

Careers Journey Programme



At College you will have many opportunities to engage in a range of activities to support your careers journey. From initial contact with our Admissions Team supporting your enquiries and applications to you becoming part of our college community when you begin your programme. The Careers Journey Programme is delivered by college tutors plus speakers from the local community.

You also have access to professional qualified and impartial Careers Advisers who can support your careers journey. Our information, advice and guidance service is quality assured through Matrix Standard accreditation.

We encourage our learners to join in with college activities and reflect on these using the college's Navigate database. This also helps learners build on their portfolio of skills and knowledge to support their career development. If you have some ideas for sessions please get in touch with Lindsey and we can look to support these.

Our Careers Journey Programme is mapped against the Gatsby Benchmarks which provides the framework for good careers programmes as required by the government.

The Gatsby Benchmarks are:

- 1 A stable careers programme
- 2 Learning from career and labour market information
- 3 Addressing the needs of each student
- 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5 Encounters with employers and employees
- 6 Experiences of workplaces
- 7 Encounters with further and higher education
- 8 Personal guidance

To find out more about the Gatsby Benchmarks go to www.goodcareerguidance.org.uk for more information.

The RNN Group's Careers Leader is Thomas Rushforth, Careers and Enterprise Leader; careerslounge@rnngroup.ac.uk

Careers Timeline

1. Admissions, Retention & Progression

Focus: The "Student Lifecycle"- getting them on the right course and keeping them there.

- **Enrolment CEIAG (Aug):** Initial Advice and Guidance during the enrolment process.
- **Right Student, Right Course Choice (Sept):** Initial interviews to ensure course alignment.
- **Swap Don't Drop (Oct):** Intervention period to move students to better-suited courses.
- **Progression Interviews (Apr):** Internal meetings for students moving to the next level of study.
- **Higher Skills Progress (May):** Focusing on Level 4+ vocational pathways.
- **Destinations Tracking (Jun):** Final data collection on student exit points.

2. HE & UCAS Focus

Focus: Traditional and Higher vocational routes into university.

- **UCAS Clearing Support (Aug):** Assistance for students after A-Level/Level 3 results.
- **UCAS Application Sessions (Sept):** Official launch of the application cycle.
- **Personal Statement Sessions (Oct):** Drafting and refining the 4,000-character essay.
- **UCAS Drop-in Clinic (Nov):** Technical support for the UCAS Hub.
- **UCAS Applications Sent (Dec):** Internal deadline for the majority of submissions.
- **UCAS Tutorials (Jan):** Including Student Finance and HeppSY (Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire) support.
- **UCR / Internal HE Event (Dec/Jan):** Promoting University Centre Rotherham options.
- **UCAS Conventions & HEI Visits (Mar/Jul):** Trips to regional fairs and university campuses.

3. Work Experience & Industry Placements

Focus: Hands-on learning and Gatsby Benchmark 6 (Experience of Workplaces).

- **Industry Placements Start (Sept/Oct):** Long-term placements (especially for T Level students).

- **T Level Placement Reviews (Jan):** Mid-way check-ins on technical competency.
- **Volunteering Fair (Mar):** Engaging with the third sector for transferable skills.
- **Work Experience Weeks (May/Jun):** Concentrated blocks of external work placement.

4. Employer Engagement & Apprenticeships:

Focus: Direct contact with the world of work and non-degree pathways.

- **Careers Fair: Discover Your Future (Oct):** Large-scale event with employers and HEIs.
- **Alumni Industry Talks (Nov):** Former students returning to share their career journeys.
- **Industry Weeks (Feb):** Sector-specific guest speakers and masterclasses.
- **Apprenticeship Expo (Feb):** Meeting local providers during National Apprenticeship Week.
- **Apprenticeship Masterclasses (Feb):** Direct support for apprenticeship applications and testing.
- **Mock Interviews (Feb/Mar):** Formal interview practice with real business volunteers.

5. General CEIAG & Results

Focus: Whole-college events and statutory guidance.

- **A-Level & GCSE Results (Aug):** Support and guidance on results days.
- **Induction CEIAG (Sept):** Introducing careers services to all new learners.
- **Open Events / Tasters (Aug/Nov/Jan/Marc/Jun):** Advice for prospective students and parents.
- **UCR Open Event (Oct/Feb/May):** Showcasing higher-level study at the University Centre.
- **National Careers Week (Mar):** A week of workshops, panels, and career-themed curriculum.
- **Destination Tutorials (Apr):** Practical "life after college" preparation.
- **Results Prep (Jul):** Briefings on what to expect during the summer results period.

***Remember to update Navigate to record all the activities you have engaged with.**