DERBY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Year 11 Careers Bulletin

October 2026

Sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and T Levels for Year 11 students

> This bulletin is here to help you find out more about your options after Year 11. Use it to research sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships, book onto open events and plan your next step.

NEED SUPPORT?

Ask **Mrs Bingham**, **Miss Bird** or **your form tutor**. We are here to help you, so please come and talk to us.

IN THIS ISSUE

Open events, apprenticeship webinars and T Level Week, following on from our Post 16 Careers Evening. T Level Week is this week, so start with page 2.

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Dates coming up

OCTOBER

Mon 19 – Fri 23 Oct	**T Level Week** – resources and a parent and carer webinar	p3
Wed 21 Oct	**NavigATE apprenticeships webinar** – 3.30–4.15pm, online	p9
Wed 28 Oct	**EMA Training open evening** – book a place	p9

NOVEMBER

Thu 12 Nov	**Derby College open evening** – The Roundhouse, 5–7pm	p5
Sat 14 Nov	**Burton and South Derbyshire College open day**	p5
Mon 23 Nov	**Burton and South Derbyshire College open day**	p5

FEBRUARY 2027

Thu 4 Feb	**Derby College open evening** – Joseph Wright Centre, 5–7pm	p5
Thu 11 Feb	**Derby College open evening** – The Roundhouse, 5–7pm	p5
Wed 24 Feb	**Derby College open evening** – Broomfield Hall, 5–7pm	p5

SAVE THE DATE

Before or just after Christmas

Sixth form and college application deadlines

Most sixth form and college deadlines fall either before or just after Christmas, and some apprenticeship deadlines do too. Use October and November to visit open events and decide where you'd like to apply.

REMINDER

Parents and carers: Post 16 Careers Evening feedback

If you came to the **Post 16 Careers Evening on Tuesday 13 October**, please fill in our short feedback form. Your views help us to plan future events.

Fill in the feedback form →

THIS WEEK

T Level Week

From Monday 19 to Friday 23 October it's T Level Week, a good time to find out whether a T Level could suit you.

AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS

Rapid Read: What are T Levels?

19–23 Oct

A short guide explaining what T Levels are, how they work and where they can lead.

Read the guide →

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

T Levels: information for students

The official site for students, covering T Level subjects, entry requirements and the industry placement.

Find out more →

AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS · FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Understanding T Levels: parent and carer webinar

T Level Week

A webinar during T Level Week to help parents and carers understand T Levels. Please share it at home.

Register →

Where can I study a T Level?

At our careers evening, **Derby College**, **Burton and South Derbyshire College** and **Nottingham College** all told us that they offer T Levels. See page 5 for their courses and open events.

STAYING IN A SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

Sixth forms

A sixth form is part of a school. Most offer A Levels, and many offer vocational courses too. Visit a few to get a feel for each one.

OUR SIXTH FORM

Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form

Explore our subjects, read the 2027 prospectus and find out how to apply.

Courses A Levels and vocational courses

Find out more and apply →

LEES BROOK ACADEMY

Lees Brook Sixth Form

Open events

Courses Vocational courses including construction, hairdressing, health and social care, and catering and hospitality

Courses → Open events →

OTHER SIXTH FORMS IN DERBY

More sixth forms to explore

- **Littleover Community School Sixth Form**
- **Landau Forte College Sixth Form**
- **The Bemrose School Sixth Form** – read the prospectus online

Littleover → Landau Forte → Bemrose →

A Levels, vocational courses or T Levels?

A Levels	Two-year courses, usually in three subjects, assessed mainly by exams
Vocational	Courses based on an area of work, such as sport, health or construction, with more coursework and practical tasks
T Levels	Two-year technical courses equal to three A Levels, including an industry placement of at least 45 days

GOING TO COLLEGE

Colleges

Colleges offer a wide range of courses, from A Levels to vocational courses, T Levels and apprenticeships. Four of them spoke at our careers evening.

DERBY COLLEGE

Open evenings

Thu 12 Nov

A Levels, vocational courses, T Levels and apprenticeships. Open evenings sell out quickly, so register early. All run from 5pm to 7pm. See page 6 for the courses at each campus.

Thu 12 Nov 2026	The Roundhouse
Thu 4 Feb 2027	Joseph Wright Centre
Thu 11 Feb 2027	The Roundhouse
Wed 24 Feb 2027	Broomfield Hall

Apprenticeships Areas include agriculture, horticulture and animal care; business and customer service; catering and hospitality; construction; early years; education and training; engineering and manufacturing; and healthcare

Book an open evening → Explore courses → Apprenticeships →

BURTON AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COLLEGE

Open days

Sat 14 Nov

Vocational courses, T Levels and apprenticeships.

Dates Saturday 14 November and Monday 23 November

Sat 14 Nov → Mon 23 Nov → Explore courses →

NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE

Nottingham College

Course areas

A Levels, vocational courses and T Levels across a wide range of subject areas.

Browse course areas →

DERBY COLLEGE

What you can study at each campus

Derby College has three main campuses, each with its own courses. Check which campus runs your course before you book an open evening.

JOSEPH WRIGHT CENTRE

A Levels, Level 3 and creative courses

Open evening Thu 4 Feb

A Levels	Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Film Studies, Fine Art, French, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Media Studies, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Spanish
Level 3 certificates and diplomas	Applied Criminology, Applied Law, Applied Psychology, Applied Science (AAQ), Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Maths), Extended Project Qualification, Sport and Exercise Science
Vocational and technical	Art and Design, Creative Media, IT, Computer Science and Digital, Digital Multimedia, Games Design and Esports, Music, Performing Arts, Fashion Business, Science

THE ROUNDHOUSE

Technical, trade and professional courses

Open evening Thu 12 Nov

Vocational and technical	Accounting, Automotive Technologies, Beauty, Business, Childcare, Construction (Brickwork; Carpentry and Joinery; Electrical Installation; Painting and Decorating; Plastering; Plumbing and Gas Training), Engineering, Hair, Health and Social Care, Professional Construction, Travel and the Visitor Economy

BROOMFIELD HALL

Land-based, sport and public services courses

Open evening Wed 24 Feb

Vocational and technical	Agriculture, Animal Care, Arboriculture, Childcare (T Level), Conservation and Countryside, Equine, Floristry, Horticulture, Public Services, Sport

ALSO AT DERBY COLLEGE

Additional courses

STEPS →	Builds the skills, attitudes and behaviours you need to progress to your chosen next step.
ROUTES →	A flexible, hands-on course with vocational tasters and youth worker support. Ideal if you're unsure of your career path and want to build confidence.
GCSE Plus →	A stepping stone programme to help you move on to Level 3 study.
Inclusion Curriculum →	For students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, to help you prepare for life and work.
LEXIS →	A full-time programme for 16–18-year-olds whose first language isn't English and who have been in the UK for less than two years.

BILBOROUGH COLLEGE, NOTTINGHAM

Bilborough College

A sixth form college offering A Levels and vocational courses. It had a stall at our careers evening.

Find out more →

UTC DERBY PRIDE PARK

Post-16 at UTC Derby Pride Park

For students thinking of joining the UTC after Year 11. If you missed its open day on Saturday 17 October, check its website for the next event.

Post-16 courses →

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

Thinking ahead to university?

The University of Derby was at our careers evening to answer questions. If university might be in your future, ask how your sixth form or college subject choices could affect the courses you can apply for later.

LEARNING BY DOING

Training providers

These providers focus on practical, work-related courses. Some are smaller settings with lots of support.

YMCA

YMCA Key College

Vocational courses in sport, health and social care, hospitality and catering, childcare and practical work skills.

See courses →

JUNIPER TRAINING

Juniper Training

Apprenticeships and vocational training courses.

Find out more →

LEARNING CURVE GROUP

Hair and Beauty Academy

A skills academy for hair, beauty and barbering.

Find out more →

SPECIALIST ROUTES

Sport and the Armed Forces

DERBY COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST

DCCT College

Football education

A Levels and vocational courses in sport. Alongside your studies you could play football for one of the DCCT teams, progress your coaching and possibly get paid work.

Find out more →

EFD SPORT AND EDUCATION

EFD College

Football education

Vocational courses in sport, with the chance to study and train under UEFA-licensed coaches.

Find out more →

MPCT

MPCT Military Academy

Armed Forces

A training college for 16+ year olds that helps you build fitness, vocational qualifications and employability skills to prepare for work, including careers in the British Armed Forces.

Find out more → Read the guide →

BRITISH ARMY

Army Foundation College and apprenticeships

Armed Forces

The Army had a stall at our careers evening. If you're interested in an Army career, look at the Army Foundation College and the Army's apprenticeship routes.

Army Foundation College →

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a real job with training, and you can start one at 16. Some apprenticeship deadlines are before Christmas, so start looking now. Local colleges offer them too: **see apprenticeships at Derby College →**

AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS · ONLINE

NavigATE: How to search and apply for apprenticeships

Wed 21 Oct

We encourage everyone interested in apprenticeships to attend this online event, from **3.30pm to 4.15pm**.

Register →

EMA TRAINING

Parents' and carers' open evening

Wed 28 Oct

EMA Training is a great local option for apprenticeships. Book a place at its open evening with a parent or carer.

Book a place → **About EMA →**

GOV.UK

Find an apprenticeship

Register now

Register for an account on the government's 'Find an apprenticeship' service so you can search and apply for vacancies.

How to register → **Step-by-step guide →**

Live vacancies within 15 miles:

Vacancy 1 → **Vacancy 2 →** **Vacancy 3 →** **Vacancy 4 →**

COMING SOON

Rolls-Royce, Toyota, Alstom and JCB

Opening soon

Apprenticeships with these big employers open soon. Rolls-Royce came to our careers evening, and you can already register your interest with JCB.

Register with JCB → **More about apprenticeships →**

Ask your work experience employer. Why not contact the employer from your work experience to ask if they offer apprenticeships? If you need help doing this, ask Mrs Bingham.

WHAT TO DO NOW

Your next steps, with FAITH

Your FAITH values are integral to developing your career readiness. Here's how to show them as you choose your next step.

F

FELLOWSHIP

Ask for help, and ask early

Collaborating with others, we treat everyone with respect, dignity and kindness.

Talk to **Mrs Bingham, Miss Bird or your tutor** about your options. We're here to help with your college, sixth form or apprenticeship applications. Talk to your family about your plans too.

A

ASPIRATION

Aim high

We are ready to learn and grow, striving to be the best that we can be in every aspect of our lives.

Keep researching the sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships that interested you at the careers evening, and go to at least two or three open events.

I

INTEGRITY

Apply honestly

We demonstrate fairness, equality and honesty.

Check the entry requirements for each course and answer every question on your applications accurately. If you're unsure about anything, ask us.

T

TENACITY

Meet the deadline

We are determined and resilient when faced with challenges.

Put the dates from page 2 in your calendar. Deadlines are usually before or just after Christmas – especially for sixth form applications.

H

HUMILITY

Reflect and say thank you

We are gracious, calm and understand the importance of forgiveness.

After each open event, think about what you liked. Thank the people who help you, and tell us how you got on.