WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)

Careers Programme Overview 2026-27

Our Vision

At West Craven High School, we are committed to ensuring that all students have access to **high-quality, impartial careers education and guidance** supported by meaningful employer encounters and real-world experiences.

Our careers programme is designed to:

- Inspire ambition and raise aspirations
- Support students to make informed decisions
- Prepare students for life beyond school

By aligning our provision with the **Gatsby Benchmarks**, we provide a structured programme that meets the needs of our students and reflects the changing world of work.

Our Commitment

Our careers education:

- Promotes equality of opportunity and challenges stereotypes
- Supports all students, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- Develops employability, enterprise and life skills
- Engages parents and carers throughout the journey
- Prepares students for positive destinations (education, employment or training)

The Gatsby Benchmarks

Our careers programme is built around the **eight Gatsby Benchmarks**:

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

Careers Journey at West Craven High School

Below is the **clear progression model** students experience from Year 7 to Year 11, based on your current programme:

Year 7 – Exploring Futures

- Introduction to careers through tutor time and assemblies
- Employer encounters and inspiration sessions
- Development of employability skills
- Early exposure to career pathways and aspirations

Year 8 – Building Awareness

- Continued careers exploration
- Employer engagement
- Introduction to post-16 pathways
- Development of skills linked to specific careers

Year 9 – Making Choices

- Options guidance and careers support
- Pendle Education Trust Careers Fair
- University and STEM opportunities
- Employer encounters and virtual sessions
- Focus on skill development and pathways

Year 10 – Real World Experience

- Two week work experience
- Careers interviews (1:1 guidance)
- College and training provider engagement
- Careers fairs and off-site employer visits
- Development of CV writing and interview skills

Year 11 – Preparing for the Next Step

- Personalised careers guidance and application support
- College visits, taster days and open events
- Support with post-16 applications
- Mock interviews and transition preparation

This structured programme ensures all students gain **meaningful encounters, experiences and guidance** at every stage.

How We Deliver Careers Education

Careers education at West Craven is delivered through:

- Curriculum lessons across all subjects
- Tutor time and assemblies
- Enrichment days and themed events
- Employer encounters and workshops
- Work experience opportunities
- College, apprenticeship and university engagement

Students are supported by a wide range of providers, including:

- Independent careers advisers
- Employers and industry partners
- Further and higher education providers

Employer and Community Engagement

We are proud of our strong links with local employers and industry, which provide students with:

- Work experience placements
- Employer-led workshops and talks
- Career insight activities
- Mentoring opportunities

These partnerships play a key role in bringing careers learning to life and helping students understand the skills needed for the workplace.

Parental Engagement

Parents and carers are an essential part of our careers programme.

Support includes:

- Access to careers information on the school website
- Invitations to careers and options events
- Guidance to support decision-making at key transition points
- Information about labour market and pathways

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

Our careers programme is:

- Regularly reviewed and evaluated
- Informed by student voice and feedback
- Supported by destination data and outcomes
- Continually developed to meet student needs

Our Aim

At West Craven High School, we aim to ensure every student leaves us:

- Confident in their future pathway
- Equipped with essential life and employability skills
- Ready to succeed in education, training or employment