CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

Listen to this newsletter

OPPORTUNITIES



National Care Leavers' Month exists for the public, professionals, carers, decision-makers and the media to come together, celebrate care leavers and raise awareness of the issues in the care system.

Care-experienced and want to understand more about UCAS and how to apply to University? This free online workshop delivered by Become's Propel into Education team will explain:

- An in-depth look at UCAS applications.
- Specific guidance for care-experienced students.
- Concerns or questions care-experienced students may have.



Taking place online on Wednesday 18th November from 6pm.

Starting or continuing university can be exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming at times. This free online workshop will cover:

- Tips for managing stress, staying organised and looking after your wellbeing.
- Where to find support from your university, including wellbeing, counselling and academic support.



- Student networks, communities and ways to connect with other care-experienced students.
- Additional grants, bursaries and financial support available to care-experienced students.

The free support available from Propel into Education and Become. Taking place online on Wednesday 25th November from 6pm.



Care Leaver Covenant is an opportunities directory that includes graduate schemes, internships, entry-level jobs, apprenticeships and work experience, with employers committed to supporting care leavers. Current examples include Sky's 2027 graduate and summer internship programmes, Ringway's infrastructure careers and NHS-related opportunities.



Connects is a dedicated platform for care leavers and support workers. It provides exclusive access to opportunities in education, work, wellbeing, money and your home. As a valued member of Connects, you will be kept up to date with opportunities and offers as well as the information and support available to you.



Watch the University of Bath's videos featuring care-experienced students sharing their stories, challenges, and successes at university. From overcoming challenges before and during university life to finding a sense of belonging within our community, their stories shine a light on both the barriers they have faced and the support that has helped them succeed.

If you have any questions please email
Mrs Bradley at kbradley@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

JOB OF THE WEEK

Futurist

A futurist (or futurologist) is someone who systematically studies current trends, patterns, and data to explore possible, probable, and preferable futures for human society and organisations.

Rather than crystal-ball "prediction," futurists use strategic frameworks, signal scanning, and trend identification to map out multiple potential scenarios over 10-to-100+ year horizons.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

You may be wondering why National Care Leavers Month and supporting students who have been in care is so important. Well, 15% of young people from a care background in England go to university by age 19, compared to 46% of their non-care-experienced peers, so it is about equality and ensuring everyone has support to be successful.
Source

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

OPPORTUNITIES



The GCSE Revision Masterclass is led by Harry and Joe, co-founders of The Degree Gap. The session will cover:

- How to turn mock exam results into a clear plan for improvement
- How to identify which subjects and topics need the most attention
- Simple, effective revision techniques students can use at home
- How to recognise and manage exam stress before it becomes overwhelming
- How parents can support revision without arguments or added pressure

It is a 30-minute masterclass followed by 30 minutes of live Q&A taking place on Tuesday 1st December, 7-8pm.



Practise a real-style interview by speaking your answers out loud, then get feedback to help you improve. It's not a real job interview, so there's no pressure, and you can have as many goes as you like. You can pick an employer to practice with: RAF, Rolls-Royce, Coventry Building Society or Vistry. Read the full guide and give it a go here.



Looking Forward: In 2027 How Will We Design For Good? is an online Session + Q&A that is being held on Saturday 21st November 2026 from 11:00 to 13:45. You will hear from women and non-binary STEAM professionals whose careers focus on social good, in areas like climate tech, healthcare innovation and using data to tackle inequality. The session includes a panel sharing their career stories, a live Q&A, practical tips on talking to professionals, and speed networking with panellists and peers in breakout rooms.



EY's Apprenticeship Application Bootcamp is running on 25th November from 4–4:45pm. You are invited to discover EY's apprenticeship programmes and hear directly from recruiters about the application process, useful tips and what employers look for.

Join KPMG to discover a Career in Tax. This event runs on 26th November from 4–5pm. Find out what working in tax involves, hear from industry professionals and learn about apprenticeship and graduate pathways.



BAE Systems are running a session on Aerospace Careers and Apprenticeships, taking place on 25th November from 6–8pm. Interested in engineering, technology or aerospace? Find out about apprenticeships, meet current apprentices and explore your future career options.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

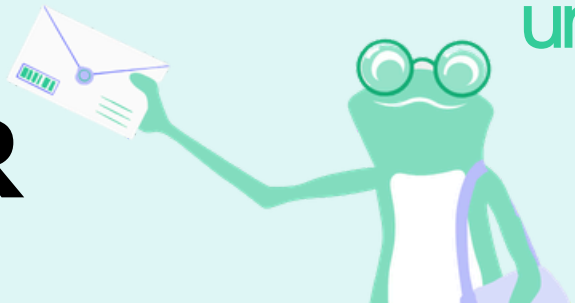
Capgemini is a global technology and consulting company that helps organisations use technology to solve problems and improve how they work. Its employees work across areas such as software, cloud computing, cyber security, data, artificial intelligence and business consulting. Early career opportunities can include apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and graduate programmes, allowing young people to build valuable digital and professional skills while working with major organisations.

UNI SPOTLIGHT

Durham University is a historic university in North East England with a distinctive collegiate system. Students belong to a college alongside their academic department, creating opportunities to participate in sports, societies and social activities within a smaller community. Courses span sciences, humanities, social sciences and business. Durham could particularly suit students attracted to a traditional university environment that combines academic study with a strong sense of community.

If you have any questions please email
Mrs Bradley at kbradley@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



unifrog

Our school has invested in the Unifrog platform, which allows you to explore the worlds of work and education, make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications.

Access your account

OPPORTUNITIES

Rising star scholarships at London Met open now!

This scholarship could cover your full tuition fees, worth up to £10,050 per year in subjects like journalism, film, TV, music, and creative writing.

> Find out more here!



Apply for the scholarship once you receive your offer

KNOW-HOW SPOTLIGHT



Virtual work experience

sign up from Mon 23 Nov

Deloitte Career Shapers programme: Inspiring Women (16-17 Feb 2027)

Sign up for this free, two-day virtual programme for Year 12 students. Discover opportunities in finance, consulting, and tech, and build your skills. What a cool thing to put on your CV and applications!

> Find out how to sign up here!



University webinar

Weds 2 Dec 17:30-18:00

Applying to university as a first-generation student

First in your family to go to university? The University of Roehampton are here to help. Get practical advice and guidance so you can feel confident about applying to university.

> Sign up here!





View all events

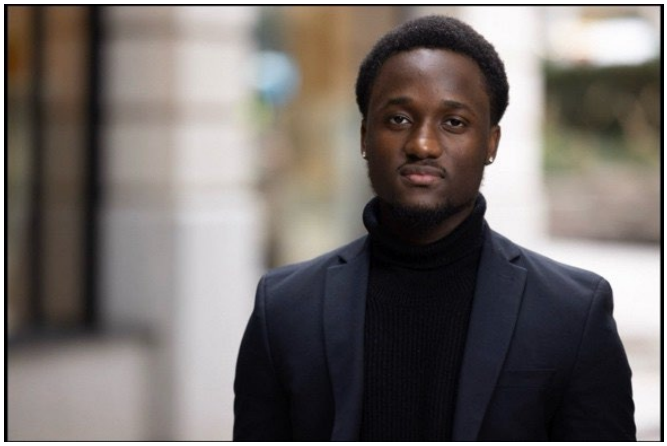


KNOWING STUFF IS COOL

According to the Future of Jobs Report 2025, big data specialists are the top fastest-growing jobs for 2025-2030. Maybe you could join their ranks?

ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2026

Chris Ndlovu



Building a career in law and creating opportunities for others

What does it mean to build a successful career while making a difference in the lives of others? For St Thomas More alumnus **Chris Ndlovu**, it means combining ambition, a growing career in financial crime law and a commitment to helping young people access opportunities they might otherwise be denied.

Chris began his professional journey working at top 40 international law firms, gaining valuable experience in a demanding and competitive legal environment. He has since moved to a smaller firm, where he has taken on a more senior role at a regional firm, demonstrating that career progression can take many different paths.

His particular interest lies in **financial crime**, an area of white-collar crime that involves investigating and addressing financial wrongdoing, with a particular emphasis on cross-border cases. Looking ahead, Chris is considering his next steps, which could include qualifying as a solicitor or moving into a financial crime role within a bank. For now, he is enjoying developing his expertise in this fascinating field – and, as he puts it, the money isn't too bad either!

PROFILE:

NAME: Chris Ndlovu

JOB: Senior AML and Conflicts Analyst

SUBJECTS studied at A LEVEL: Psychology, Religious Studies, English Language

What next? University of Kent, Bachelor of Law - LLB

YEAR left STM: 2020

Making a difference beyond the workplace

Alongside his professional career, Chris is also helping to create a brighter future for young people through **Ekhaya Rising**, a charity he runs with fellow St Thomas More alumni Chris Kaiyo and Dami.

The charity is focused on **creating equal opportunities for children and students in underprivileged communities**, helping to remove barriers that can prevent young people from accessing education, resources and opportunities to thrive.

ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2026

Through their work, Ekhaya Rising has donated period pads and sporting equipment and helped pay school fees across Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe. These initiatives demonstrate how practical support can make a meaningful difference to young people's lives, helping them participate more fully in education and their communities.

It is particularly inspiring to see former students working together beyond their own careers to give something back and support the next generation.

Find out more about their work at www.ekhayarising.com.

Chris's advice to current students

Chris's journey is a reminder that you do not need to have every detail of your future mapped out from the beginning. Careers develop, interests evolve and opportunities can take you in unexpected directions. What matters is being willing to learn, take opportunities and keep moving forward.

His advice is simple, but powerful:

“It doesn’t have to make sense right now.”

For our current students, this is an important message. Whether you already have a clear career ambition or are still discovering what interests you, there is time to explore different pathways, develop your skills and find the direction that works for you.

Once STM, always part of the community

Chris's story reflects the ambition, determination and community spirit we are proud to celebrate at St Thomas More. From developing a career in an exciting area of law to helping young people access education and opportunities internationally, he is showing how success can be about both personal progress and the positive impact we have on others.

We are delighted to celebrate Chris as part of our STM Alumni community and look forward to following his journey.

Inspired by Chris's story? Explore the work of Ekhaya Rising and remember: you don't have to have it all figured out to take your first step.

Exploring Future Pathways with USP College

What happens after Year 11? That was the question Year 10 students explored during an engaging assembly led by Aaron Wallis, Admissions & Outreach Manager at USP College. The session gave students an exciting insight into the wide range of opportunities available after GCSEs and encouraged them to start thinking about the next steps in their educational journey.



Students learned about the many pathways available at Post-16, including A Levels, vocational qualifications, T Levels, apprenticeships, and specialist courses. The presentation highlighted how different routes can lead to successful careers and that there is no single pathway to achieving future goals.



Aaron also shared information about life at USP College, including enrichment activities, work experience opportunities, industry partnerships, and the support available to help students progress to university, apprenticeships, and employment.

The assembly encouraged students to begin researching their options early, attend open events, and consider how their interests, strengths, and ambitions might shape their future choices. For many students, it was a valuable reminder that the decisions made over the next year can open doors to a wide range of exciting opportunities.

We would like to thank Aaron Wallis and USP College for delivering an informative and inspiring session that helped our Year 10 students take an important step towards planning their future.

Before choosing where to study after Year 11, ask yourself:

- Where will I receive the most personalised support?
- Where will teachers know me and understand my ambitions?
- Where will I have the greatest opportunities for leadership and personal development?
- Where will I feel confident, supported, and challenged to achieve my best?

For many of our students, the answer is St Thomas More High School .

Students wishing to join St Thomas More Sixth Form are typically expected to achieve:

- A minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, including English and Mathematics
- Subject-specific entry requirements for individual A Level courses

Year 10 students are encouraged to start thinking about their future now. By working hard towards their GCSEs and keeping their options open, they can ensure they are well placed to take advantage of the exciting opportunities available both within St Thomas More Sixth Form and beyond.

Parents and carers play a crucial role in helping young people make informed decisions about their future. Over the coming months, we encourage you to start conversations at home about Post-16 options, career ambitions, and the subjects your child enjoys most.

Help Inspire the Next Generation: Careers Volunteers Needed!

Could you spare a few hours to help shape our students' futures? At St Thomas More High School, we are planning an exciting programme of Careers & Employability events for the 2026–2027 academic year and are looking for parents, carers, and local employers to get involved.

Whether you can help conduct mock interviews for Years 8 and 10, deliver a career talk, assist with Sixth Form CV reviews, or offer a work experience placement through your workplace, your insight and expertise will make a real difference.

Key Dates for 2027:

- **11 Feb:** Year 10 Mock Interview Day
- **4 Mar:** Year 8 Mock Interview Day
- **19–29 Apr:** Year 10 Work Experience Programme
- **30 Apr:** Post-16 Pathways Day
- **26 May & 5 Jul:** Year 12 Post-18 Preparation Days
- **28 Jun – 2 Jul:** Year 12 Work Experience Programme

If you would like to support any of these events, please complete the following volunteer form. Thank you for helping us prepare our students for their next steps.



uptree

Free · Online · Live

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS

Meet top employers from home.

Seven free virtual events with leading employers, November to December 2026. Join live, ask questions and discover where your future could take you.

2026 events.

TUE 17 NOV	**Rothschild & Co** Wealth Management & Global Advisory virtual insight session Business · Financial Services · Investment Banking · Technology · Professional Services · STEM	10:00am
THU 26 NOV	**Arm** Women in STEM insight day Technology · STEM	10:00am
TUE 1 DEC	**Bank of America** Virtual insight into apprenticeships Business · Financial Services · Investment Banking · Technology · Professional Services · STEM	4:00pm
THU 3 DEC	**Baker McKenzie** BEGINNINGS at Baker McKenzie virtual insight session Law	5:00pm
TUE 8 DEC	**Winston Taylor** Virtual law work insight session Law	10:00am
WED 9 DEC	**Schroders** Virtual insight session Business · Financial Services · Technology · Professional Services	12:00pm
THU 10 DEC	**UK's Intelligence Agencies** Virtual insight session Business · Technology · STEM · Cyber Security	10:00am

Sign up in three steps.

1. Scan the QR code or visit **uptree.co/events**
2. Create your free Uptree account
3. Choose an event and register

Teachers and parents: please share with students. Every event is free and online. Check each event page for year group and eligibility.

Scan to sign up.

uptree.co/events

Free for every student. Join from home or school.

Uptree

Free · Online · Live

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS

Plan ahead for 2027.

Six free virtual events with leading employers, January to July 2027.
Sign up to Uptree now so you are ready to register.

2027 events.

WED 20 JAN — 5:00pm
KPMG Parents welcome
Student and parent insight evening
Business · Financial Services · Technology · Professional Services · STEM

WED 27 JAN — 4:30pm
Trowers & Hamlins
Solicitor apprenticeship online application masterclass
Law

THU 28 JAN — 10:00am
National Cyber Force
Application masterclass
Engineering · Technology · STEM · Cyber Security

THU 18 MAR — 4:00pm
UK's Intelligence Agencies
Virtual insight session
Business · Technology · STEM · Cyber Security

THU 3 JUN — 4:30pm
Trowers & Hamlins
Insights webinar
Law · Professional Services

THU 15 JUL — 11:00am
KPMG
Virtual insight session
Business · Financial Services · Technology · Professional Services · STEM

Sign up in three steps.

1. Scan the QR code or visit **uptree.co/events**
2. Create your free Uptree account
3. Choose an event and register

Teachers and parents: please share with students. Every event is free and online. Check each event page for year group and eligibility.

Scan to sign up.

uptree.co/events

Free for every student. Join from home or school.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Ipeco

Career Builder Schemes
Open Evening

Looking for a career in engineering?

Our award winning Career Builder Schemes give you the chance to gain a nationally recognised qualifications, all while being employed and building experience.

Ipeco, Airport Business Park, Rochford SS4 1YH

Thurs 10th Dec 2026
From 4.00 PM



Register Now

trainingcentre@ipeco.com

Or scan the QR code:

THE KING'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE 2024 PROMOTING OPPORTUNITY

ipeco.com

aircraft crew seating I executive jet passenger seating I electric galley inserts

OPEN EVENTS 2026/27

Check websites for the latest information including times of these events.

6th Form:	Website/link:	Proposed date:
Appleton	www.theappletonschool.org	Thursday 15th October 2026
Basildon Academy	www.basildonacademies.org.uk/sixthform	Thursday 1st October 2026
Beauchamps	www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk	Wednesday 25th November 2026
Belfairs	www.belfairsacademy.org.uk	Monday 12th October 2026
Brampton Manor	www.bramptonmanor.org	Thursday 7th January 2027
Cecil Jones	www.ceciljonesacademy.net	Thursday 15th October 2026
Chase	www.chasehigh.org	Thursday 8th October 2026
Chelmsford County High	www.cchs.co.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-open-evening/	Thursday 1st October
The Coopers' Company and Coborn	www.cooperscoborn.org.uk/sixth-form	Wednesday 18th November 2026
Felsted	www.felsted.org/admissions/sixthform	Saturday 3rd October 2026
FitzWimarc	www.fitzwimarc.com	Thursday 5th November 2026
Greensward	https://www.liftgreensward.org/page/sixth-form	Thursday 12th November 2026
Harris Academy Billericay	www.harrisbillericay.org.uk	Thursday 12th November 2026
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	www.harrischaffordhundred.org.uk/5/sixth-form	Thursday 19th November 2026
Harris Academy Wickford (Bromfords)	www.harriswickford.org.uk	Thursday 26th November 2026
KEGS	www.kegs.org.uk	Wednesday 18th November 2026
King Edmund	www.kes.essex.sch.uk	Wednesday 18th November 2026
King John	www.thekjs.essex.sch.uk	Thursday 8th October 2026
London Academy of Excellence	https://lae.ac.uk	January 2027 TBC
Mayflower	www.mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk	Thursday 5th November 2026
Witham	https://sites.google.com/aetinet.org/newrickstones-sixth-form/home	Thursday 12th November 2026
Shoeburyness High School	https://www.shoeburyness.secat.co.uk/sixth-form	Thursday 19th November 2026
Southend High for Boys	www.shsb.org.uk	Thursday 5th November 2026
Southend High for Girl	www.shsg.org	Wednesday 4th November 2026
St Bernard's	www.stbernards.southend.sch.uk	Thursday 3rd December 2026
St Thomas More	www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk	Thursday 1st October 2026
Sweyne Park	www.sweynepark.com	Tuesday 10th November
Westcliff High for Boys	www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/sixth-form	Thursday 12th November 2026
Westcliff High for Girls	www.whsg.info	Thursday 22nd October 2026

*Details are correct at time of printing – **check websites for changes / updates and times***

COLLEGES: South Essex College www.southessex.ac.uk		**Proposed Date:**
Southend Campus	5pm – 8pm	23rd September 2026
	5pm – 8pm	14th January 2027
	5pm – 7pm	10th March 2027
Thurrock Campus	5pm – 8pm	1st October 2026
	5pm – 8pm	21st January 2027
	5pm – 7pm	24th March 2027
Centre for Digital Technologies, Basildon	5pm – 7pm	20th October 2026
	5pm – 7pm	2nd February 2027
	5pm – 7pm	13th April 2027
Centre for Construction and Engineering, Stephenson Rd	5pm – 7pm	10th November 2026
	5pm – 7pm	11th February 2027
	5pm – 7pm	22nd April 2027
Centre for Advanced Engineering, Luckyn Lane	5pm – 7pm	6th October 2026
	5pm – 7pm	27th January 2027
	5pm – 7pm	18th March 2027
USP www.uspcollege.ac.uk		
Xtend Digital	5.20 pm – 7pm	8th October 2026
Palmers Campus	5.20 pm – 7pm	15th October 2026 4th November 2026
Seevic Campus	5.20 pm – 8pm	1st October 2026 18th November 2026
Writtle College www.aru.ac.uk/study/open-day/your-writtle-college-open-day		
	Saturday's	10th October 2026 21st November 2026
Chelmsford College https://www.chelmsford.ac.uk		
Open events dates for both campuses.	6pm – 8.30pm	7th October 2026
	6pm – 8.30pm	4th November 2026
	6pm – 8.30pm	3rd February 2027
Colchester Institute https://www.colchester.ac.uk/events/		
Colchester Campus	10am - 1pm	Saturday 17th October 2026
	5pm – 8pm	20th October 2026
	5pm – 8pm	12th November 2026
Braintree Campus	5pm – 8pm	Monday 19th October 2026
	10am – 12pm	Saturday 14th November 2026
Colchester Sixth Form College www.colchsfc.ac.uk/admissionsevents/		
	6.15pm – 9.15pm	21st October 2026
	6.15pm – 9.15pm	22nd October 2026
Stansted Airport College www.stanstedairportcollege.ac.uk		
	10am – 2pm Saturday	10th October 2026
	5pm – 8pm Thursday	11th March 2027
Southend City Community College Southend City Community College		
Southchurch Campus	5pm – 7pm	14th October 2026
	5pm – 7pm	27th January 2027
	5pm – 7pm	30th June 2027
TDA (The Digital Academy)	5pm – 7pm	15th October 2026
	5pm – 7pm	28th January 2027
	5pm – 7pm	1st July 2027