DERBY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Year 12 Careers Bulletin

November 2026

University programmes, taster events and work experience for Year 12 students

IN THIS ISSUE

University programmes, Oxbridge events, medicine and careers opportunities that are still open. Access to Sheffield closes this Friday, so start with the deadlines on page 2.

START HERE

Deadlines coming up

NOVEMBER		
Thu 5 Nov	**University of Derby climate change webinar** – 4.15pm	p9
Fri 6 Nov	**Access to Sheffield** – all six subject strands	p3
Mon 16 Nov	**Oxford Inspire Critical Thinking** – 12pm	p6
Wed 18 Nov	**Next Step York and Black Access** – 9am	p3
Fri 20 Nov	**LUDUS Gold, Loughborough**	p4
Fri 20 Nov	**UCL Expand 2027**	p4
Sun 22 Nov	**Leeds Futures** – Medicine & Dentistry, Healthcare, Psychology	p4, 7
Tue 24 Nov	**Imperial Maths / Further Maths Online**	p9
Fri 27 Nov	**St Hilda's Engineering Study Day** – school nomination	p6
Mon 30 Nov	**Cambridge Exploring Law Conference** – 12pm, free places	p6
DECEMBER		
Tue 1 Dec	**King's College London medicine & dentistry lectures** – 9pm	p8
Fri 4 Dec	**Rolls-Royce Discover: A Big Idea** – teams of 5	p9
Fri 11 Dec	**Social Mobility Foundation APP** – 12pm	p10
Fri 11 Dec	**Cambridge History masterclass** – book by 7am	p7
Mon 14 Dec	**Cambridge Education masterclass** – book by 7am	p7
Mon 14 Dec	**Trinity Hall, Cambridge: You'll Fit In** – 9am	p6
Tue 15 Dec	**Oxford UNIQ** – applications open	p6
LATER		
Wed 6 Jan 2027	**ACCESS Ashurst Perkins Coie** – law, 12pm	p10
Fri 8 Jan 2027	**Durham Global Futures** – early-bird discount	p11
Tue 19 Jan 2027	**Oxford UNIQ** – applications close, 1pm	p6
Sun 31 Jan 2027	**Leeds Futures** – other subjects (open 23 Nov)	p4
Sun 21 Feb 2027	**AccessLeicester 2027**	p5
Mon 22 Feb 2027	**Clifford Chance ACCESS** – law	p10

SAVE THE DATE

Mon 5 – Fri 9 July 2027

Year 12 work experience week

Start thinking now about where you'd like to go. Good placements go early, so ask family, friends and local employers about something linked to your subjects or plans. Look out for more information on arranging your placement.

GET AHEAD FOR UNIVERSITY

University access programmes

These run through Year 12 and into Year 13. Many give you a lower ("contextual") offer, a guaranteed interview or a bursary if you complete them and go on to apply.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Access to Sheffield

Fri 6 Nov

Taster days, 1:1 online mentoring with a Sheffield student, a free UpLearn licence and a summer school. Choose one subject strand:

- **Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences**
- **Law** · **STEM**
- **Medicine** · **Dentistry** · **Health Professions** (Nursing, Pharmacy, Orthoptics, Speech & Language Therapy)

Benefit A contextual offer for students who complete the programme, plus scholarships for eligible students

How Read your strand's page to check you're eligible, then create an account and apply on the Access to Sheffield portal

Apply on the portal → **Programme overview →**

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Next Step York

9am Wed 18 Nov

A two-year programme you shape yourself, mixing online and on-campus events, an academic conference and a summer residential in July, with support from current York students.

Who Year 12 at a state school in England, able to get BCC (or DMM) and meeting at least one widening-access criterion

Note Parent permission and a staff statement are due by 9am Mon 23 Nov

Find out more and apply →

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Black Access Programme

9am Wed 18 Nov

"For Black students, by Black students": a student-led programme of online and in-person events, mentoring and support for the move to university.

Who Year 12 students of Black heritage (including mixed heritage) at a state school in England

Benefit Completers may get a guaranteed interview or an offer up to three grades below the standard offer

Find out more and apply →

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

LUDUS Gold

Fri 20 Nov

A free programme of online and on-campus activities that builds your academic skills, confidence and university application.

Who Year 12 at a state school, with five GCSEs at grades 9–5 (including grade 4 in Maths and English), who have had free school meals in the last six years, are care-experienced or live in a priority postcode

Benefit An offer up to three A level grades lower, and a £3,000-a-year scholarship if eligible

Apply → Eligibility → Benefits →

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

UCL Expand 2027

Fri 20 Nov

An eight-week programme (30 Jan to 20 Mar 2027) in which you pick a subject, such as law, computer science or astrophysics, and complete a project. It has six online evening seminars and two Saturday events at UCL.

Note Free, with travel support for some students. A parent or carer must be with you when you fill in the form.

Find out more and apply →

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Leeds Futures: Psychology

Sun 22 Nov

From January of Year 12 to December of Year 13: fortnightly online evening sessions, subject tasters, personal statement workshops and a campus day in late May.

Who Year 12 students with GCSE grade 5 in Maths and Science and grade 4 in English, studying a relevant A level such as Psychology, Biology or Maths

Find out more and apply →

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Leeds Futures: more subjects

23 Nov – 31 Jan

Applications open on Mon 23 Nov for Creative Industries (music, theatre, creative arts), English/History, Environment, Sociology, Politics and STEM. They close on Sun 31 Jan 2027.

See all Leeds Futures programmes →

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

AccessLeicester 2027

Sun 21 Feb 2027

A six-month programme of campus events starting with a launch day on Sat 13 Mar 2027, building academic skills and showing you student life at Leicester.

Who Year 12 at a non-selective state school, living within 90 minutes of Leicester and meeting a priority criterion

Benefit An offer up to two grades lower, plus a £1,000-a-year bursary if you enrol

Find out more and apply →

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Ambition 16–18

Open now

A two-year, mostly online programme: subject tasters with academics, Q&As with students, advice on choosing courses and student finance, and a VIP open day.

Who Year 12 students anywhere in the UK. Those who meet the widening-access criteria can get an enhanced contextual offer and a bursary.

Find out more and apply →

INSIGHT, WITH PARTNER UNIVERSITIES INCLUDING LEEDS

Insight2Uni online mentoring

Open now

Nine monthly online sessions from March with a Black-heritage student mentor from a leading university, plus step-by-step application help and an expenses-paid university visit.

Find out more and sign up →

What is a contextual offer?

Universities look at the context of your application as well as your grades. If you complete one of their access programmes, or meet their widening-access criteria, they may offer you a place with lower grades than the standard offer, often one to three grades lower.

Some programmes also give you a guaranteed interview or a bursary when you start university.

THINKING ABOUT OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE?

Oxbridge opportunities

Oxbridge applications are due by mid-October of Year 13, so Year 12 is the time to explore your subject in depth.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

UNIQ

15 Dec – 19 Jan

Oxford's flagship free access programme for state school students: online support, regional events and a one-week summer residential in Oxford for your subject in late June or July 2027.

Dates Applications open Tue 15 Dec and close at 1pm on Tue 19 Jan 2027. Late applications are not accepted.

Find out more →

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Outreach events this term

Book online

- **Inspire Critical Thinking** – free online course, Jan to Apr 2027, for students at non-selective state schools. **Register by 12pm Mon 16 Nov.**
- **Online Interview Workshop** (Worcester College) – Tue 17 Nov, with live mock interviews
- **Insight Into talks** – free online talks in humanities, science and maths through November
- **Year 12 Engineering Study Day** (St Hilda's College) – 7–8 Jan 2027, with an overnight stay. Students are nominated by school by Fri 27 Nov, so speak to Mrs Bingham if you're interested.

Browse the calendar →

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, FACULTY OF LAW

Exploring Law Conference

12pm Mon 30 Nov

A four-day residential in Cambridge, 5–8 April 2027, with taster lectures, workshops with law firms and barristers' chambers, and admissions advice. You don't need to have studied law.

Cost **Limited free places are available:** 150 of the 250 places are free (accommodation and meals) for state school students, with priority for those meeting widening-access criteria. Some travel bursaries are also available. Other places cost £240.

Find out more and apply →

TRINITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE

You'll Fit In: Year 12 programme

9am Mon 14 Dec

Online webinars on the Cambridge admissions process, plus a free three-day residential at Trinity Hall (5–7 Apr or 16–18 Aug 2027) for a smaller group. The launch webinar is on Thu 17 Dec.

Who Year 12 students from ethnic backgrounds under-represented at Cambridge, with five GCSEs at grades 9–7 and the potential to get A*AA

Find out more and apply →

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

December Subject Masterclasses

Book by 11 / 14 Dec

Online sessions on Zoom (4.15–7pm), each with two taster lectures from Cambridge academics, a Q&A and advice on applying for the subject:

- **History** – Tue 15 Dec. Book by 7am Fri 11 Dec.
- **Education** – Wed 16 Dec. Book by 7am Mon 14 Dec.

Cost £15 each, with funded places for eligible students

Find out more →

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge conference

Register interest

Register your interest in an upcoming University of Cambridge conference for sixth formers.

Register your interest →

RARE, WITH OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

Target Oxbridge

Late applications

For Year 12 students of Black African or Caribbean heritage. The main deadline has passed, but late applications may still be considered.

Find out more →

Sign up for the newsletters from **Oxford** and **Cambridge** for application advice and events. Choose **October 2028** as your year of entry.

THINKING ABOUT MEDICINE OR HEALTHCARE?

Medicine, dentistry and healthcare

Access to Sheffield also has Medicine, Dentistry and Health Professions strands. They close on Fri 6 Nov (page 3).

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Leeds Futures: Medicine & Dentistry

Sun 22 Nov

From January of Year 12 to December of Year 13: fortnightly Wednesday evening sessions on Zoom (5.30–7pm), two campus days, admissions test preparation and a mock MMI.

Who Year 12 students meeting two of six widening-access criteria

Find out more and apply →

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Leeds Futures: Healthcare

Sun 22 Nov

Tasters in Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Audiology, Cardiac Physiology, Diagnostic Radiography and Medical Ultrasound. Monthly online sessions plus a campus day in late May.

Who Year 12 students with grade 4 in GCSE English, Maths and Science

Find out more and apply →

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Online Medicine & Dentistry Lecture Series

9pm Tue 1 Dec

Thirteen live lectures from doctors and dentists, plus Q&As with medical and dental students. Every Tuesday from 5–6.30pm on Zoom, January to April.

Who State school students. If your school is selective, you need one other widening-access criterion.

Find out more and apply →

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Mini Medical School

Register now

Weekly online evening lectures (5–6pm) through November and early December from clinicians and researchers, plus a session on applying to Medicine and Dentistry. Open to anyone aged 15 or over. Register by emailing minimedicalschool@newcastle.ac.uk.

See dates →

ALLIED HEALTHCARE MENTOR

Live Virtual NHS Work Experience

Next: Sun 6 Dec

Interactive online work experience run by healthcare professionals. Follow patients from admission to discharge in a simulation suite, all from home, and get a certificate for each day.

Dates Sun 6 Dec, 3 Jan, 7 Feb, 7 Mar and 4 Apr

Cost This is a paid programme: £15 a day

Find out more and book →

MATHS, SCIENCE AND CAREERS

STEM, law and the professions

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

Cutting Climate Change webinar

Thu 5 Nov

A free online talk by Dr Jordan Phethean, Senior Lecturer in Earth Sciences, on cutting-edge research into the "Great British Battery" for storing energy on a massive scale and Project RESCUE's search for water resources. Both projects aim to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. It runs from 4.15 to 5pm. Ideal for Geography, Geology, science and engineering students.

Register → More Derby webinars →

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON WITH MEI

mA*ths Online and Further mA*ths Online

Tue 24 Nov

Aimed at helping you reach an A* in Maths or Further Maths: masterclasses at Imperial, two online courses and mentoring from Imperial students. You can apply to both, but you will only be offered one place.

Who Year 12 students taking Maths, with grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and Science, planning a maths-heavy degree. You don't need to live in London.

Maths → Further Maths →

ROLLS-ROYCE · OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN CHOSEN

Discover: A Big Idea challenge

Fri 4 Dec

Work in a team of five on a real business challenge set by Rolls-Royce. It could be in digital, finance or business strategy, and you don't need to be an expert. Students taking any subject can take part.

Dates Regional hackathon at **Rolls-Royce Derby** on Tue 23 – Wed 24 Feb 2027, ending with a pitch to a panel. The top three teams go to the National Final on Thu 22 Apr 2027.

Prizes Work experience with Rolls-Royce, a Behind-the-Scenes Insight Week, and iPads plus a day shadowing a leader for the national winners

How Form a team of five and register by **Fri 4 Dec**. The form asks why your team wants to take part, what makes you a great team and how you would represent the school.

Register your team →

Mrs Bingham has also emailed you more information about this opportunity.

SOCIAL MOBILITY FOUNDATION

Aspiring Professionals Programme

12pm Fri 11 Dec

Free support from Year 12 until your first graduate job: mentoring from a professional, skills workshops, application support and work experience. Sectors include Law, Medicine, Banking, Business, Engineering, Digital, Media and Politics.

Who State school students with four GCSEs at grade 7 or above and predicted ABB, who are eligible for free school meals or care-experienced, or who meet two other criteria (such as first in family to go to university)

Find out more and apply →

CLIFFORD CHANCE

ACCESS programme

Mon 22 Feb 2027

A two-year programme with a leading international law firm: a trainee mentor, paid work experience, 1:1 tutoring, interview coaching and UCAS support. Help is available with travel and other costs.

Who Year 12 students who meet at least two criteria, such as attending a state school since age 11, no parent who went to university, or having had free school meals, Pupil Premium or a 16–19 Bursary

Tip Try the free "Ready, Set, Law" virtual job simulation before you apply

Find out more and apply →

ASHURST PERKINS COIE

ACCESS Ashurst Perkins Coie

12pm Wed 6 Jan 2027

Two weeks of paid work experience in commercial law (19–30 July 2027): a week at the London office and a week with five organisations, plus a career mentor through Year 13. You're paid the London Living Wage and travel is covered.

Who Year 12 students at a state school who meet at least one criterion, such as having had free school meals or Pupil Premium, or being the first in their household to go to university

Find out more and apply →

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Unlocked

See website

Three days working alongside lawyers at an Eversheds Sutherland office, including Birmingham and Nottingham. For state school students with little or no family history of university.

Find out more →

CITY CENTURY

City Century Live

Apply now

An in-person law event in Manchester and London with more than 50 top law firms. Meet lawyers and apprentices and take part in workshops, all in one morning or afternoon.

Apply →

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Free employer insight events

Book online

Regular free online and in-person insight events with major employers for sixth formers.

Event 1 → Event 2 → Event 3 →

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Global Futures Summer School

12–21 Jul 2027

A ten-day residential at Durham for 16 and 17-year-olds, with Arts & Humanities, Science or Social Sciences pathways. This is a paid programme, with a 10% early-bird discount if you apply by Fri 8 Jan 2027.

Find out more →

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 apply.

F

FELLOWSHIP

Ask for help, and ask early

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

Talk to **Mrs Bingham or your tutor** about which opportunities suit you. Many applications need a teacher reference so please give plenty of notice. You can put down Mrs Bingham or your form tutor as a teacher reference for the opportunities mentioned in the bulletin.

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.

Pick two or three opportunities that stretch you, including ones that feel out of reach. Most are free and aimed at students like you.

I

INTEGRITY

Apply honestly

We demonstrate fairness, equality and honesty.

Read the eligibility criteria carefully and answer every question accurately, because programmes check. If you're unsure whether you qualify, ask us.

T

TENACITY

Meet the deadline

We are determined and resilient when faced with challenges.

Several close this month, so put the dates from page 2 in your calendar now. If you don't get a place, apply for the next one.

H

HUMILITY

Reflect and say thank you

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

Thank the people who help you, and tell us how you got on.