

Our Vision for careers education at CP Riverside 2026/27

At CP Riverside we recognise the importance of a relevant and effective careers and employability programme in order to prepare our students for the world of work.

Our Careers Vision for students is that:

Students leave CP Riverside with the necessary skills, knowledge and ambition to embark on their next steps with confidence and determination.

We aim to realise this vision by achieving the requirements of **the eight Gatsby Benchmarks**:

1	A stable careers programme	Every school should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by students, parents/carers, teachers, staff, governors, employers and other agencies.
2	Learning from career and labour market information	All students, parents/carers and staff who support students, should have access to good quality, up-to-date information about future pathways, study options and labour market opportunities. All students will need the support of an informed adviser to make the best use of available information.
3	Addressing the needs of each student	Students have different careers guidance needs at different stages. Careers programmes should help students navigate their concerns about any barriers to career progression. In addition, opportunities should be tailored to the needs of each student, including any additional needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged students, students with SEND and those who are absent.
4	Linking curriculum learning to careers	As part of the school's programme of careers education, all teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. Subject teachers should highlight the progression routes for their subject and the relevance of the knowledge and skills developed in their subject for a wide range of career pathways.
5	Encounters with employers and employees	Every student should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment opportunities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes, and could include students' own part-time employment where it exists.
6	Experiences of workplaces	Every learner should have first-hand experiences of workplaces to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.
7	Encounters with further and higher education	All students should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them, including academic, technical and vocational routes. This should incorporate learning in schools, colleges, independent training providers (ITPs), universities and in the workplace.
8	Personal guidance	Every student should have opportunities for guidance meetings with a qualified careers adviser and should be scheduled to meet their individual needs. The careers leader should work closely with the careers adviser, SEND coordinator and other key staff to ensure personal guidance is effective and embedded in the careers programme.

Access Policy Statement

Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers.

At CP Riverside, we are committed to providing impartial careers advice for all students as part of our Careers Programme (please refer to our 'Provider Access Policy Statement' for more information). This includes information and education about the local learning and training pathways on offer to students. As part of this, we are happy to consider requests from training, apprenticeship and vocational education providers to speak to our students to support them in making informed choices about their next steps.

Requests by providers should be sent to the School's Careers Lead:

Stef Smith (0115 9864098) stef.smith@cpriverside.co.uk

Entitlement Statement

CP Riverside has a statutory duty to provide independent and impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance for all students. Students at CP Riverside are entitled to receive a planned Careers Programme which is intended to give all students the necessary skills, knowledge and ambition to embark on their next steps with confidence and determination. The programme is designed to help students make informed choices about their KS4 Pathway Options as well as their Post-16 destinations and future career. Students will receive:

- Clear impartial advice and support from a qualified Careers Advisor
- 1:1 support and guidance to help them make informed choices about post-16 options available
- The opportunity to learn about Employability and Life Skills as well as the world of work in CARE & PI sessions
- Support with interviews, applications and CVs
- Access to apprenticeship vacancies and college websites, as well as online career resources and employer websites
- Support when attending College visits, including where liaison is needed with the Support Team at the College.
- Support with the transition from school to post - 16 destination
- References and predicted grades to support applications

In addition to this, destination information will be used to inform future careers guidance and education.



Careers Progression Framework

Year Group	Career focus for this year group	Measurable Outcomes
KS3	Gain Awareness To raise students' awareness of the range of career options and pathways available and equip them with the skills to make informed choices.	Students - gain awareness of their strengths and how they can support future career choices. - gain awareness of the importance of acquiring Employability skills to help them succeed in the world of work. - are confident & well informed in making Pathway Option choices. - have the opportunity to gain at least 2 meaningful encounters with an employer &/or a meaningful workplace experience. - In Year 9 meet 1:1 with the Careers Team to discuss aspirations for their Next Steps.
Y10	Discover Students discover learning & training options available to them post-16 & understand the importance of employability skills including the value of meaningful encounters with employers and work-based experiences.	Students - discover the area of work that their skills, interests and personalities could be best suited to. - discover the range of post-16 options available to them. - discover the career routes taken by a variety of people. - meet 1:1 with the Careers Team to discuss plans for their Next Steps. - have the opportunity to gain at least 2 meaningful encounters with an employer & a meaningful workplace experience.
Y11	Decide Students will demonstrate a decisive and proactive attitude in applications for their post 16 destination.	Students - use the guidance and advice from a qualified Careers advisor to secure a post-16 destination. - experience a Mock Interview with volunteers from the business sector. - can articulate the advantages and disadvantages to post-16 options available to them. - create a CV and complete an application form. - have knowledge of the local labour market information which will help them in this decision making. - have the opportunity to gain at least 2 meaningful encounters with an employer & a meaningful workplace experience. - visit colleges and have the opportunity to ask college employees about courses, relevance and college requirements. - discuss their needs and the support required during the transition period between school and post-16 destination 1:1 with the Careers Team and coaches



Where next for CP Riverside students?

The [National Career service website](#) states that:

You can leave school on the last Friday in June, as long as you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays. Once you have left, there are 3 main pathways you can take:

- stay in full-time education
- start an apprenticeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, alongside part-time education or training

Look at what option best suits you and your situation, strengths and interests.

You may be eligible for the [16 to 19 Bursary Fund](#), which can help with things like books, travel or equipment if you will struggle with education or training costs.

If you have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, there may be different and more suitable options available to you.

Please note that CP Riverside caters for Y8-Y11 only and therefore does not have a sixth form.

If you wish to **continue studying**, you could look at the following options:

	Brief description	Duration	Assessment	Requirements	Leads to
A levels	study a subject (usually 3 subjects) in more depth	2 years	exam at the end of the course (Level 3)	typically 5 GCSEs grade 9-4 (incl English & maths)	University/college, higher and degree apprenticeships, work
T Levels	Combines classroom learning with industry placements	2 years	Exams, projects and practical assignments 1 T Level = 3 A levels.	Course dependent	University/college, higher and degree apprenticeships, work
Technical & vocational quals	Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be involved in.	Course dependent	Can include coursework, skills tests and exams	<u>Entry Level 3:</u> Initial assessment at college <u>Level 1:</u> Typically - 4 GCSEs Grade 3-1 incl English & Maths <u>Level 2:</u> Typically - 4 GCSEs grades 9-3, incl English & Maths <u>Level 3:</u> Typically - 5 GCSEs grades 9-4 incl English & Maths	Apprenticeship, work, college or university

If you wish to **combine work & study**, you could look at the following options:

Traineeships

A course that can last 6 weeks to 1 year & which includes a work placement that will get you ready for an apprenticeship or a job. You'll get work experience and some help to apply for your next steps. You can also improve your maths and English skills. A completed traineeship can lead to apprenticeships, further education or work.

Apprenticeships

Apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. Apprentices can receive, on a day-release basis, training to work towards nationally recognised qualifications &, depending on GCSE grades, may be required to attend college one day a week to improve English and Maths skills.

Apprenticeships can take between one and four years to complete. **The current apprentice wage is £8.00 an hour.**

Who can apply for an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are open to all age groups above 16 years-old. You need to be living in England and not in full-time education.

What are the benefits?

There are many benefits to doing an Apprenticeship. You can earn while you learn, and learn through hands-on experience on the job. Key benefits of being an apprentice include:

- earning a salary
- getting paid holidays
- receiving training
- gaining qualifications
- learning job-specific skills

Further guidance and vacancies:

<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice>



<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/student/>



<https://uk.indeed.com/>



Your careers journey at CP Riverside

CARE / PI sessions

Learning about job sectors, options for post-16 destinations, employability skills, CV writing and interview skills.

Employer encounters

Opportunities to experience a workplace and meet employers & employees in a variety of businesses.

College visits

Opportunities to visit colleges and find out about courses and college life.

Careers guidance

1:1 support from a careers advisor.

Next Steps planning

Support from the careers team at school with researching, planning and applying for college courses, apprenticeships & jobs.

