

CAREERS

JAN 2026

AT PIGGOTT

Common barriers to switching careers



Lacking confidence

either in their own skills or in connecting those skills to a new career venture



Failure to plan

by creating career goals, updating their CV or actively managing their career

CAREERS NEWS

Although based on adults, [the CDI's report into career satisfaction](#) makes for interesting reading. Despite endless speculation about the impact that AI might have on the labour market (both [apocalyptic](#) and [more hopeful](#)), only 12% of adults have actually switched careers in the past 5 years suggesting that the pace of change might not be as radical as projected.

Nonetheless, [it is likely that our students will need to change careers at some point within their lifetimes](#) so understanding the barriers to that can help inform our offering at The Piggott.

Between the year-group appropriate exercises we've woven into the curriculum (including a brilliant one that was introduced to Year 10 by an external speaker during their careers day last term) right through to the career mapping sessions I have planned for KS5, we want to make sure that all our students leave Piggott confident both in their skills (and development areas!) and in how to take control of their future careers.

Miss Smith

If you'd like a copy of the Year 10 exercise to work through at home, please get in touch

CAREERS & GUIDANCE LEAD
smithi@piggottschool.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Year 11 PPE results

See more below on how we're supporting our Yr11 students for their next steps



Year 8 options event

Mr MacLeod will share details with students and parents

SECTOR OF THE MONTH

Fire & Rescue



Avg salary
£32,240



81% male
19% female



Growth sector
(est. + 2.5k jobs by 2030)



Key skills

- Critical thinking
- Judgement and decision making
- Active listening
- Complex problem solving

KS3 & 4

KS3

It's been a pleasure running workshops for Year 8 this week as part of their GCSE options process. Whilst the main purpose of the sessions is of course to help students think about how their choices now might impact their options later, it's also a great opportunity to introduce them to some different job types and terminology through a lively quiz.

The virtual options evening taking place on the 15th January will give students and their parents a chance to find out a bit more about each subject and follow up with questions. Mr MacLeod will be sharing more information about the evening and the options process.

Good reasons to choose a subject

- You enjoy it
- You're good at it
- It suits your style of learning
- It reflects your personality and interests
- It supports your future career interests
- It will keep your options open in the future

Bad reasons to choose a subject

- Your friend is taking it
- You think it is a 'cool' or impressive subject
- Your teachers or parents want you to take it
- You think it will be easy
- You like your current teacher
- It's a subject that boys/girls 'should' take

KS4

6th form or college

apprenticeship

part time work
part time study

With the Year 11s getting their PPEs back, we'll be scheduling 1:2:1 appointments with Mrs Aston (our external careers expert) to discuss their post-16 plans throughout the term.

Students with an EHCP, special educational needs and our Premium Pupils will all have an appointment scheduled as standard, as will the students who requested one at the beginning of the year.

If you would like an appointment but aren't sure whether you are on the list, please pop me an e-mail (smithi@piggottschool.org)

German Afternoon
at The Henley
College

Wednesday, 21st
January 14.00 -
16.00





YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

From the 4th to the 8th May (bearing in mind that the 4th is a Bank Holiday), Year 12 will be off timetable and out and about, gaining the real-world work experience that is the real differentiator when it comes to finding employment down the line.

Students are expected to find their own placements before working through the paperwork process on UniFrog (which we'll show them in their Wednesday afternoon assembly).

We really encourage students to take this opportunity to gain a really meaningful experience in a career field that interests them - even if all they learn is that it's not for them after all.

WEX QUICK GUIDE

STEP 1

Make a list of the places you might like to work/tap into your network to see whether interesting placements might be available.

STEP 2

Approach your shortlisted companies by e-mail, politely explaining the details of the week and attaching a CV which makes clear what *you* can do for *them*.

STEP 3

With your placement agreed by e-mail, enter the full details into UniFrog and follow the paperwork process shown.

PLEASE NOTE

- If you choose to spend the week where you currently work part-time, you **CANNOT BE PAID**.
- Students without a placement will be required to be in school, studying for the full school day throughout the week.
- If you get really stuck finding a placement, come and find me and I will do what I can to help.



D&T Design Programme

Apply here by
the 5th February



Economics Essay
Competition

Deadline: 27th Feb



Architecture taster day

18th Feb

[Sign up here](#)



APPRENTICESHIPS

TOP PICKS




Jacobs

Jacobs is a global consultancy which works with governments and businesses to look at ways to make a positive environmental, societal and economic impact.

Ecologist - Degree Apprenticeship

Earn a BSc in Environmental Management and Sustainability whilst working with real clients to ensure that their developments comply with wildlife and other environmental legislation.

 Start on
1st September

 Reading

 21,500 /yr

 [Click here](#)

 Apply by
5th Jan
(late applications considered)

I hope you saw my e-mail about this one



Pfizer isn't just one of the world's most innovative pharmaceutical companies - they have also been recognised as a UK Top Employer for eight consecutive years.

PLUS

Quality Practitioner,
Levels 3 & 4, Kent


Project Manager,
Degree, Surrey

Marketing Manager,
Degree, Surrey


Clinical Trials, Degree,
Kent

Laboratory scientist - Degree Apprenticeship

Earn a BSc in Chemical Sciences from the University of Kent whilst solving real problems in a working lab.

 Start on
1st September

 5 year
programme

 Sandwich,
Kent


 20,500 /yr


 [Click here](#)


 Apply by
16th Feb

Environmental Practitioner - Degree Apprenticeship

Earn a BSc in Environmental Science from the Kingston University whilst contributing to Pfizer's ongoing sustainability goals.

 Start on
1st September

 5 year
programme

 Sandwich,
Kent

 20,500 /yr

 [Click here](#)

 Apply by
16th Feb

CAREERS AT PIGGOTT



APPRENTICESHIPS

TOP PICKS

ONE TO WATCH

BMW (Mini, Oxford plant) launch their OUTSTANDING apprenticeships in February. I say outstanding because their programmes really do meet the gold standard. They're everything an apprenticeship should be:

- well balanced between practical and learning
- rooted in excellent quality education
- well paid!
- with great pastoral support
- guaranteeing a job offer at the end of the programme

I'll be sharing the details of the roles available, and 'how to apply' workshops in the coming weeks.



BBC

I've been e-mailing you as the BBC have released their apprenticeship offering and the last round (TV, Radio and Music Production) are live.

They run all over the country but a few London and local highlights include:

[CLICK HERE TO SEARCH ALL ROLES](#)

Level 3 Production (TV). Editorial (Eastenders).

Writing and editing scripts, storyboarding



Elstree Studios,
Hertfordshire

Level 3 Production (Radio). Radio Berkshire

Writing and editing scripts, storyboarding



Reading

Level 3 Production (Music). Live Events

Planning for festivals and live broadcasts



London

Level 3 Production (Music). BBC Introducing

Discovering new musicians, supporting live broadcasts



London

All the BBC Level 3 Production Assistant apprenticeships follow [this](#) framework and:



Start on
8th September



22,950 /yr



13 month
programme



Apply by
11th Jan

CLOSING
SOON!

CAREERS AT PIGGOTT

