YEAR 13 PATHWAYS EVENING • BREAKOUT SESSION

Entering the World of Work

Job Seekers | Apprenticeships | School Leaver Programmes | Gap Year

40-minute session • Paula Cowell

@CBSCDestinations

CBSC Sixth Form
CBSC DESTINATIONS

WHAT WE'LL COVER TODAY

⏱ 40 mins

🗺️ The landscape

Employment, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes, gap year — what exists

🔍 Deep dive: all options

All four pathways in depth — including high-impact gap year options

📄 Your CV

How to build the best Curriculum Vitae now. Do Now !

🧭 Navigating the market

Where to look, when to apply, how to build your profile now

❓ Q&A + next steps

Your questions answered, key takeaways, support available at CBSC

FOUR PATHWAYS AFTER SIXTH FORM



Full-Time Employment

Direct entry jobs

- Entry-level roles across all sectors
- Admin, retail, hospitality, tech, media
- Look for 'school leaver' or 'entry-level'



Apprenticeships

Earn & learn

- Paid job + structured training and qualifications
- Levels 3 to degree level (6+)
- All sectors — not just trades
- At level 6, Apprenticeships are linked to degree study. Employer links with a University and covers the cost of the degree study
- gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



School Leaver Programmes

Graduate-style, no degree

- Structured 2–3 year programmes
- Deloitte, PwC, BAE, Rolls-Royce
- Often include qualifications
- Apply from Sept of Year 13!



Gap Year

Purposeful, not a gap

- Volunteering, internships, TEFL, travel
- Many larger organisations offer Insight Programmes
- Skills qualifications
- Must be structured & intentional, with an outcome which can be narrated as beneficial to a future employer.

APPRENTICESHIPS – THE FULL PICTURE

Apprenticeship Levels

Level 3	Level 3 equivalent qualification	*IT Technician, Business Admin*
Level 4	Year 1 - with relevant vocational training e.g Insurance qualifications	*Data Analyst, Marketing Exec*
Level 5	HND / Year 2	*Operations Manager, Engineer*
Level 6	Full Degree	*Chartered Accountant, Solicitor*
Level 7	Masters Level	*Senior Leader, Finance Director*

Key facts for students



You get paid

National minimum wage for apprentices — rises with age/level



No tuition fees

Employer + government covers training costs — you pay nothing



Duration

12 months – 5 years depending on level and sector



Qualification

Nationally recognised — same as any other qualification



Where to apply

gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship • Notgoingtouni.co.uk

APPRENTICESHIPS IN ACTION – THREE REAL EXAMPLES

These are real vacancies you can search for on gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship right now.

LEVEL 3

Good local opportunities — often with smaller organisations where education will be linked to local college courses.

Search now →

Multiple local employers • Salary: from £14,560 • Duration: 15–18 months • Start: Sept 2026

What you do: office admin, communications, data management, supporting teams across departments.

What you get: E.G Level 3 Business Administrator qualification. Common stepping stone into HR, operations, finance.

LEVEL 4

Travel radius will be wider— London, Kingston, Croydon etc. Education may be at college, university or in-house

Search now →

Multiple London employers inc. NHS, councils, financial firms • Salary: £20,000–£27,000 • Duration: 2 years

What you do: example - analyse data, build dashboards, support business decisions — in sectors from finance to healthcare.

What you get: Level 4 qualification (HNC equivalent).

LEVEL 6

Travel radius wide— Many London based. Education is degree level linked to a university

Search now →

Employers inc. Hollywood Bowl, Dalkia, NHS, facilities & service companies • Salary: £16,640–£24,780 • Duration: 2.5–3 yrs

What you do: manage teams, lead projects, handle budgets, rotate across departments — while studying for a full degree.

What you get: Chartered Manager Degree (Level 6, BSc) with NO tuition fees. Employed from day one. No student debt.

search gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship with your post code and parameters. Unifrog also has a built in Apprenticeship secarch engine

SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES – WHO & WHAT

What a programme looks like

📋 Structured rotation

You move between teams/departments over 2–3 years

🎓 Built-in qualification

Many include AAT, ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW or degree-level

👥 Cohort experience

You join alongside other school leavers — you're not alone

💼 Real responsibility

You're an employee from day one — not an intern

📈 Fast progression

Many offer faster promotion than graduate entry routes

Employers running SLPs

Finance & Professional

Deloitte, PwC, KPMG, EY, Lloyds Banking Group

Technology

BT, IBM, Capgemini, Fujitsu, BAE Systems Digital

Engineering & Defence

Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems, Babcock, Network Rail

Public Sector

Civil Service, NHS, Metropolitan Police, HMRC

Media & Creative

Channel 4, BBC, ITV (limited but growing)

💡 *Key resource: notgoingtouni.co.uk — dedicated to school leavers and apprenticeships*

SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES IN ACTION – TWO EXAMPLES

These are programmes open to Year 13 school leavers — no degree required. Apply from September of Year 13.

Please note that school leavers programmes – NOT linked to degree study are becoming less common

Research from September of Year 13 — deadlines are often October/November. Search all programmes at notgoingtouni.co.uk, higherin.com

CONSULT

PwC School Leaver Programme — Business, Tax & Tech, London

View programme →

Employer: PwC • Duration: 3 years • Qualification: ICAEW / tech certifications • Salary: c.£23,000+

What you do: work with clients on consulting, tax or technology projects from day one — real work, not just shadowing.

What you get: professional qualification (ICAEW / tech certs), structured mentoring and the PwC brand on your CV.

PUBLIC

Police Constable Entry Programme— Public Service

View programme →

Employer: Met Police• Duration: 2 years • Salary: c.£42,000

What you do: Learning “on the job” working alongside experienced police officers. Classroom learning also embedded.

What you get: Guaranteed employment if successful completion of programme

GAP YEAR – MAKE IT COUNT

A gap year is only as strong as what you do with it. Employers and universities want evidence of purpose, growth and initiative — not just travel.

🌍 Structured Volunteering Abroad

High Impact

- Projects Abroad, Raleigh International, VSO ICS
- Structured programmes — not paid holidays
- Typical: 3–6 months, skills-based placement
- Teaching, conservation, community development
- Funded bursaries available — cost need not be a barrier
- Builds: leadership, adaptability, cross-cultural communication

🏛️ Internship or Insight Programme

Career Boosting

- Many firms run 1–12 week paid gap year internships
- Goldman Sachs, Deloitte, Civil Service offer formal programmes
- Insight days: J.P. Morgan, Google, Amazon — apply now
- Spring Weeks (March) — ideal timing for gap year students
- Turns into a direct application advantage for SLPs
- Builds: sector knowledge, professional networks, CV

🎓 Purposeful Skills Programme

Qualification

- TEFL / CELTA — teach English, highly employable globally
- Coding bootcamps: General Assembly, Le Wagon (some funded)
- First Aid at Work, Mental Health First Aider qualification
- Commercial driving licence (HGV, Forklift, PSV)
- Project Management foundations (PRINCE2 awareness)
- Builds: tangible, named skills that appear directly on

💼 Extended UK Work Experience

Practical

- Full-time work for 6–12 months in a target sector
- Even unrelated work builds: reliability, financial literacy
- Use the time to apply for Sept SLPs and apprenticeships
- Side project alongside work — blog, YouTube, GitHub portfolio
- Freelance or self-employed work counts — shows initiative
- Builds real employment

⚠️ Key message: a gap year is not a break — it's a year of intentional investment in yourself. Employers respect it when it's purposeful.

YOUR CV – WHAT TO INCLUDE

Tip: Use Unifrog to get a clean high quality master C.V — then customise it fully for each job you apply for.

The six essential sections:

Contact details

Name, email (professional), phone, LinkedIn

Education

A Levels with predicted grades, GCSEs

Work experience

Part-time jobs, volunteering, work shadowing

Achievements

DofE, prefect, sports, competitions, awards

Skills

IT, languages, driving licence, certificates

Interests

Keep brief — show personality, not just hobbies

DO NOW

- Get relevant work experience – in person, virtual, part time paid work
- Take on leadership roles – in and out of school
- Volunteering
- Develop in demand skills – IT, coding, communication, presentation, customer service, team work, problem solving.
- Achieve strong Academic Results
- Build evidence of achievement outside of classroom – teams, projects, competitions, productions etc

Plan for your reference

- Professional standards – attendance, punctuality, behavior for learning, conduct

NAVIGATING THE JOB MARKET – WHERE TO LOOK

Indeed / Totaljobs

Employment

General job boards — set up email alerts with your preferred roles

gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Apprenticeships

The official government apprenticeship search — filter by region, sector, level

notgoingtouni.co.uk

Both

Dedicated to school leavers — SLPs, apprenticeships, gap year options

LinkedIn

All paths

Build a profile now — follow target employers, connect with alumni, job alerts. All Year 12's had a workshop on building a LinkedIn profile. This should be updated with a high quality C.V.

Company websites directly

SLPs

Always check Early Careers / School Leavers pages — often not on job boards

Your network

Employment

Family, teachers, community. Ask directly: 'Do you know anyone who works in...?'. In Year 12, students joined the Professional Talent Pool on Unifrog, this should be utilised and updated with any preferences.

Set up job alerts and follow 5 target employers on LinkedIn before the end of the September.

THE APPLICATION TIMELINE – WHEN TO ACT

31–37 min

NOW
Year 12

- Update your CV — don't wait until Year 13
- Research 3–5 target employers
- Set up LinkedIn profile
- Register on gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Sept
Year 13

- SLP applications open — Identify immediately
- Apprenticeships are open and the most competitive will have more challenging application dates
- Attend employer/ apprenticeship fairs in person and virtual events
- Attend Post 18 Aspire sessions

Oct–Nov
Year 13

- Main application windows close (SLPs & big apprenticeships)
- Online tests — practice in advance
- UCAS: parallel planning if needed
- Don't wait for mock results — apply now

Jan–Mar
Year 13

- Assessment centres and interview invitations
- Some employers offer feedback if unsuccessful
- Keep applying — rolling programmes continue

Apr–May
Year 13

- Offers confirmed before exams start — celebrate!
- Conditional offers may hinge on grades
- Reject offers you don't want promptly

⚠ Critical message: SLP and top apprenticeship applications close BEFORE A Level results — no grades needed to apply, please check required grades.

BUILDING YOUR PROFILE – STARTING NOW

31–37 min

LinkedIn — your professional presence

Professional photo

Not a selfie — clean background, smart-casual

Headline

"Year 13 student | Aspiring to work in Finance | CBSC"

Summary section

3–4 sentences: who you are, what you're studying, your goal

Education

Add A Levels, predicted grades, GCSEs

Achievements

DofE, prefect, sports captain, voluntary roles

Connections

Teachers, family, employers — build to 50+ connections

Three things to do this week

- Create (or update) your LinkedIn profile in September
- Update your CV — identify gaps and work now to build a more competitive profile.
- Identify 3 employers you'd like to work for and follow them.

Work experience — Did you make the make the most of it

- Extend your work experience outside of 6th July block
- Volunteer: foodbanks, charity shops, school events
- Consider relevant work shadowing
- Work now to ensure the strongest grades.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE AT CBSC SIXTH FORM

37–40 min

6th Form Mentor / Lorna Ellis / Paula Cowell

Sarah Sheppard – 6th Form Mentor
Paula Cowell – Director of 6th Form, Careers Co-ordinator
Lorna Ellis - UCAS & Aim Higher Coordinator / RSL

1:1 appointments for planning review, application support, employer research, interview prep.

Prospects – IAG Appointments

Careers appointment, queries and signposting

For general guidance, signposting to resources, employer events and opportunities — please book through sbarker@carshaltonboys.org

Post 18 Aspire Programme

Year 13 compulsory programme

Programme covering C.V, applications, interviews and opportunity planning throughout the year.

Employer Events – Unifrog, in person, D&D etc

Visits, talks, mock interviews

We advertise, host and organise relevant employer experiences . Watch the daily notices, Future Friday, social posts and unifrog for key information

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Your Next Steps

- Four valid routes — employment, apprenticeship, school leaver programme, or a purposeful gap year
- Your CV: continue to build the evidence and experience to support a high quality C.V
- Research every employer before applying — mirror their language
- Consider two horizons – just because you apply to university it does not mean you have to go
- Act early — top programmes close between September–November of Year 13
- Use your support —CBSC Sixth Form, your network, Unifrog

Questions? P Cowell, Director of 6th Form • pcowell@carshaltonboys.org