

# Y11 Next Steps Planning

**CAREERS:** an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person's life and with opportunities for progress.

- You may know exactly what you want to do for a career and how to get there.
- You may know what you want but not how to get it.
- You may have an idea of what you enjoy but not what to do for a job.
- You might not have any thoughts about a future career.

**NEXT STEPS:** All of these options above are ok. What matters most are your next steps. Your GCSEs are stepping stones to your A-Levels, which are stepping stones to further education or employment. There are so many opportunities along the way. Take some time to really explore:

- Where you are realistically at with your academics
- What you particularly enjoy and why
- Where you can explore these interests further in an academic or professional setting

**OPEN DAYS.** Exploring options aside from Reading School, especially with low point scores post mock exams:

- St. Joseph's College Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 6.30-8.30
- Reading Blue Coat Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 6.30-8.30
- UTC Reading Check [UTC Reading |](#) tbc
- Henley College 9<sup>th</sup> November
- Farnborough College 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Highdown 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Maiden Erlegh check [Maiden Erlegh School - News & Event](#) tbc

**UNIFROG:** Answer these questions and record the answers as a file in your locker.

1. What are your chosen subjects for GCSE and why did you choose each of them?
2. What are your favourite subjects and why? Spend some time reflecting on what it is about them that gets you excited and passionate
3. Can you name your best skills or what you excel at? (If you can't, imagine what a friend might say about you!)
4. What is the achievement that you are most proud of? Anything from academics, to perseverance, to luck, to character building.
5. Are you an introvert / extrovert? Do you know how you work best and does this tally with how you like to work?
6. What are your passions and hobbies? (if you don't have any, you need to find one to be able to write about!)
7. Write about a time when you felt really excited or engaged in an activity or project.

8. What do you envision yourself doing after leaving school?
9. Which of your strengths and unique qualities that could be valuable in a future career?
10. What challenges or obstacles do you think you might face in achieving your career goals?
11. How do you see your skills and interests aligning with potential career options?
12. Have you had any work experience or part-time jobs? What did you learn?
13. Are there any industries or fields that you're curious about or want to learn more about?
14. What kind of work environment do you think would suit you best, and why?
15. How important is work-life balance to you in your future career?
16. Can you describe a role model or someone whose career you admire? What specifically do you admire about them?
17. What are your long-term career goals, and what steps do you think you need to take to achieve them?
18. What values and principles are important to you when considering a career choice?
19. How do you see your education and qualifications playing a role in your future career?

QUIZZES: Take the quizzes on Unifrog [Home - Student - Unifrog](#)

SUBJECTS: Save your favourite subjects to your subject library [Subjects - Student - Unifrog](#)

UPSKILL: Upskill yourself on [Read Watch Listen - Student - Unifrog](#)

CAREERS: Explore the parameters and paths of particular careers [Careers - Student - Unifrog](#)

## Y11 WORKPLACE VISIT:

*When?* Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 INSET day for all students

*What?* Work placements give the opportunity to explore the world of work. It will:

- Give the sense of what working life would be like
- Inform of the fundamental skills you need to enter the workplace
- Provide an opportunity to network

*Why?* Many of you will be receiving careers guidance interviews soon. There have been some really interesting, perceptive and mature conversations about next steps, ambitions and uncertainty. Work placements will allow you to get a feel for the workplace and experience a 'day in the life of'. There will be networking opportunities and you will get to experience reaching out and making first contact.

*How?*

- Read through the letter below with your parents.
- Talk with a family member, neighbour, family friend.
- Ask if you are able to attend their workplace with them on 27<sup>th</sup> January.
- Send them the letter to employers for their information (attached).
- Dress appropriately, be prompt, be courteous, be interested, be grateful.
- Send a formal letter of thanks afterwards

*Questions?* Contact [careers@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:careers@reading-school.co.uk) or Ms Ayres

Dear Parent/Carer,

**YEAR 11 WORKPLACE LEARNING – MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 is an inset day for all students. The school will be closed to students across all years and for Year 11 students, we encourage work placements on this day, as part of our careers provision.

Year 11 students should find a work placement with a family member, or a family friend for this day. Recently, Year 11 students have or will soon be offered careers guidance interviews which explores individual focus on character and passions to enable positive next steps in their career pathways. There have been many mature, perceptive and interesting conversations and we hope that your child has spent some time thinking about the kind of work they would be interested in exploring in the future. Visiting a work place for the day will give your child a sense of what working life might be like. We would also like to encourage the possible networking opportunities your son can make through this.

Part of the process of securing a place involves networking and taking the initiative to contact individuals such as family friends or neighbours that might be able to accommodate their request. These experiences help to build a strong foundation for the world of work and this opportunity really does have the capacity to galvanise your child's sense of direction and motivation.

If your child is unable to go to work with one of your immediate family or close acquaintance on 27<sup>th</sup> January we would strongly encourage you to explore possibilities after GCSEs finish in the summer break. There is no doubt that students who engage in work placed learning develop clarity about their future studies and their priorities for decisions ahead.

We are pleased to attach a covering letter (below) that might explain this scheme to your employer and hope that a formal correspondence from the school helps your son access this opportunity.

If you have any queries regarding careers at Reading School, please do not hesitate to contact the careers team [careers@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:careers@reading-school.co.uk)

Attached is information being shared with tutor groups, alongside a letter for local business should your child need some further information for their contact at their work placement.

Reading School  
Erleigh Road  
Reading  
RG1 5LW

September 2024

Dear Local Business,

Thank you for taking the time to read this information regarding provision of a Year 11 Work Experience opportunity for a student from Reading School.

Reading School has recently been named as the [best secondary school in the South East 2024](#). We have a nine hundred year pedigree providing education and opportunities for young men from Reading and the surrounding area. We are very proud of the progress our students make and their subsequent contributions in industry, in business, or in whatever career or vocation they explore.

We have an outstanding cohort of students in Year 11 this year and we are asking them to secure a day at work with a family member or family friend on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The benefits of a day learning in the workplace can be profound for the students, who often describe the sense of motivation and direction they achieve as a consequence. We expect our Year 11 students to be motivated, engaged, perceptive, curious, independent and industrious and would equally love their skill sets to be tested in the workplace.

If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to get in contact with our careers team at Reading School [careers@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:careers@reading-school.co.uk). Alternatively, if you feel ready to engage with our students directly we have provided them with this letter so that you know the context for their request.

With thanks again for your interest in this invaluable partnership.

Kind regards

Lizzie Ayres

Deputy Head

Reading School