026/27 (Science)	Inspiring STEM allows young people to take part in engaging STEM activities with businesses from across Hampshire. This helps educate them about different career options and challenges perceptions about different roles.	2, 3, 4, 5	Summer Term

Year 8

Learning Objectives	Event	Information	Benchmark(s)	When
Grow throughout life Balance life & work	My Solent Story	Student led assembly providing a taste of student life. Charting career pathways from GCSE to Degree and beyond	3, 4, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities	Learn with US	Workshops and campus activities that introduce	3,7	Spring Term

See the bigger picture		university and course exploration		
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Create opportunities	Get Inspired 2027	An understanding of the broad and exciting career paths that Southampton & The New Forest offer. Exhibitors, employers, training providers and educational institutions	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	Summer Term

Year 9

Learning Objectives	Event	Information	Benchmark(s)	When
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Employer Engagement Programme	Linking what is learnt in the classroom to the world of work	2, 3, 4,5, 6	Spring & Summer Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Making the Right Choices	Introducing the concepts of level 1&2 qualifications to support informed choice	3, 4, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	University Campus Visit	Choosing GCSE options. An understanding of the GCSE process and career pathways	3, 4, 5, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities See the bigger picture	Learn with US	Workshops and campus activities that introduce university and course exploration	3,7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Preferences Evening	The process for selecting KS4 study promoting and supporting informed choice	3, 4, 7, 8	Spring Term

Key Stage 4
Year 10

Learning Objectives	Event	Information	Benchmark(s)	When
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Employer Engagement Programme	Linking what is learnt in the classroom to the world of work	2, 3, 4,5, 6	Spring & Summer Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Create opportunities	Future Leaders Programme	BAME – Supporting students on their educational journey to help them achieve their potential	3, 4, 7	Autumn Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Why GCSE's Matter Assembly	Highlighting the importance of obtaining good GCSE results and progression pathways beyond GCSE exams	3, 4, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Manage career Create opportunities	Personal Branding	Employability workshop that focuses on employability skills, the importance of a CV and personal action planning	1,2, 3, 4, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Manage career	Employer Interviews	Interview with an employer with both verbal and written feedback.	1, 3, 4, 5, 8	Spring Term

		Practicing communication skills, develop confidence and understand what employers look for from the future workforce		
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Create opportunities	Your Futures	A collection of post-16 providers helping KS4 students plan for their future	3, 5, 7	Summer Term

Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Create opportunities Balance life & work See the bigger picture	Work Experience	A week's immersion exploring the world of work and employment whilst developing employability skills	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8	Summer Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Itchen College Taster	An opportunity to visit one of our local colleges and experience different subjects and courses	3, 4, 7	Summer Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	SHCG Taster	An opportunity to visit one of our local colleges and experience different subjects and courses	3, 4, 7	Summer Term

Year 11

Learning Objectives	Event	Information	Benchmark(s)	When
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	College Assemblies	Visits from local colleges and sixth forms promoting post-16 choices, experiences and application processes	3, 7, 8	Autumn Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities	Benefits of Higher Education	Exploring university as an option, the process of applying, the benefits of terms of employment, personal development and career opportunities	2, 3, 4, 7	Autumn Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career	Employer Engagement Programme	Linking what is learnt in the classroom to the world of work	2, 3, 4,5, 6	Spring & Summer Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Create opportunities	Post-16 Qualifications & Next Steps	Information explaining A levels, BTEC's and Apprenticeships. Understanding of each type of qualification and its route to further study, training and career options	3, 7	Spring Term
Grow throughout life Explore possibilities Manage career Create opportunities Balance life & work	Personal Career Guidance	Personal guidance interview with a career's advisor at a significant point in study/career choice	3, 4, 8	Ongoing

Top 10 Employability Skills

Employability skills underpin our curriculum. At Weston Secondary School we believe that academic success and character development go hand in hand.

By increasing the awareness and emphasising on key employability skills, we are not only developing our student's skillset, knowledge and experience, but are supporting them in readiness for their future study and career choices. Our employability skills are categorised into three subgroups:

How you work
How you work with others
How you think

	Skill	Description	Development
1	Using initiative and being self-motivated	• Follow instructions • Put forward your own ideas • Completion of tasks even through setback	• Finish work without being asked • Work without help but know when to ask for it • Suggest new ideas
2	Organisational skills	• Plan work to meet deadlines • Organise your time and coordinate with others • Monitor and adjust the progress of your work	• Organise events and projects • Plan your revision timetable • Ability to be flexible and change plans
3	Working under pressure and to deadlines	• Meet deadlines and targets • Become a reliable person	• Finish work before deadlines • Plan to make the most of time • Prioritise commitments
4	Ability to learn and adapt	• Learn new things • Learn from success and failure • Adapt and do things better	• Share ideas and use feedback to improve • Put yourself forward • Think about how to improve your work
5	Communication and interpersonal skills	• Explain and present clearly • Do your best to understand others	• Present and speak with an audience • Take part in debates • Give instructions to others
6	Teamwork	• Understand how you and others work best together • Get things done when working with others with different skills, backgrounds and personalities	• Plan when working with others • Take account of how your team are feeling when working together
7	Negotiation skills	• Think about what you and others want and need • 'Give and take' fairly when working with others	• Look for ideas that benefit all • Ask favours and support others by offering something in return
8	Valuing diversity and difference	• Respect others • Value the skills and experience of others • Show consideration for the needs of others	• Work with people who have different skills • Ensure everyone is involved in conversations and activities
9	Problem solving skills	• Identify key issues in a problem	• Design and create • Plan projects • Analyse results

		• Use your knowledge and experience when tackling problems • Develop and test possible solutions	• Evaluate evidence
10	Numeracy and IT skills	• Use numbers and data to support your work • Apply your valuable IT skills	• Use numerical evidence in practical's • Learn new IT skills such as coding • Help your family with budgeting and money decisions

Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE)

"Personal, social, health and economic education is a school curriculum subject in England that focuses on strengthening the knowledge, skills, and connections to keep children and young people healthy and safe and prepare them for life and work. At Weston Secondary School PSHE is underpinned by our values of **Aspire, Believe and Achieve**.

Personal Social Health Economic (PSHE) CEIAG Elements 2026-27

Year 7	When
Pupils explore setting ambitious targets and personal goals, alongside reflecting on their aspirations for the future	Summer 2

Year 8	When
Pupils learn about income and expenditure, budgeting, tax, different types of bank accounts, and an introduction to cryptocurrency.	Summer 1

Year 9	When
Pupils investigate different pathways for future learning, including further education (FE), higher education (HE), and apprenticeships. They also discuss the benefits of lifelong learning, which we link to career opportunities as higher qualifications often unlock broader prospects. Pupils will identify targets and ways they ca be achieved.	Autumn 2
The focus is on preparing for the workplace, including interview techniques, understanding what employers look for in candidates, and exploring entrepreneurship and how innovation shapes different industries.	Spring 1

Year 10	When
Pupils explore budgeting and the advantages and disadvantages of different types of employment contracts.	Summer 2

Year 11	When
Students focus on developing their personal statements, understanding CVs, and exploring key employability traits. Personal branding is considered and post-16 options explored	Autumn 1
The focus shifts to financial literacy, including handling money, choosing financial services, understanding credit, and interpreting payslips. There are business master classes and recognition of National Parliament week	Autumn 2

Additional Topics:
National Apprenticeship Week: 8th – 14th February 2027
National Careers Week: 1st – 5th March 2027

This programme aims to provide a variety of experiences designed to develop career education, information, advice and guidance within the PSHE programme. For more information regarding this programme please contact Mr Patten (PSHE Lead) on 02380 447820 or alternatively via email at tpatten@westonsecondary.co.uk

Gatsby Benchmarks Scores (July 2026)

Benchmark 1: A stable careers programme
Our current score: 100%

Benchmark 2: Learning from career and labour market information
Our school: 95%

Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each pupil
Our school: 83%

Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers
Our school: 96%

Benchmark 5: Encounters with employers and employees
Our school: 100%

Benchmark 6: Experiences of workplaces
Our school: 80%

Benchmark 7: Encounters with further and higher education
Our school: 81%

Benchmark 8: Personal Guidance
Our school: 100%

Where do our pupils go? Post – 16 destination data
Most of our students progress into:
- Itchen Sixth Form College
- Southampton College – SHCG
- Barton Peveril Sixth Form College

Other destinations over the last three years have been:
- Bitterne Park Sixth Form College
- Eastleigh College - SHCG
- Fareham College - SHCG
- Peter Symonds College
- Richard Taunton Sixth Form College
- Sparsholt College
- Totton College

2023
- 86% FE College/Sixth Form College/School Sixth Form
- 7% Employment with training including apprenticeships
- 2% Employment without training

2024
- 85% FE College/Sixth Form College/School Sixth Form
- 3% Employment with training including apprenticeships
- 0% Employment without training

2025
- 89% FE College/Sixth Form College/School Sixth Form
- 2% Personal development & employment with training including apprenticeships
- 8% Moved out of the area, unknown or NEET