

Careers and Employability Newsletter



JANUARY 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the first *Hugh Sexey Careers & Employability Newsletter* — a regular update to keep you informed about the exciting opportunities we provide to support your child's future aspirations.

Careers Education and Employability are central to our vision of helping pupils become open-minded global citizens. From Year 5 onwards, pupils explore their interests through collective worship tutor time, *Jigsaw PSHE*, employer encounters, STEM activities and enrichment experiences that link learning to real-world careers. Our curriculum helps pupils understand how subjects connect to future pathways and essential skills.

We are proud to share that in summer 2025 we achieved a 100% Gatsby Benchmark score and were a finalist for 'Best Careers-Focussed Secondary School' last year. These achievements reflect the strength of our programme and the dedication of our staff.

Our team includes Mrs Piggott, Primary Careers Specialist; Mr Ninnis, Unifrog Champion, Mrs Adair, Careers and Employability Lead; and Mrs Sue Moreman, Chair of Partners and Partner for Careers and Employability, who provides strategic oversight and champions our vision.

This newsletter will share updates on careers events, learning experiences and ways you can support your child at home as we work together to prepare our young people for a bright and successful future.

Warm regards,

The Careers & Employability Team

Spotlight on the South-West: Key Employers in Somerset — What Parents and Carers Should Know

Somerset is home to a wide range of employers who play an important role in supporting careers education for young people. Through the *Somerset Careers Hub*, many local and national organisations work closely with schools to help pupils learn about the world of work, develop their skills, and understand the career opportunities available right here in our county. You can explore more about the Careers Hub and its work here: <https://www.somersetcareershub.co.uk/>.
[somersetcareershub.co.uk](https://www.somersetcareershub.co.uk/)

Some of the Careers Hub's Cornerstone Employers — companies especially committed to inspiring and supporting young people — include EDF (Hinkley Point C), NHS Somerset, Leonardo, Wessex Water, Screwfix, Abri, Müller, BAM Construction, Stantec, Somerset Larder, Evo Agency and Seetec Pluss. These organisations regularly support schools with events, workshops and workplace insight activities. somersecareershub.co.uk

Somerset also has strong employment across key sectors such as health and social care, hospitality and tourism, retail and logistics, manufacturing, technology, and the environmental and energy industries. Sharing these insights with your child can help them make connections between what they enjoy at school and the careers available locally.

As we move forward, our newsletters will continue to showcase local and regional businesses and industries that contribute to the careers landscape. If any parents or carers would like to contribute information, insights or examples from the industry you work in for future editions, please get in touch with **Mrs Adair**, our Careers and Employability Lead — we would love to include your expertise!

Introducing Unifrog: Supporting Your Child's Careers and Skills Journey

- At Hugh Sexey, we use Unifrog, an online platform designed to help pupils explore their interests, develop key employability skills, and record their career learning throughout KS3 and beyond. Unifrog offers a wide range of resources including skills assessments, interest surveys, and opportunities to research future pathways.
- So far, pupils have completed several important activities on Unifrog, including the Skills and Interests Survey — a helpful tool that identifies their strengths and preferences to guide their career exploration. Through Unifrog, pupils can track their progress, set goals, and discover how their skills connect to real-world jobs and industries.
- Pupils are encouraged to log at least 10 activities or events each year on Unifrog, demonstrating their development across key skills and experiences.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to explore the platform together with their children, asking questions and supporting them as they build their personal careers profile. To help you understand how Unifrog works, there is a short, friendly video explaining the key features of the platform and how pupils can use it to explore careers, record experiences, and develop skills:
👉 Watch here: <https://youtu.be/CXGB4h3H44>
Although aimed at pupils, the video offers a clear overview of what your child is doing and how you can support them. Watching it together can be a great way to encourage conversations about their future plans.
- Importantly, the Unifrog profiles and content that pupils start building at Hugh Sexey will transfer seamlessly with them when they move on to Kings of Wessex School, allowing their career journey and personal records to continue without interruption.
- Next term, pupils will be using Unifrog to explore lessons such as Decision Making: Choosing What to Study at KS4, supporting them as they prepare for their upcoming options selections and helping them make confident, well-informed decisions.
- If you would be interested in learning more or supporting your child with Unifrog, please let us know by completing this short form: [Parent and Carer Interest Form](#).

- As always, if you have any questions about Unifrog or would like further support, please contact Mrs Adair, our Careers and Employability Lead or Mr Ninnis, our Unifrog Champion

Spotlight on Primary Careers Education: Introducing Careermag

Careermag for Primary is packed full of ideas, information and activities which support teachers, parents and carers in those important first conversations about children's futures.

An interactive, online and fully downloadable publication, Careermag for Primary provides all you need to start talking about careers, open children's minds and encourage the aspirations of the next generation.

Inside the magazine you will find supportive articles and resources on:

- Dream Big Day
- Careers Education in Primary Schools
- Careers Inspiration for Primary Pupils
- Careers-focused lesson plans and activities
- & much more!

Follow the link to access and download the most recent edition of Careermag

<https://dreambigday.co.uk/careermag/>

Ask Hugh: Your Careers and Employability Questions Answered

Welcome to Ask Hugh, a new section dedicated to answering your most pressing questions about careers, employability, and your child's future pathways. Whether you're curious about qualifications, work experience, apprenticeships, or how to support your child's career planning, Hugh is here to help!

Each edition, we'll select and answer a range of questions sent in by parents, carers, pupils, and staff. This is your chance to get clear, practical advice tailored to your concerns — all in one easy-to-read place.

Have a question? Please email us at school@hughsexey.org.uk with "Ask Hugh" in the subject line. We'll do our best to include your question in an upcoming newsletter and provide helpful, honest answers.

Our Theme Today: What Will HSMS Pupils Study at KS4?

Starting their KS4 studies in Year 9 at Kings of Wessex, HSMS pupils work towards a combination of GCSEs and BTECs tailored to their interests and strengths. In January, pupils will be visited by Mrs Hopwood, Deputy Headteacher from Kings of Wessex, who will lead an assembly about the options process. Pupils will then submit their option selections by February.

If you want to learn more about KS4 study and how pupils make their subject choices, keep reading — and don't forget to send in your own questions!

Q: When do pupils start their KS4 studies at Kings of Wessex?

A: Pupils begin their Key Stage 4 studies in Year 9, giving them a longer period to prepare for their qualifications before exams.

Q: What qualifications do pupils study at KS4?

A: Pupils study a mix of GCSEs and BTECs depending on their subject choices and learning preferences.

Q: What is a GCSE?

A: GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are mainly exam-based courses in academic subjects like English, Maths, Sciences, and Humanities. Pupils learn knowledge and skills through lessons and prepare for final exams.

Q: How are GCSEs graded?

A: GCSE grades range from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest). A grade 4 is a standard pass, and grades 5 and above are considered strong passes.

Q: What is a BTEC?

A: BTECs are vocational qualifications that focus on practical skills and coursework in subjects like business, health and social care, or technology. They provide an alternative to GCSEs, especially suited for pupils who prefer continuous assessment over exams.

Helpful Video for Parents

To support you in understanding the GCSE options process — including how pupils choose subjects and think about their future pathways — here's a short, parent-friendly video:

👉 Watch here: [Year 9 GCSE Options Choices – What's Next?](#)

This video gives an overview of how Year 9 pupils (including those from Hugh Sexey preparing for KS4 at Kings of Wessex) begin to make decisions about their GCSE options, what the choices mean, and how these choices fit into future career and education plans — a great resource to watch together with your child.