

The Warwickshire Academy Career Parent/Carer Handbook



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Introduction

This handbook is designed to support you when supporting your child through their careers education. At The Warwickshire Academy, we strongly believe in preparing our young people for adulthood and life beyond school. Despite this being intrinsically covered within the academic curriculum, interventions and extra-curricular opportunities we are passionate about ensuring that all our students receive detailed careers education. We hope that this handbook explains this in detail so we can work with you to ensure your child has the best possible start for their future.

How to prepare

Explore the pathways

One of the first steps is to make sure that you know what is available to your young person.

There are several training and education options available to young people after GCSEs and it's good to start the conversation about them early, to make choices about GCSEs and beyond easier. Exploring the different pathways available, will help you share ideas with your child, on what might be right for them.

Pathways at 16+

Pathways at 16+

Students aged 16+ who are ready to begin level 3 training and education have three main choices.

T-Levels

T-levels were introduced in 2020 and are currently being rolled out across the country. Your child will take a two-year course designed with employers and spend approximately 80% of their time in a classroom setting at school or college and 20% on an industry placement with an employer. One T-level is equivalent to three A-levels.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine part-time study with training in a paid job. Your child will spend most of their time at work and at least 20% of their time 'off-the-job' studying, usually in a classroom setting at a college or with a training provider. From age 16, a young person will usually begin a level 2 or level 3 apprenticeship.

A-levels

Most students select three subjects to study at A-level, over a two-year period. However, your child could choose to combine A-levels with other qualifications or to study more than three A-levels.

6th Form

TWA is due to open 6th Form provision from September 2026.

This will enable students to continue at TWA with a variety of subjects, including English, Maths, ASDAN qualifications, and a Personal Project alongside an Industry day placement out of school one day per week.

This allows students to further develop their independence and enhance their readiness and preparation for life after school.

Starting the conversation

This is a chance for your child to ask you about your experiences in work or education. It could give them some ideas about how you started working. They can ask these questions to anyone that is involved in their lives:

Questions for adult:

1. What did you want to be when you were growing up?
2. Did you change your mind about what you wanted to do when growing up?
3. When you were my age what education did you complete?
4. What was your first job?
5. What has been your favourite job and why?
6. What else would you like to do as a job or in your current career?
7. What would be your dream job if money wasn't important?

8. What would you change about your education?
9. What job do you think I would like to do?

Questions for child:

1. Can you remember what you wanted to be when you were younger?
2. Are you still interested in the same job now?
3. What do you most enjoy in school?
4. What is your favourite subject?
5. What jobs do you already know about?
6. Is there a specific job you think you would like to do?
7. What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
8. What skills do you think you have for your future career?
9. What do you think you will enjoy most about working?

Talking aspirations

Work through these questions with your child to establish their interests and what they value as being important within their future career. This might be able to inspire your child or give them a clearer idea of what industry they would like to pursue a career in.

1. Working in a team		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

2. Helping others		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

3. Travelling		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

4. Writing		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

5. Talking to people		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

6. Solving problems		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

7. Working outside		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

8. Making the world a better place		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

9. Working with children		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

10. Contact with the public		
How important do you think this is?		
Very important	Quite important	Not important

Career Planner

Spend time talking to your child about their careers. This will help them to open up about their potential options and give you an insight into their goals and future aspirations. These are just a few questions you might want to ask.

1. Can you describe what your interests and passions are?
2. Can you describe the skills that you think you have?
3. Can you describe any experiences that you have had that have developed your skills?
4. Do you know how to speak in an interview?
5. Do you know how to write a CV or application form?
6. Do you know what jobs are available to you?

7. Are you clear on what qualifications you need to be able to do the job you want to?
8. Do you know how much it will cost for you to train in this career and the salary that you might achieve?
9. Are you confident the career path is the right one for you?
10. Do you need any help with finding a job that you might enjoy?

Parental advice

Take advantage of the Careers Programme

We have our Careers Action Plan on our website for you to look at so that you can see which stage of their journey your child is currently on.

Linking the curriculum to careers

Subject teachers in schools and colleges are now encouraged to link what is taught in the curriculum with potential careers. This helps students understand the relevance of subjects they're learning to the world of work they will one day enter.

Making these links is an important strand of the Careers Programme operated by your child's college or school. It helps to build engagement in subjects, while opening young people's minds to different career possibilities.

Schools and colleges will also try to offer work experience opportunities.

Connect with the Careers Leader

Your child's school or college will have a Careers Leader who is responsible for planning and coordinating the Careers Programme.

At The Warwickshire Academy that is Nathan Howard and he is happy for you to email him with any enquiries

n.howard@wa.thrive.ac

The Careers Leader will be pleased to support the conversations you're having with your child, whether your child has clear ideas about what they want to do or is still exploring ideas.

Meet with a Careers Adviser

By the age of 16, your child can expect to have had at least one personal guidance session with a Careers Adviser and a further session by the age of 18. The adviser might be an external specialist, or

alternatively a member of school staff trained to provide careers guidance. Your child may also receive support from their tutor in form time and subject teachers will make links between what's being studied and future careers.

Stay connected

Events and activities take place throughout the year, so make sure you stay connected with the school or college. They will promote the Careers Programme in a variety of ways, through communications home or via the school or college website. There may be opportunities for you to share your feedback and aspects you'd like more information on. Don't forget to get in touch with the Careers Leader if there's something specific you need.

Additional resources

Communications from your child's school or college will signpost where you can find extra information on different jobs and careers, further study options, and local employment opportunities. There may be a careers section on the school or college website specifically for students, with dedicated pages for parents as well. A library of printed information should also be available for students to explore, holding literature provided by local employers and colleges, and UK-wide universities.

Next steps

We hope you have found this handbook a useful starting tool to help support your child on their career journey. If you want to find out anything more or want to more support with supporting your child please feel free to contact the Careers Lead Nathan Howard at n.howard@wa.thrive.ac

Also, the following websites are useful and have lots more information on them:

<https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/>

<https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>

<https://workingoptions.org.uk/>