



## Year 11 Careers Newsletter: Friday 13th 2026

Welcome to February Half Term, Year 11

Yet another term halfway through. You will no doubt continue to hear it countless times, but it is true: "Where has the time gone?" It is absolutely flying by. I am sure that you are settled into the new afternoon tutor time routine and making the very best use of this extra support.

All but a couple of Y11 students have now made their post-16 applications. A number of you have already been interviewed and subsequently offered a place on their chosen courses. Well done, this must be a very effective motivational tool. We all need something positive to maintain our focus and to help keep us on track when the going gets tough. Keep reminding yourself of why you are working hard and what your continued effort will culminate in – a place on your chosen course.

The local colleges have completed their schedule of Open events, but they sometimes add extra dates. I am aware that there is a number the year group who have applied, but not stepped foot into the college, or spoken to any member about the course. Therefore, keep an eye on college websites and check your email regularly for updates about extra Open events. There is one Open event this week at Shrewsbury College for those of you who have, or intend to, apply for a vocational course at Shrewsbury. As always, double check the website on the day of the event though. You wouldn't want a wasted journey if it is cancelled or postponed.

College	Location/Courses	Date	Time
Shrewsbury College	<b>London Road campus</b> (Vocational courses)	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2026	5.00pm - 7.00pm

A week or so ago, I spoke to a couple of students who left Y11 last year. They are studying at a college outside of Ludlow and I wanted to share a few nuggets of valuable advice.

- Buy a '16-25 Railcard' for £35 per year. This entitles you to a 1/3 off rail fares. Buy the railcard in advance of your course starting online or at Ludlow Station. You will need a passport-style photograph.
- The trains are often extremely busy, so be aware if this type of environment can cause you problems. You may want to consider alternative transport.
- You have to be very disciplined with your time. The students I spoke to said that college is very different from school and that they are expected to be really organised and prepared to work on their own a lot more than they were at school.

Good advice, I am sure you will agree. Previously, I have invited a small group of former students into school to talk to current Y11 about college life in general. If this is something you would like to be a part of, please let me know.

Have a great half term everybody,

#Mrs Griffiths-Jones.

There is also an Open event for those of you interested in an apprenticeships. HWGTA are based in Hereford, Holmer Rd and they advertise apprenticeships in engineering, business administration, accountancy and customer service. HWGTA is different from the way that colleges run their apprenticeship courses, in that the company **find the students for the employer**, so the work is all done for you. Still interested? 4-6.30pm, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, HWGTA, Holmer Rd. We have had a number of past students who have successfully applied for an apprenticeship with the company and have gone on to secure full-time work.

Ludlow College interviews scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> are postponed due to the English department trip. They have now been pencilled in for February 2<sup>nd</sup>. You will all be interviewed for your post-16 courses and I strongly advise you to turn your thoughts to preparing for your own interview. Have you considered the following questions that may be asked of you? Think about how you would respond. There is no need to memorise what you wish to say, but it's important that you have at least thought about each question in depth. There is nothing to stop you taking written responses into your interview.

- What do you know about the course you're applying to study?
- What particular aspects of the course interest you and why?
- What skills have you been developing that will prepare you to study on this course?
- Why do you want to attend this college in particular?
- What are your long-term goals? Is there a certain career you wish to pursue? How do you think your chosen course will help you to reach those goals?
- What do you like to do in your spare time? Do you participate in any extra-curricular activities (Football, drama productions...)?
- What do you think will be your biggest challenge whilst at college?

Next week, I shall focus on some example questions to ask. It is a very important part of any interview process, as it demonstrates that you are genuinely interested and helps you to stand out from other candidates, by turning the interview into a two-way conversation. Failing to ask questions can easily indicate that you appear uninterested, as well as losing out on the opportunity to find out the finer details, which will help you to make one of the most important decisions you have had to make.

Mrs Griffiths-Jones