The Balcarras Trust

September 2026

SELF MOTIVATION
TEAM WORKING
PROBLEM SOLVING
LITERACY
COMMUNICATION & PRESENTATION
NUMERACY
CREATIVITY
RELIABILITY & SELF DISCIPLINE
RESILIENCE
HONESTY & INTEGRITY

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

MEET THE CAREERS TEAM



Mrs Lewis
Careers Lead and Careers Advisor



Mrs Towers
Careers Administrator

The careers department is based in the Careers Hub just off the canteen.

We have an open door policy and are able to offer support, information and guidance on careers, college, universities and apprenticeships.

You can also e-mail us at: careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Balcarras Careers Fair (Y10-13) - Thursday 1st October

Y10 PD Speaker Sessions - *The World of Work* - Friday 20th November

We are looking for volunteers for our speaker sessions on Friday 20th November, if you would be interested in talking about your career or workplace please contact us on careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

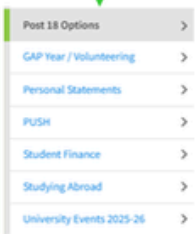
Careers Pages on the VLE

Apprenticeships
- ✓ This is where we put every vacancy we hear about
- ✓ There are also links to local and national companies offering apprenticeships

Events
- ✓ A list of all the upcoming school careers events
- ✓ A lookback at past events



Post 18 Options



Work experience
- ✓ Year 10 WEx – list of placement contacts, adding a placement to Unifrog, sample letters and CVs
- ✓ In-person WEx – all current opportunities
- ✓ Virtual WEx – all current opportunities

Post 16 Options
- ✓ Links to all local 6th form colleges

And there is much, much more .... Job of the Week, Employability Skills, Career Areas and Fact Sheets

If you have any questions or need support, please email careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

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CAREERS FAIR 2026

Connect with experts from over 60 universities, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers to get answers to your questions and explore your future study and career options.



Thursday 1 October

5pm-7.30pm

Balcarras School - *Main Hall, Gym and Common Room*

Presentations will take place in the library throughout the evening

PLEASE NOTE:
Quiet time from 4.30pm-5pm
Year 11, 12 and 13 from 5pm. Year 9 and 10 and HSL from 6pm.

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CAREERS FAIR 2026

University of Sheffield

5.15 - University of Sheffield
Writing a Strong Personal Statement

5.45 - University of Exeter
Degree Apprenticeships

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

6.15 - Oxford Brookes University
Choosing a University and Course

Cirencester College

6.45 - Cirencester College
Information on T Levels



The talks will take place in the LIBRARY

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DEVELOPING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS – A KEY FOCUS THIS YEAR

While qualifications and exam results are important, employers consistently tell us that employability skills are just as valuable when it comes to securing apprenticeships, college places, university opportunities, and future employment.

Employability skills are the personal qualities, attitudes, and behaviours that help young people succeed in education, training, and the workplace. These include:

Teamwork Communication Organisation Honesty
Resilience Problem-solving Creativity
Literacy

This year, developing employability skills will be a key focus of our careers programme. Each week, tutors will receive a short presentation highlighting a different employability skill. This will encourage students to think about how they are developing these skills in school and through their wider experiences.
Click here to explore all of the employability skills we will be focusing on this year on the VLE.

How Parents Can Help

Parents play a vital role in helping young people develop employability skills. You can support your child by:

- *Encouraging them to take responsibility for tasks at home.*
- *Helping them manage their time and commitments.*
- *Encouraging participation in clubs, sports, volunteering, and other extracurricular activities.*
- *Talking about your own job and the skills you use in the workplace.*
- *Asking them to reflect on challenges they have overcome and what they have learned from them.*

Why Employability Skills Matter

The world of work is changing rapidly, and employers increasingly value transferable skills alongside qualifications. Young people who can communicate effectively, work well with others, solve problems, and adapt to new situations are more likely to thrive in education, employment, and life.
Together, we can ensure our young people are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need for their future success.







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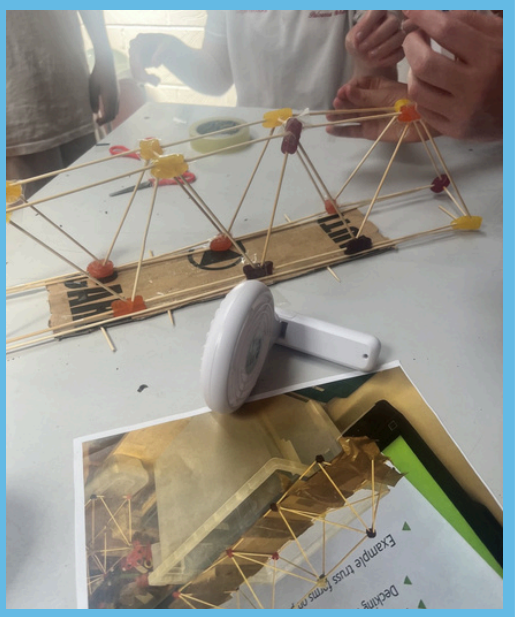
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YEAR 9 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - CONSTRUCTING EXCELLENCE



This week, our Year 9 students took part in an exciting "Constructing for Excellence" event, designed to showcase the wide range of opportunities available within the construction industry.

Representatives from seven different construction-related companies visited the school to speak with students and lead interactive activities. Students had the opportunity to design their own restaurant with Barnwood Construction, learning about the planning and development process behind commercial buildings. They also worked with Rappor, exploring the role of transport planning through an activity that involved assessing movement around the school site.

A key message throughout the day was that the construction industry offers far more than traditional trade roles. Students learned about the many career pathways available, including project management, engineering, architecture, surveying, transport planning, marketing, finance, and human resources.

With the UK currently facing a national housing shortage and significant demand for new infrastructure, the construction sector continues to play a vital role in the country's future. Industry professionals highlighted that construction is a growing field with a wide variety of rewarding and secure career opportunities.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain first-hand insight into the industry and broaden their understanding of the many careers that help bring construction projects to life. We would like to thank all the companies involved for giving their time and expertise to inspire our students.



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L3 HARRIS WORKSHOP

A team from L3Harris visited our Year 12 Computer Science students to deliver an exciting Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) workshop.
FPGA engineers play a vital role in the innovative work carried out at L3Harris, designing and developing programmable hardware used in a wide range of cutting-edge technologies, including cybersecurity, autonomous vehicles and space systems. The workshop aimed to inspire the next generation of engineers by introducing students to this fascinating and highly sought-after area of engineering.

During the session, students combined the theory of digital logic design with practical, hands-on activities using interactive tools. This gave them valuable insight into how FPGA technology is used in real-world engineering and provided a glimpse into the exciting career opportunities available in the industry.



The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn directly from industry professionals, helping to build confidence, develop new skills and reduce the barriers to entry for aspiring future engineers.

SPIRAX SARCO TRIP

Spirax Sarco invited five Balcarras students to join them in celebrating International Women in Engineering Day 2026 (INWED). This year's theme, #EngineeringIntelligence, celebrates the creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills that engineers bring to the world.



INWED gives women engineers around the world greater visibility at a time when they remain significantly under-represented in the profession. In the UK, 2021 figures showed that only 16.5% of engineers are women. As the only international awareness campaign dedicated to women in engineering, INWED plays a vital role in inspiring more young women and girls to consider careers in engineering and related STEM fields.
However, International Women in Engineering Day isn't just for women—it's for everyone who wants engineering to attract, develop, and retain the very best talent. Men play an important role as colleagues, mentors, leaders, and allies who help create inclusive workplaces where everyone can succeed.

Spirax Sarco actively champions diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM and is committed to encouraging the next generation of engineers. The event gave students a valuable opportunity to meet inspiring engineers, learn about the wide range of careers available, and see first-hand how innovation and diversity are helping to shape the future of engineering.

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