Post-16 Careers Guidance Information for Parents/Carers of Y11 Students

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. As we enter a bustling period for our Year 11 students, I want to share some key information regarding their post-16 pathways, including important decisions, dates, and deadlines.

This term and next, we will be distributing a variety of resources to our students through Head of House hours, PSHCE lessons, assemblies, and our weekly Lions Newsletter. To give students the best opportunity to secure their preferred courses, all post-16 applications should be submitted between October and December 2026, as each school/college has its own specific deadlines (Wymondham College 30th November 2026).

During the Autumn term, we encourage Year 11 students to reflect on which colleges/schools they wish to attend and the courses they want to pursue. They should submit multiple applications to different colleges to maximize their options.

Open Evenings across all post 16 providers will begin this October, and we highly recommend that both you and your child attend these events prior to submitting any applications. It is very important that students have Plan A, Plan B, and also Plan C in place.

It's essential for students to remain focused and work diligently throughout Year 11 to achieve the necessary GCSE grades, particularly in English and Math.

What are their choices after Year 11?

Students can choose to:

- Study full-time at sixth form or college or with another provider (further education)
- Start an apprenticeship
- Work or volunteer full-time with part-time study or training
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Making Plans

When it comes to making your post-16 choices, preparation is key. Here are some helpful pointers to get you and your child started:

Do Your Research

As students explore their options, we encourage them to consider discussing their interests and their future with teachers, parents, and friends. You can also use the resources available in the HelpYouChoose Info & Advice pages to help you with your research.

How does Wymondham College support your child?

- Timetabled Heads of House hour: students will receive important Information and hear from external providers about options
- All students have access to Unifrog.org (using their school email to log in), an online platform designed to help students manage their post-16 and higher education options. It provides a comprehensive range of tools and resources for exploring courses, universities, and career pathways
- 1-2-1 Futures Interviews: our Careers Advisor provides impartial advice and guidance tailored to their aspirations

Have a Backup Plan

Even if you and your child are confident about their future path, it's wise to consider alternative options in case things don't go as planned. This is especially important if they're targeting a highly competitive course or career.

Be prepared to adjust your plans if your preferred course is full or if you encounter challenges in securing an apprenticeship or job. Having a backup option can provide peace of mind and help you navigate any unexpected changes in your journey.

Your Year 11 timeline:

Autumn Term

- Use Help You Choose to **research your options** and **search for courses**
- Find out about **careers that interest you** and check entry requirements
- **Contact colleges, sixth forms and training providers** for information including a copy of their prospectus of post-16 courses
- Talk to your careers leader, adviser or tutor about your plans and for help in deciding what to do
- Go to **open days/evenings** at colleges, sixth forms and at other providers that you are interested in
- From 1st October apply online for **full-time courses** using Help You Choose

- Register with the **find an apprenticeship service** if you're looking for an apprenticeship or traineeship
- Contact **Armed Forces** if you want to join the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines
- Make sure that you have a two year plan for your 16-18 education and/or training

Spring Term

- **Apply for courses** through Help You Choose if you haven't already done so
- Prepare for any **sixth form/college/provider interviews** you are asked to attend
- **Begin looking for apprenticeships** as bigger companies will start advertising
- Revise your plans if your predicted grades change due to mock exams and other assessments
- Start applying to training providers if you're looking for an apprenticeship
- **Send off speculative letters** to companies you are interested in working for
- Contact colleges, sixth forms and training providers about the **16-19 Bursary Fund** if you are worried about money

Summer Term

- If you haven't yet made any plans, ask your school's careers leader or adviser for help
- Keep applying for apprenticeships, training and courses
- Think about doing some voluntary work or work experience during the summer, or even seeing if you can get a summer job
- Keep trying speculative applications

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me m.harris@wymcol.org

Yours sincerely,

Margarita Harris

Careers Lead