

KS5 EDITION

14th September 2026



DERBY MOOR
SPENCER ACADEMY

The Derby Moor **DISPATCH**



Work experience opportunities, university events, open days, apprenticeships, and more. Speak to your Tutor or any of the Sixth Form staff.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPRENTICESHIPS	03
CONFERENCES/WEBINARS/EVENTS	08
EMPLOYMENT	19
OTHER	20
UNIVERSITY EVENTS & OPEN DAYS	21
WORK EXPERIENCE	23



Specsavers – Bright Stars University Scholarship

For us, Optometry is more than just glasses. It's a chance to change lives. To work with cutting edge tech and diagnose diseases. It's a long-term career choice that can lead to you owning your own store and becoming a partner with us. Sounds good, right?

Due to the huge success of our launch last year, we're excited to be offering the Bright Stars scholarship again for 2026! This is an exclusive opportunity for students interested in Optometry to get the support they need to go far, including:

- £10,000 towards university costs, spread across the 4 years
- Paid part-time work experience in one of our practices
- Ongoing support and mentorship from colleagues
- Protected clinical time to boost their experience
- A host of community and social events to take part in

This is a one-of-a-kind scholarship with only 40 places across the UK.

To register your interest and to learn more about this fantastic opportunity, please [click here](#).



Aldi – Store Management Apprenticeships



You need to be conscientious, ambitious and able to do things without being asked. You should have bags of common sense and can take responsibility for yourself. For our Management Development Programme you will need to have GCSE Maths and English grade 4-9 (minimum grade C or equivalent).

Our Management Development Apprenticeship programme takes approximately 3 years to complete. In year one, you sign a fixed 12-15 month contract with us. Providing you successfully complete your first year you will progress onto a 13-16 month fixed-term contract and begin year two and three working towards your Retail Team Leader qualification.

Store Apprenticeships | Aldi Recruitment UK

Apprenticeships in the Rail Industry

Over the next five years there will be tens of thousands of new jobs in the railway, including many apprenticeships. This heralds a life-changing opportunity, for people of all backgrounds, to consider a rewarding role in an industry that's going places.

Railway 200 invites people, interested in science, technology, engineering and maths, to think about a career in rail and become the pioneers of tomorrow. A wide range of exciting, and sometimes surprising, roles are available such as architect, ecologist, drone pilot and data controller.

If you're at school and would like to know more about becoming an apprentice, when you can earn and learn at the same time, find the right apprenticeship for you:

<https://routesintorail.org/apprenticeships/>

Army Apprenticeships

In October 2023, the Army celebrated a century of apprenticeships and was named the UK's top apprenticeship provider for the fourth year running in 2024. Offering more than 40 different apprenticeships from level 2 to level 4, the Army has a range of exciting opportunities from Animal Care to Network Engineer to Public Services.

An Army apprenticeship offers a fantastic opportunity to earn recognised qualifications while working and getting paid, making it an ideal choice for those who prefer hands-on learning over traditional classroom settings.

The apprenticeship you will undertake is directly connected to the job role you select. It will commence during the second phase of your training (Initial Trade Training), and the specific location of the training will vary based on the role you choose.

As your career progresses, you can apply for a degree-level apprenticeship in Leadership and Management Studies. Every Army position offers professional development pathways to higher qualifications, including Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Technical Corps like the Royal Engineers will help you gain civilian qualifications, such as Chartered Engineer status. Many Officers and Soldiers can also become qualified instructors or leaders in adventurous training, enhancing their interests.

[For more information, please click here.](#)



The Higher and Degree Vacancy Listing

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Listing showcases hundreds of vacancies from a diverse mix of employers starting in 2024. The variety of vacancies listed range from Engineer to Police Constable – there's something for everyone.

For the full range of live vacancies, please visit the government website, Find an apprenticeship <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Are you thinking of applying for an apprenticeship?

If you are thinking about applying for an apprenticeship but don't know what to expect, you can take a short course to see if it's the right pathway for you. Click on the link below for more information.

Apprenticeships Unlocked Trailer | Springpod & Skills for Life

Apprenticeships – Meet the Employer

The NEW Meet the Employer platform has just launched! Explore the skills employers look for in their apprentices and learn about application processes, help and support

available and apprentice experiences. Some of the employers included below have profiles, which you can view by clicking on their logo. To view all of the latest new profiles, please [click here](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships application guide

If you are interested in applying for an apprenticeship, this useful guide will help you to prepare for the application process and be ready to show you are the right person for the role you want. This guide explores key information to include in your application forms, CV's, cover letters, assessments, interviews and much more! To download this guide please [click here](#).



Routes into Rail with CrossCountry

Discover how to start a career with Cross Country.

If you're looking for a career with strong earning potential, clear progression, and the chance to be part of something that keeps the country moving, rail could be the perfect track to follow.

School Leaver Opportunities, Apprenticeships and Graduate Schemes



Routes into Rail with CrossCountry



Start your journey at CrossCountry:
Click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Train Driver Roles Now Open to 18 Year Olds

From 30 June 2026, the legal minimum age to become a train driver is lowering from 20 to 18. That means school leavers can now apply directly for train driver apprenticeships, giving younger people the chance to build rewarding careers in the UK railway industry at a pivotal time.



Why choose an apprenticeship in rail?

An apprenticeship in rail means a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid from day one!

- ✓ **Strong Earning Potential**
Rail careers offer competitive salaries and long-term financial stability. Apprenticeships are fully funded!
- ✓ **Job Security**
Rail is essential to the UK economy, moving millions of passengers and vital freight every year.
- ✓ **Clear Progression**
Achieve a qualification and progress to driving, operations, management, engineering or specialist roles.
- ✓ **Be Part of National Change**
Big changes are happening in the railway, creating new opportunities for the next generation.
You're not just getting a job, you're starting a skilled career.

Great salary
& benefits!

Routes you can take from school

CrossCountry offers the following apprenticeships:

- Train Driver
- Train Manager
- Customer Service
- Operations
- Marketing
- Finance

Learn from
rail experts!

Build your skills now!

The following skills are what CrossCountry look for. These are skills you can start building now!

- Focus and concentration
- Responsibility and reliability
- Teamwork
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving
- Strong maths and literacy

Say hello to our
refurbished
Voyager!



Ready to apply? Roles available now. Click [here](#) for more information.

Virtual Insight into University



Insight into University is a virtual experience that helps students explore STEM degrees, apprenticeships, and related careers. It offers access to university life, STEM projects from top UK universities and global companies, first-year lectures, and live sessions with academics, admissions tutors, apprentices, employers, and current students.



Course topics

- Hear from STEM professionals at top UK companies, from early-career apprentices to senior leaders and recruiters, about their journeys, inspirations, and projects.
- Join live Q&A sessions with STEM professionals, admissions officers, students, and professors in a supportive environment.
- Get expert advice on university applications, interviews, admissions tests, student finance, and support services.
- Take part in hands-on STEM activities like bridge building, making ice cream at the chemical level, and flight experiments.

"I absolutely loved the course. It has helped me discover my true passion, and love which I hope to pursue in the future."

100%

of students increased their awareness of STEM opportunities available to them

92%

of students felt the skills and knowledge gained from the course would have a positive impact on their future studies or career.

Course requirements and registering your interest

This course is open to all students aged 16+ who have a genuine interest in STEM subjects and is suitable for all abilities. To apply, please visit our website [here](https://www.etrust.org.uk).





**JOIN US FOR A SERIES OF 3 EXCLUSIVE HALF-DAY EVENTS
DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND INSIGHT INTO THE RANGE OF
APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT BLOOMBERG.**

**MEET PROFESSIONALS FROM BLOOMBERG, GAIN INSIDER TIPS AND
TRICKS TO EXCEL IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS, AND DISCOVER
DIVERSE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT A LEADING MULTINATIONAL
COMPANY.**

APPLY HERE!



Real Estate Insight Days 2026:

Manchester – 17th November

Leeds – 18th November

London – 24th November

These are fully funded one day events for Year 12 and 13 students who have an interest in the property sector and would like to learn more about the Industry.

The day will be attended by both industry volunteers and current Real Estate students. Students travel costs will be covered and a busy day of activities will follow including:

- Going on a site visit
- Working on a small project
- Attending a Q&A session

APPLY NOW



Pathways to Medicine 2026 Programme - Apply Now For Year 12 students

Pathways to Medicine is a two-year widening participation programme for young people aged 16-18 interested in studying medicine.

The programme recruits year 12 students at the beginning of their A-level (or equivalent) courses and provides ongoing support into year 13.

This programme is for highly motivated state-school students who demonstrate a keen interest in pursuing a career in medicine.

Visit the [programme webpage](#) to find out more, see the [eligibility criteria](#) and [how to apply](#).

Applications close on Wednesday 23 September 2026.

For any queries please contact
pathways@imperial.ac.uk.

Year 13 mA*ths Online Programme - Apply Now

For A-Level students starting Year 13 & considering studying a numerate degree at university

The Y13 mA*ths Online Programme (supported by the Hg Foundation) aims to support A-level Mathematics students who are considering studying a numerate degree at university.

Build your confidence and develop the skills needed to achieve an A* at A-Level in Maths. Participants will be provided with tailored online support and attend two in-person masterclasses at Imperial, working with academics and current Imperial students. The programme is for students starting year 13 in the autumn term.

To find out more about the programme, eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit our mA*ths Online Programme webpage.

Applications close on Tuesday 15 September. As the programme is online, we encourage applications from students nationally who live outside London.

For any queries, please contact mathsonline@imperial.ac.uk.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

BELONG AT BIRMINGHAM APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Belong at Birmingham is part of our Pathways to Birmingham programmes and is designed to support students from backgrounds currently under-represented within higher education in learning more about university-level study and accessing degree programmes at the University of Birmingham.

Students who are accepted onto Belong at Birmingham will be invited to attend online events during autumn and spring term of Year 13 where they will hear from experts on a range of topics related to higher education and be supported in their transition to university. There will also be funded opportunities to visit the University of Birmingham campus and meet our staff and students in person.

Benefits of taking part include:

An alternative offer at least two grades below our standard offer for that programme

Eligibility for financial support

On-course support throughout their time at Birmingham, including access to peer mentors, additional academic guidance and bespoke careers support

[Learn more about our eligibility criteria](#)



DJH IS HOSTING THEIR FIRST EVER ONLINE CAREERS EVENING FOR COLLEGE LEAVERS & GRADUATES!



OCTOBER 14TH AT 6.30PM

This is the perfect opportunity for students ready to kickstart their career journey. Whether they're about to finish their studies or already out exploring their options, they'll get a real taste of what makes us tick – and what it's actually like to be part of the DJH team.

The best part? It doesn't matter where they're based. Local to one of our offices or somewhere completely different in the country - everyone's welcome to tune in online and find out what we're all about.

What's included:

Meet the team and learn about DJH

Discover what your first steps with us could look like

Ask questions and get real insight into our culture

Completely free to attend

Can't make it live? No problem – we'll send the recording to all registrants

[Register here](#) – spots are filling up! 🤗



Meet local media professionals, LIVE !

On Thursday 15 October, 10:00–11:00am, join our live virtual session and meet local media professionals. Students will learn about three very different careers they could pursue, plus the skills employers look for and how to get into this sector.

The session is aimed at Key Stage 3, however students from other year groups are welcome.



PROGRESSION PROGRAMMES

We're excited to announce that applications for our progression progressions are now open. We have 3 different programmes: AccessLeicester, Pathways to Banking and Finance and Pathways to Medicine (run in collaboration with The Sutton Trust). Students are more than welcome to apply to multiple programmes, however they will be only selected for one. Please ensure students meet the eligibility criteria before they apply. Information on each of the programmes and how to apply can be found [here](#). We're looking forward to hosting students from your schools once again and hope successful students enjoy their time as part of the programme.

Benefits of the programmes are:

1. A reduced offer to study at the University of Leicester
2. A guaranteed interview for students interested in studying Medicine.
3. A £1000 bursary for students who decide to study at University of Leicester, for each year of study.



JUNIOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

JEM is a University of Leicester programme enabling local Year 12 students to find out more about careers in Emergency Medicine. Working with healthcare professionals and current medical students, you will gain first-hand experience of treating a seriously ill patient. This event is aimed at anyone with an interest in a future in the healthcare system. Please view the website for more information and to apply.

Medicine Outreach

Leicester Medical School offers a range of exciting outreach opportunities for students in Years 7-13 to enable them to find out more about the varied and rewarding career as a doctor, as well as what it is like to study medicine at university.

All of the events and programmes are completely free for students to take part in. To see the upcoming events and to sign up, please visit this page.

Post-16 University Experience Days

I am pleased to announce that we have released the dates for this year's University Experience Days, including:

Wednesday 4 November 2026 – AWSAM (Ancient World & Classics)

Friday 6 November 2026- Student Life Experience Days

Monday 14 December 2026 - STEM in action

Wednesday 16th December 2026- Student Life Experience Days

These are a fantastic opportunity for Year 12 students to visit the University of Leicester and explore what studying at university is really like! At each event, there will be opportunities to tour our campus, speak to current students and get involved with hands-on, interactive activities. And as a thank you for your work with us you will be able to access a travel bursary to help with transport on the day.



YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR A FREE WEBINAR TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT THE SUTTON TRUST EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES, TAKING PLACE AT 4PM ON 16 SEPTEMBER. CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW TO REGISTER. [REGISTER NOW](#)

What are the programmes about?

Pathways to the Professions

Pathways to the Professions provides students with 18-month long insights into careers in either Engineering, Banking and Finance, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Law. Featuring work experience with sector leaders, opportunities to meet current undergraduates, employers and industry professionals, the chance to take part in a university residential (where applicable) and much more, this programme is the perfect first deep dive into a sector a young person might want to make their career.

Access Apprenticeships

Access Apprenticeships helps students with an interest in degree apprenticeships work out if an apprenticeship is right for them, and how to make it happen. Featuring work experience with leading employers, networking opportunities with current apprentices and industry experts, visits to organisations who run apprenticeship programmes and more, this programme is packed with opportunity. Students can choose between Banking and Finance (London based), Engineering (Manchester based), and Law (London and Manchester based). Please also note that students interested in apprenticeships who live outside of Manchester and London can still find benefit in the career insights provided by the Pathways to the Professions programmes.

[Find out more about Pathways to the Professions](#)
[Find out more about Access Apprenticeships](#)





Careers in the Rail Industry

Over the next five years there will be tens of thousands of new jobs in the railway, including many apprenticeships. This heralds a life-changing opportunity, for people of all backgrounds, to consider a rewarding role in an industry that's going places.

Railway 200 invites people, interested in science, technology, engineering and maths, to think about a career in rail and become the pioneers of tomorrow. A wide range of exciting, and sometimes surprising, roles are available such as architect, ecologist, drone pilot and data controller.

If you're interested in a role in rail, visit [Routes into Rail](#).



Unifrog – Future Talent Programme

Since we launched Talent pool, our newest tool, in December, 2,100 students have already signed up to receive tailored courses and apprenticeship opportunities from a diverse range of universities and employers.

For students who need some extra support to identify, develop, and evidence their skills, we've created the Future Talent Programme to help them stand out from the crowd! With a mix of live webinars and independent study, they'll gain confidence and the know-how to be able to assess their own skills and create an action plan.

This programme is predominantly aimed at Y12 students from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds, but students from all backgrounds are welcome to take part:

[Get students to sign up here](#)



University Open Days

Please see below to search all University Open Days in the coming months.

[Search the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days - search for an open day.](#)



UNDERGRADUATE OPEN DAYS

Our Undergraduate Open Days are on Saturday 3 October and Sunday 8 November - explore courses, meet academics and current students, and experience life at the University of Derby themselves.

Upcoming events at the University of Derby

Our Next Open Days:

Undergraduate Open Day

Saturday 3 October,

9:30am - 3:00pm

[Book Now](#)

Chesterfield Open Day

Wednesday 7 October,

4:00pm - 7:00pm

[Book Now](#)

Undergraduate Open Day

Sunday 8 November,

9:30am - 3:00pm

[Book Now](#)



**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

**AUTUMN
MASTERCLASS DAY
FRIDAY
23 OCTOBER**



The Autumn Masterclass Event is taking place on Friday 23 October, 10:00am – 2:30pm. This event is designed for Year 12 and 13 students to experience a range of engaging, hands-on, career-focused sessions in a supportive, industry-standard environment.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in up to three taster masterclasses across the day, selecting from the following areas:

Aesthetics
Business
Hospitality and Tourism
Computing
Engineering & Built Environment
Psychology & Criminology
Mental Health & Wellbeing
Editorial make-up
Bakery/ Culinary Arts Management/ Professional Chef
Graphic Design
Education

What's included:

Up to 3 hands-on masterclasses per student

Free lunch

Can't make it but your students can?

Where permission is given by the school, college and/or teacher, individual students are welcome to book and attend the event independently.

Teacher bookings and student bookings can be made here
[Book here](#)



GE HEALTHCARE WORK EXPERIENCE DAY

6th October 2026, Chalfont St. Giles

This exclusive, day-long event is designed specifically for Year 12 and 13 students who are eager to explore the exciting and rewarding world of healthcare! Explore the intricate functions of diverse brain regions and familiarise yourself with GE HealthCare equipment, including cutting-edge ultrasound technology

APPLY NOW!