

Dear Careers Leaders,

Welcome Back for 2026-27

We hope you've had a restful summer. As we begin a new academic year, we're looking forward to continuing to support careers education across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers - GOV.UK](#) was updated just before the summer break and outlines strategic shifts as opposed to 'technical updates' with a stronger focus on:

- careers education as a driver of whole-school and college improvement
- transitions, destination outcomes and NEET prevention
- high-quality modern work experience as a core priority
- personalisation, inclusion, and equity for every learner
- careers provision becoming increasingly data driven and accountable.

Back-to-School Briefings

To help you prepare for the year ahead, we'll provide a practical overview of the updated guidance and highlight how the Careers Hub can support your priorities this year, at our **Back-to-School Briefings** on:

- **Join the webinar on Tuesday 15 September | 3.30pm to 5.00pm >**
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/351335761492195?p=iATQlwNa6A4ikREala>
- **Join the webinar on Thursday 17 September | 3.30pm to 5.00pm >**
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3132836753027?p=7RFj2X9dKLlIBCocX>

(Note these sessions are a repeat of each other, so you only need to attend one.)

Headlines

- Strategic planning for the year ahead
- Reforming work experience webinar
- Compass+
- Provider Access Legislation (PAL) policy statement

- Resources and opportunities

Strategic planning for the year ahead

Whether your priority is continuous improvement through wider school engagement, transitions and destinations, or reforming work experience, **contact your Enterprise Coordinator to discuss support tailored to your setting > [EC add link to own email]**

1. The [Careers Impact System >](#) is a process that drives continuous improvement in the quality of careers education in schools and colleges. **Reach out to your Enterprise Coordinator to plan your 2026/27 Internal Leadership Review > [EC add link to own email]**

An annual [Internal Leadership Review >](#) helps you:

- celebrate strengths
 - identify priorities
 - evaluate impact
 - plan with confidence.
2. [Modern work experience >](#) should be progressive, meaningful, and accessible to every young person throughout their education journey. We can help you use the [equalex framework >](#) to map current provision, identify gaps and design high-quality experiences. **Speak to your Enterprise Coordinator for more information and bespoke support > [EC add link to own email]**
 3. Moving from **activity to impact** starts with good **data**. There are focussed tools at your fingertips to manage easy and effective evaluation across all your stakeholder groups. We will be delivering focused campaigns throughout the year about these tools, but you can use any and all of them at a time that fits best in your calendar - your Enterprise Coordinator would love to speak to you about:

- [Future Skills Questionnaire \(FSQ\) >](#) (a tool to measure learners' career-readiness)
 - [Your Child's Future \(YCF\) >](#) (a questionnaire for parents and carers)
 - [OnTrack+ >](#) (a tool to help educators to identify emerging support needs for learners in Years 7-11, strengthening sustained learner engagement and post-16 transition)
 - Staff surveys (**ask your Enterprise Coordinator for link to distribute >**). **[EC add link to own email]**
4. As always, everything we do is underpinned by effectively meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks. The [Solutions Library >](#) brings together local and national resources to support schools and colleges to build their careers programmes. It is mapped against the Compass evaluation, designed to save careers leaders time in the most common challenge areas you tell us you face. *Note, all links and resources provided are for general informational purposes only. Links to external websites and resources are provided for convenience and do not imply endorsement. Please investigate and judge independently whether appropriate for your institution.*

Reforming work experience: Models of practice webinar - Wednesday 23 September | 3pm-4.30pm

Hear directly from practitioners who are bringing modern work experience to life in a range of settings. This national webinar will showcase practical approaches, key lessons learned and examples of how the [equalex framework >](#) is supporting high-quality, impactful and inclusive experiences. [Register now >](#)

Compass+

[Goodbye Compass, Hello Compass+ >](#) From September 2026, all Compass users will move to Compass+, a more stable and scalable platform for evaluating, managing and reporting on careers provision.

What's new?

- A brand-new homepage and access to new features
- Easier management of sites and departments for colleges
- For eligible settings with a compatible Management Information System (MIS), Compass+ can connect to the MIS and access learner data – activating:
 - Future Skills Questionnaire
 - Learner reporting
 - OnTrack+
 - *FE colleges and ITPs are unable to connect their MIS to Compass+ currently, although this is something that is being continued to work towards.*

[Compass+ training >](#)

Whether you're new to Compass+ or looking to deepen your expertise, there's a webinar for you:

- [Getting started with Compass+ >](#) Thursday 17 September | 3.30pm – 4pm
 - [Evaluations in Compass+ - The Compass evaluation and the internal leadership review >](#) Thursday 24 September | 3.30pm – 4.30pm
 - [Your Child's Future – a questionnaire for parents and carers >](#) Tuesday 29 September | 3.30pm – 4pm
 - [OnTrack+ in Compass+ >](#) Tuesday 6 October | 3.30pm – 4.15pm
 - [The Future Skills Questionnaire - 5 steps to success >](#) Thursday 8 Oct | 3.30pm – 4.15pm
 - [Activities in Compass+ >](#) Tuesday 13 October | 3.30pm – 4.30pm
 - [Learner data in Compass+ >](#) Thursday 15 October | 3.30pm – 4.15pm
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Provider Access Legislation (PAL) policy statement

A reminder that the [statutory guidance >](#) states that schools **must** prepare and publish a policy statement setting out the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to pupils. The policy statement must include:

- any procedural requirements about requests for access
- grounds for granting or refusing requests
- details of premises or facilities available to a person who is given access
- the times access can be given
- how they will meet the legal requirement to put on 6 provider encounters.

As policies are often reviewed at the start of the academic year, please check that your PAL policy meets the above requirements. You may find this [Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Careers Hub example >](#) and a [CEC example >](#) helpful to refer to.

Resources and opportunities

- **Asda Heros >** aims to encourage young people to become active citizens within their communities **and Asda Leaders >** supports the development of leadership skills while solving real-life, sustainable business problems. **See information attached >**
- [Request free apprenticeship ambassador information, resources and support for your school >](#) from the East Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassador Network by completing this form.
- [DMU Extended Education courses >](#) are career-focused HTQ, HNCs and Foundation Degrees that combine practical, industry-relevant learning with flexible evening study, helping learners gain recognised higher-level qualifications while continuing to work or manage other commitments. Current courses include Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Data Analytics, Software Development, Early Years Education with SEND and Speech, Language and Communication Needs. [Contact Waheed Shaikh to find out more >](#)
- [The National Careers Adviser CPD >](#) is a free to access, innovative programme designed to help you strengthen your practice, stay ahead of

labour market developments, and deliver inclusive and informed advice to the young people you work with.

- [National Manufacturing Day >](#) this annual event provides opportunities to explore the wide range of careers available in manufacturing.
- [Young Enterprise >](#) is a charity that helps young people build confidence, manage money, discover entrepreneurship and shape their own future. Their programmes and resources are aligned with Gatsby Benchmarks and PSHE curriculum.
- [Capita virtual work experience >](#) (LinkedIn link) Capita are currently offering a virtual work experience programme for young people aged 16-18 years and are looking to connect with education providers across the Midlands.
- [UK Parliament virtual work experience >](#) this programme gives young people aged 14-18 years an opportunity to explore Parliament as a workplace, try realistic tasks inspired by real roles, get personalised feedback, and learn about the teams that make Parliament happen.
- [Aspiration Digital Leicester >](#) Aspiration Digital is coming to De Montfort University on 25 November 2026. Aspiration Digital is a one-day digital skills conference, designed to educate and inspire 16-18 year old students about careers in the digital industry.
- [Junior Emergency Medicine \(JEM\) >](#) free two-day, hands-on event designed for students in year 12 who are thinking about a career in medicine or healthcare. Takes place on Saturday 21 November and Saturday 5 December at the University of Leicester.
- [What is technical education? >](#) supporting you to answer questions about apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQS) and the new post-16 pathways.

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Remember to follow us on [LinkedIn >](#); this will enable us to like and repost your news and events to the network. Please reach out with any queries. If you have any suggestions or information to share in future editions, please pass on to your Enterprise Coordinator.

Thank you, The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Careers Hub