



Tuesday 7th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Further Education Options with Open Days – 2025/26

Attending Open Days can help students explore their next steps and ensure they feel comfortable in the learning environment. Attending the earlier sessions puts students in the strongest position to decide which applications they would like to make before courses begin to book up.

For further information on explaining the different post-16 pathways, please see [Talking Futures](#). For more information on career routes and pathways, please see [Unifrog](#), which students have been shown to use and have their own logins. The code for parents **of Gosford Hill School students only** to use is: **GOHfamily** (Google Unifrog and then enter the code in the log-in option, as if accessing as a student).

Colleges

Activate Learning (AL) – Vocational courses: [Btecs](#) (+other qualifications, Levels 1-3) & [T-levels](#); A levels & full time GCSE retakes (if get 3 or below and want passes in more than just english & maths), GCSE strive courses (to increase grades from 4s to 6+); apprenticeships (training only need to find employer) and foundation & SEND courses (entry level where GCSEs grade 2 or below)

[Oxford City College, Oxford City Centre](#) – Most AL courses see website (except construction):

Sat 18 Oct 9.30-12pm

Wed 19 Nov 4.30-7pm

[The Leys College, Blackbird Leys](#) – Construction courses (bricklaying, electrician, plumbing, carpentry etc):

Sat 11 Oct 9.30-12pm

Wed 12 Nov 4.30-7pm

[Banbury & Bicester College, Banbury](#) – Most AL courses see website (includes carpentry but not other construction): Wed 22 Oct 4.30-7pm, Sat 15 Nov 9.30-12pm

[Activate Rugby](#), Harcourt Hill Campus (High level rugby training, alongside study for other qualifications at main campus)

Girls: Sat 18 Oct 9-11am, Sat 24 Jan 10-1.15pm

Boys: Sat 24 Jan 9-12.15pm



Abingdon & Witney College (AWC) – Vocational courses: Btecs (+other qualifications, Levels 1-3) & T-levels; and foundation & SEND courses (entry level where GCSEs grade 2 or below)

Witney Campus (Most AWC courses + great music production facilities + construction)

Wed 12 Nov 3.30-7pm

Wed 25 Feb 3.30-7pm

Wed 17 Jun 3.30-7pm

Abingdon Campus (Most AWC courses + great sports facilities + construction)

Wed 5 Nov 3.30-7pm

Wed 11 Feb 3.30-7pm

Wed 17 Jun 3.30-7pm

Common Leys Farm, Witney – Animal care & agricultural courses

Wed 18 Mar 5-7pm

Bicester Construction skills, Bicester – Construction courses

Wed 19 Nov 4-7pm

Wed 24 Jun 4-7pm

OUFC advanced football programme, Abingdon (Competitive – Football training with Oxford United, whilst studying for A Levels or Level 3 in sport)

Sat 29 Oct 12-3pm – Open training (boys & girls)

Other SEND option: **EMBS Banbury & Oxford** (Small setting, functional skills, English ESOL, health & social care, digital & business qualifications level 2-3)

Independent Training Providers

Construction:

ACE Training, Kidlington: pre-apprenticeship full time training courses in carpentry or bricklaying. No minimum entry requirements: Open days on Saturdays 10-12pm on following dates:

2025:

Oct 25th

Nov 22nd

2026:

Jan 24th

Feb 28th

Mar 14th

Mar 28th

Apr 25th

May 30th

Jun 13th

Jun 27th

Oxfordshire Energy Academy, Witney – Apprenticeship training for Gas technicians, plumbing, electrician, renewables but can help identify employers. No specified open days, contact direct for further information.



Football Training Providers

Velocity academy, Oxford partnered with Activate Learning (see above) and Oxford City Football Club

Procision 16+ academy, Tisbury Park partnered with Newbury College, Football training blended with A levels or other level 3 sport qualification. Next open days: Saturday, October 28th, from 12:00 to 15:00. [See website to sign up](#)

Sixth Forms

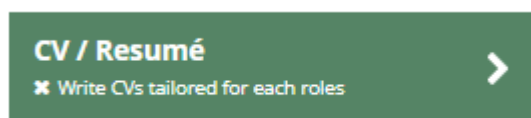
Gosford Hill School Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 14th January 2026 (5:30pm to 7:30pm). Please see school websites for other Sixth Form open events.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are salaried positions recruited directly by the company and offered in a wide range of disciplines, with approx 20% time training off site (e.g. college etc). On completion receive level 2 or 3 nationally recognised qualification. [See government website](#) for more information on how apprenticeships work.

Sources: National companies advertise from September of Year 11 school year, Local ones from Jan onwards (and small companies as and when need arises) advertised on government website, social media e.g. Facebook, company's own websites and job search sites e.g. [Indeed apprenticeships](#). Sign up for alerts for apprenticeship types of interest so not to miss out. Apply online or as directed by apprenticeship advert.

Apprenticeships are competitive to secure as jobs with training. Ranging from highly competitive e.g. BMW, have many stages e.g. recorded video interviews, assessment centres etc, to more typical process of application with 1 or 2 interviews. Students interested in this route should have a CV ready to use for applications. School support given on using Unifrog CV template tool (which looks like the below after accessing account) helps guide content & presentation, parents can access using Unifrog code above:



Government website – [Findapprenticeship](#) Level 2 or 3 apprenticeships, generally need pass in english and/or maths but depends on position, see advert for entry requirements.

Engineering – Sign up with [the Engineering Trust](#) (Bicester) as they provide assistance for securing apprenticeships and link ups with employers.



Oxfordshire Advanced Skills Apprenticeships – Training for apprentice high-tech engineers and technicians via partnership between UKAEA & STFC (Abingdon). Open evenings to meet employers & tour centre, Register for either 5:30pm and 6:30pm start:

2025:	2026:	
Thu Nov 27 th	Tue Jan 27 th	Thu Mar 26 ^h
	Wed Feb 25 th	

www.oas.ukaea.uk/apprenticeships/events-and-open-evenings

Armed Forces – Opportunities in a variety of disciplines with varied entry requirements. Application process can take several months and 2+ months military training before apprenticeship training in specific role: [Royal Air Force](#); [British Army](#); and [Royal Navy](#)

Careers Fairs

Attending fairs and speaking to employers and other further and higher educational providers can be really helpful to inspire students what to do after school.

WOSCP¹ Careers Fair @ Abingdon & Witney College – Witney campus.

Opportunities Fair Wed 3 Dec 2025 5-8pm

45+ employers, colleges, training providers & universities. Find out more about your possible next steps.

WOSCP¹ Apprenticeship Fair @ Marlborough School. Thu 12 Mar 2026 5-8pm

40+ employers with apprenticeships to offer

CareersFest, Kassam Stadium 18-19 March 2026 – 80+ employers

Students may attend with parents 18th March twilight session – booking not yet open.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Zajac
Careers Lead

¹ **West Oxfordshire School Careers Partnership (Gosford Hill is part of WOSCP with 7 other local schools to arrange careers events for the group's collective students)**