



JULY 2025

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Here we are at the final edition of the careers newsletter for this academic year. We have had new leadership as well as some new staff and student additions that have injected a fresh viewpoint to Exceptional Ideas and the services and communication that we provide. We have guided our Year 10 and Year 11 students to sit examinations continuing to do our best to enable our students to prepare for the future. You may well have noticed that we always have one eye on the future to ensure that we are constantly evolving and improving our provision in line with best practice and statutory requirements. With that in mind, we also have plans for many more exciting opportunities in the oncoming academic year.

Here is an update on some of the work and activities that have taken place recently that all contributes toward our students gaining the knowledge, skills, and expertise they will need as and when they move on to further education and work.

Personal guidance for Year 10s

All of our Year 10s have now had a chance to catch up with Ian Harden, our linked Essex County Council SEND Careers Adviser. This has given them an opportunity to further investigate, or sometimes fine tune, their plans for their future career and the educational routes they will take to achieve these. There is a lot of research going on with our existing Year 10s currently considering careers in Carpentry, Computing, Healthcare, Animal Care and Creative Arts.

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS FOR COMPUTING STUDENTS

We like to open our student's eyes to the opportunities available to them, having high aspirations for them, not just for now but for the future too. Even if these seem unachievable currently, we believe it is important for the students to understand that these may be possibilities for the future.

This term we were fortunate to have a staff member who introduced one of our students to the Ford Motor Company Degree Apprenticeship, an inclusive programme that allows students to achieve a degree level qualification in IT while completing a paid working placement.

<https://ourclients.randstad.co.uk/ford-motor-company/level-6-digital-and-tech-apprenticeship/>

CAREERS EVENTS Here is some we have done recently...

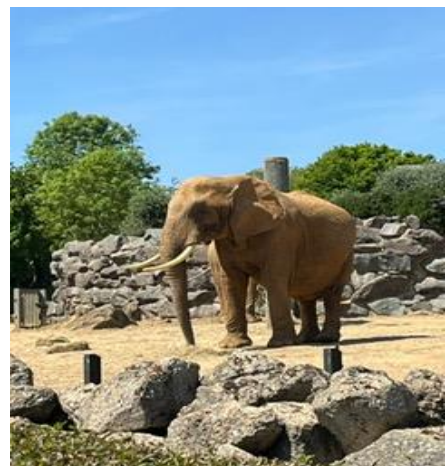


Arts and Humanities careers quiz

50+ questions from Creative Resources helping our students to learn more about the different careers in humanities and the arts. Our students do love a quiz to introduce them to a range of careers they might never have considered without this careers event. We love to open our students' eyes to innovative ideas through interesting and varied methods and this was no exception.

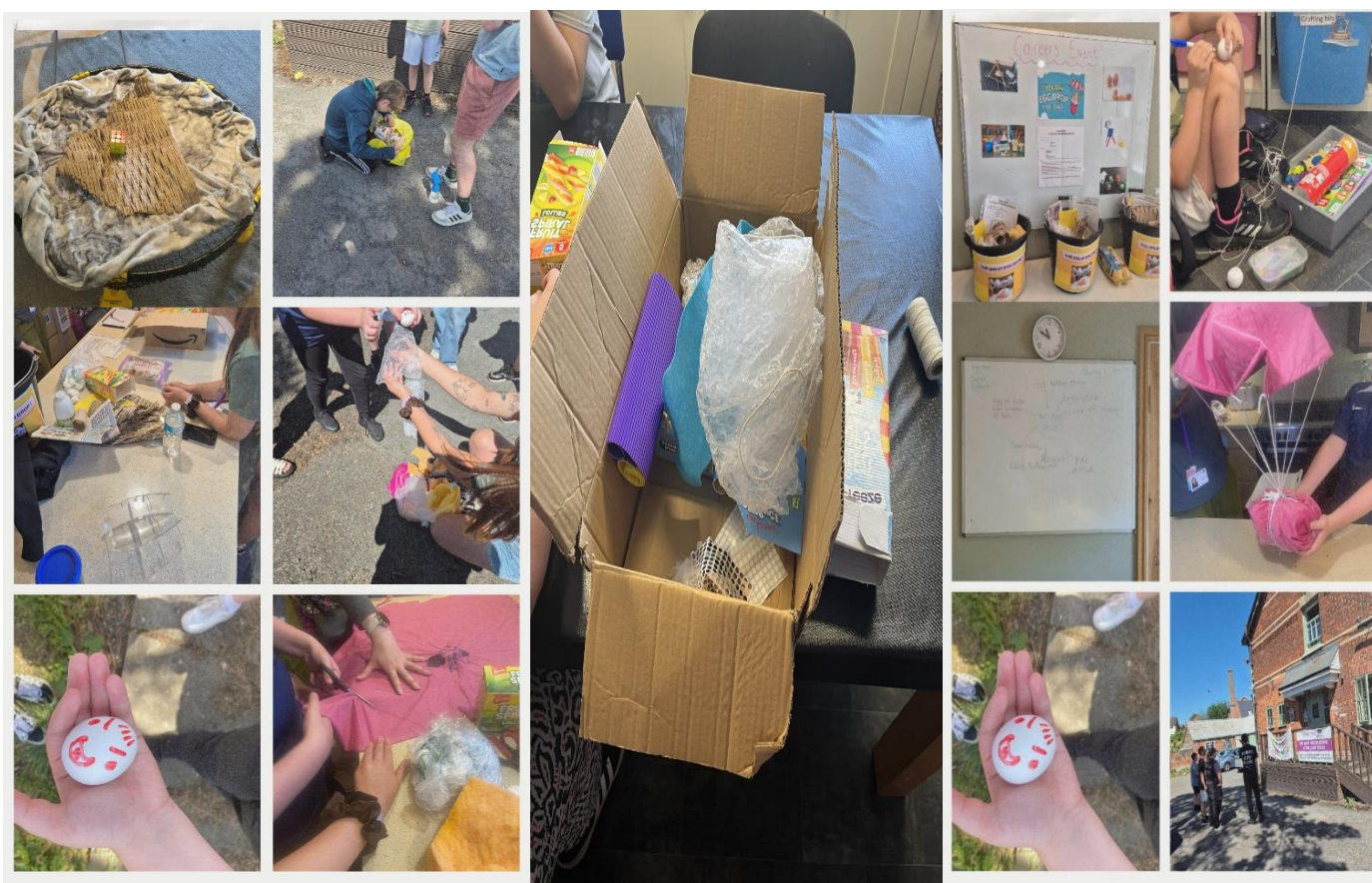
Colchester Zoo Careers Talk

The zoo's mission statement is "Conservation and Education," and this was very clearly demonstrated by the experience we received from Colchester Zoo. We were treated to a 45-minute chat with Zookeeper Leah who told the students all about the range of different careers that are available within the zoo, some with and some without animal contact. Leah gave us an idea of the routes that different staff had taken to get where they were (with case study videos) highlighting the types of extra-curricular work, like volunteering; you can do that can give you the edge when obtaining places on courses or jobs within the zoo. All really useful information and inspiring for some of our students, particularly when they realised that one of the staff had not actually done that well at school but had eventually obtained a role through determination and hard work via a different route. The students then had the rest of the day to themselves to see the animals and get the chance to see some of the keepers working with the animals while they visited.



The Great Egg Drop

Here at **Egg-ceptional** Ideas we aim to use careers events to teach and learn in interesting and memorable ways. We like our days to be **egg-citing** and we like to encourage students to **egg-ercise** their brains. Our challenge to the students for this half term was to work in pairs to design and create an **egg-cellent** container to safely secure an uncooked egg dropped from height to the ground without the egg breaking. Each team was given a box of materials and a single egg that had to remain intact throughout the entire event. Teamwork, design, communication, and ingenuity skills all got a workout for this one. Unusually for us we are pleased to say that, on this occasion, none of us had a SMASHING time!

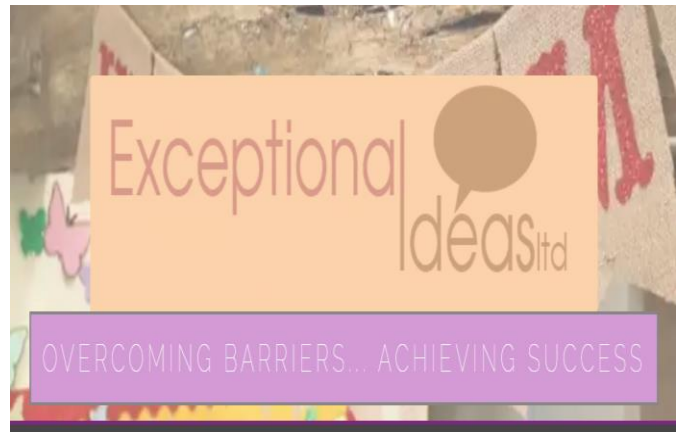


Visits to Further Education Providers

Hot from our recent discussions with Colchester Institute with a view to improving the overall transition arrangements for all students, we have wasted no time in getting our Year 10 students out for visits both to them and to Chelmsford College. This had already had a massive impact in assisting our students to understand what college life will look like, what their preferred courses are like and to see how they will cope with the environment. So far, it has all been positive either giving the reassurance that students needed or helping to identify any challenges or barriers to achieving this that can be worked on in our Aspiration lessons.

Resources and updates for parents

The careers page has now been updated with some resources that may help parents to better understand and participate in careers conversations at home. If there is a topic that you would like to know more about, please contact the Transition Lead in your young person's school to ask for more information. Parents of students in Year 10 during 2025/2026 will also be receiving an information pack with more information about what they and the students can expect, help them to prepare themselves for transition to their next provision as well as an invitation to discuss these arrangements with staff if they wish.



National Saturday Club

National Saturday Club provides links between universities in your area and school age young people. Anglia Ruskin University run three of these clubs for Art and Design, Film & Screen and Science & Engineering. Have a look and see what free tuition you could have access to if you joined.

<https://saturday-club.org/join-a-club/>

Key dates:

Careers event 1: 01.10.2025 - Army Field Catering Event at Colchester Army Barracks.

Year 11 mock exams: October / November 2025 dates TBA.

Year 11 college applications to be completed by: 19.12.2025.

Careers Event 2: 01.12.2025 - Careers Quiz

Next newsletter: December 2025