



# CAREERS

## @ Paignton Academy

# Newsletter

2025/Edition 21

## Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Our Year 10 students visited the bright lights of London this term and experienced the vibrant change of pace that comes from stepping into the city that never sleeps. From the magic of Matilda on Stage to the awe of the Natural History Museum, a wander through Covent Garden, and the marvellous Harry Potter World where books and the written word truly come to life, it was a trip filled with inspiration and discovery.

This is my favourite time of year; not just for the festivities and wonderful food, but for the chance to explore, learn, and grow. As an avid crafter, I love setting myself new challenges and projects. I dive into making Christmas decorations and new garments, and as the New Year approaches, I begin planning what I want to create and achieve in the months ahead.

With this spirit in mind, I invite the wider Academy community to also explore, reflect, and plan for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. While the festive break offers rest and relaxation, it also provides a valuable moment to refocus and consider your aspirations for the future. To help guide your thinking, you might reflect on three key questions:

- **What have I achieved?**
- **What do I want?**
- **How can I get there?**



Have a question or feedback?  
Email [careers@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:careers@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)  
or drop in the library and have a chat with us!

[careers@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:careers@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)

# STEM at Christmas:

## How Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths Make the Holidays Happen

### Science: The Magic Behind the Treats



- Ever wondered why your Christmas cake rises or why chocolate melts so smoothly? That's food science in action! Bakers rely on chemistry to balance ingredients and create perfect textures.
- Even the fizz in your festive drinks is thanks to carbon dioxide and pressure science.

### Technology: Powering the Festive Season



- Online shopping systems use advanced coding and cybersecurity to keep your Christmas orders safe.
- Streaming your favorite holiday movies? That's tech at work—data centers, algorithms, and cloud computing make it possible.
- Smart lights and decorations use IoT (Internet of Things) technology to create dazzling displays.

### Engineering: Building the Christmas Experience



- From designing sleigh-like delivery vans to constructing winter wonderlands, engineers make festive events happen.
- Packaging engineers ensure your gifts arrive safely, while mechanical engineers keep transport systems running during the busiest time of year.

### Maths: The Numbers Behind the Joy



- Retailers use maths to predict demand and manage stock so shelves stay full.
- Delivery companies calculate routes using algorithms to make sure parcels arrive on time.
- Even budgeting for gifts and parties is a maths skill you can practice at home!



# **Festive Careers Quiz:**

## **Which Christmas Job Suits Your Personality?**

**Take this fun quiz to discover which Christmas job matches your personality!  
Answer honestly and see where your festive skills could take you.**

### **1. What's your favourite part of Christmas?**

- A) Cooking and baking treats
- B) Planning parties and making everything look amazing
- C) Delivering gifts and spreading cheer
- D) Creating decorations and wrapping presents beautifully

### **2. Which skill do you enjoy using most?**

- A) Working with your hands and following recipes
- B) Organising events and managing details
- C) Driving, navigating, and being on the move
- D) Designing, drawing, or crafting

### **3. If you had to choose a Christmas superpower, what would it be?**

- A) Instantly cook any dish perfectly
- B) Organise any event in seconds
- C) Deliver gifts at lightning speed
- D) Create stunning designs with a wave of your hand

### **4. What's your ideal Christmas soundtrack?**

- A) The sound of sizzling pans and clinking plates
- B) Lively party music with lots of chatter
- C) Jingle bells while you're on the go
- D) Calm carols while you craft

### **5. Which festive challenge sounds most fun?**

- A) Cooking a three-course Christmas dinner
- B) Organizing a school Christmas fair
- C) Delivering gifts to every house in your town
- D) Designing the ultimate Christmas card

# Festive Career Quiz:

## ANSWERS

### Mostly A's: Chef or Baker

- You love creating delicious food and making people happy with your culinary skills. Careers in hospitality or food science could be perfect for you.



### Mostly B's: Event Planner

- You're organised and love bringing people together. Event planning, project management, or hospitality careers might suit you.



### Mostly C's: Delivery Driver or Logistics Coordinator

- You enjoy being on the move and making things happen behind the scenes. Careers in transport, logistics, or supply chain could be your calling.



### Mostly D's: Designer or Creative Artist

- You have an eye for beauty and love creating. Careers in graphic design, product design, or marketing could be a great fit.



No matter which result you got, remember that every career starts with discovering what you enjoy. The skills you use at Christmas - creativity, organisation, problem-solving, teamwork, are the same ones employers value all year round. So keep exploring, keep learning, and let your passions guide you. Who knows? The job that makes your holidays magical could one day become your dream career!

# Year 9 LEAP Reasoning & Code-Breaking Workshop

As part of the Year 9 LEAP programme, students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a Code Breaking Workshop designed to challenge their thinking and spark creativity. The session introduced students to the fascinating world of cryptography and problem-solving through a series of interactive activities and puzzles.

The students tackled a range of challenges that required logical reasoning, pattern recognition, and strategic thinking. From deciphering secret messages to cracking complex codes, the workshop encouraged learners to think outside the box and apply their knowledge in innovative ways.

The workshop focused on developing valuable future-ready skills, including:

- **Problem-Solving:** Students learned to approach challenges methodically, testing ideas and refining solutions.
- **Confidence Building:** By overcoming tricky puzzles, students gained confidence in their ability to tackle unfamiliar problems.
- **Creativity:** The activities encouraged imaginative approaches to breaking codes and finding solutions.
- **Teamwork:** Collaboration was key, with students sharing ideas and supporting each other to achieve success.

This experience not only enriched their understanding of critical thinking but also highlighted the importance of resilience and cooperation in achieving goals.





# Year 10 LEAP Public Speaking Workshop

Year 10 LEAP students recently took part in an inspiring Public Speaking workshop delivered by Next Steps South West, designed to build confidence and develop essential communication skills. The session focused on key techniques such as voice projection, structuring arguments, and researching topics effectively, all vital skills for successful debating.

The workshop prepared students for an exciting debate held later in the Arena at the Borough Road site, where teams from WRC and BRC went head-to-head. One of the thought-provoking topics explored was “The positives and negatives of Artificial Intelligence.” Both teams impressed a distinguished panel of judges, which included school governors and representatives from the Rotary Club.

The debate showcased critical thinking, confidence, and courage, as students presented compelling arguments and counterpoints. Each side demonstrated thorough research and strong reasoning, making it a closely contested event. After an engaging exchange of ideas, WRC narrowly claimed victory, but every participant deserves recognition for their outstanding effort and professionalism.

This experience not only strengthened students’ public speaking abilities but also highlighted the importance of conviction, collaboration, and confidence in tackling complex issues. Well done to all involved!



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# Year 11 Exploring Future Pathways at

## South Devon College

Year 11 students recently enjoyed a fantastic taster day at South Devon College, where they sampled two courses of their choice. The event gave them the chance to explore potential career paths, try hands-on activities, and experience the vibrant college atmosphere first-hand.

With an impressive range of options, students were spoilt for choice, from creative subjects like Art, Music, and Performing Arts to technical fields such as Engineering, Marine Engineering, and Construction. Other popular sessions included Animal Care, Adventure Sport, E-Sports, Computing, and Health and Social Care, alongside career-focused areas like Business, Public Services, Plumbing, Automotive, and Social Sciences. Practical courses such as Catering, Hair and Beauty, and Barbering added an interactive and creative element to the day.

Students explored the campus, met passionate tutors, and gained valuable insight into what post-16 life is really like. For many, the experience eased anxieties about the transition to college and helped clarify future choices. By the end of the day, students left feeling more confident and excited about the next steps in their education.



# Year 8 Students Train as Mental Health Ambassadors & Public Health Assembly

## Microbiotics Workshop & Assembly

Year 8 students were able to find out all about Microbiotics and the use of vaccines when we were visited by Torbay Council's Public Health team. This provided students with all the information they needed to make informed decisions about their health.



## Mental Health Ambassador Training

A group of Year 7 and 8 students who had kindly signed up to become Mental Health Ambassadors took part in an engaging session with representatives from the Mental Health Support Team in Schools (MHST), an NHS service supporting children's mental health and wellbeing in Devon and Torbay.

The ambassadors led a thought-provoking exercise where one student stood on a balancing board while carrying as many balloons as possible without dropping them. This activity represented the daily struggles and worries we all carry, helping students reflect on resilience and empathy.

This visit gave our students a valuable opportunity to train as mental health ambassadors, understand how to support peers, and explore rewarding careers in health, wellbeing, and the NHS.





# An Assembly with the



We were delighted to welcome Cpl Lears to our Borough Road site this morning, where he spoke to students during the Year 10 Careers assembly.

A local lad from Torquay, Cpl Lears shared his personal journey into the British Army and spoke about his medical-based role, supporting the health and wellbeing of service personnel both in the UK and overseas. His first-hand experiences helped students gain a realistic and engaging insight into daily life in the Army.

Students learnt about life in the British Army, including the wide range of over 100 different career paths available.

Cpl Lears explained that the Army offers far more than frontline roles, with opportunities in healthcare, engineering, IT, logistics, aviation and leadership. Many of these roles provide recognised qualifications, specialist training and clear progression routes into long-term careers.

He also highlighted the travel opportunities available, clearly outlined entry requirements, and discussed the Army's strong focus on sport and physical fitness, including access to excellent training facilities and competitive sporting opportunities. The assembly provided a valuable insight into Army careers and encouraged students to consider the British Army as a potential future pathway.



# [ ] South Devon College Open Evenings

# 2026

The Open Evenings provide an opportunity to learn about the courses and facilities available at South Devon College and University Centre South Devon.

A wide range of options are offered, including 16–18 study, such as T Levels and A Levels, Apprenticeships, adult learning, professional qualifications, and university-level courses.

Visitors can explore the Paignton campus, view facilities, and, where possible, see the rooms used for courses as well as social spaces and catering outlets. Guidance staff will be available to provide information on transport, bursaries, the application process, and learning or pastoral support.

**15 January 2026 at 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

<https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/event/january-open-evening/>

**10 March 2026 at 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

<https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/event/march-open-evening/>



## TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## 6th Form Deadline

The deadline to apply is 4pm on Friday 13th February 2026. Please visit this website to get the link to register:

**<https://www.tggsacademy.org/news/?pid=9&nid=2&storyid=72>**

### **Sixth Form Entry Requirements for September 2026**

The General entry requirements of: SIX full G.C.S.E. subjects at Grade 6 or above;

Grade 5 or above in both English Language and Mathematics;

The Subject Specific entry requirements.

If you have any queries, please contact the sixth form office via email on: [sixthformadmin@tggsacademy.org](mailto:sixthformadmin@tggsacademy.org) or call 01803 653756.

[careers@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:careers@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)



# APPRENTICESHIP EXPO 2026

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026

Exeter College Sports  
Hall  
EX4 3SR  
1pm-5pm



DISCOVER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

NETWORK WITH EMPLOYERS

FREE ADMISSION!

 pprenticeships at  
exeter college  
NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK 2026

# CONSTRUCTION EXPO 2026

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
April 2026

Exeter College  
Construction Centre  
Falcon Road, Exeter  
EX2 7LB  
11am-2pm



BRING YOUR CV

MEET EMPLOYERS

APPLY FOR JOBS

 pprenticeships at  
exeter college  
NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK 2026

# ENGINEERING EXPO 2026

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
2026

Exeter College  
Technology Centre  
College Way, Exeter  
EX1 3PZ  
1pm-5pm



BRING YOUR CV

MEET EMPLOYERS

APPLY FOR JOBS

 pprenticeships at  
exeter college  
NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK 2026



# Rewarding Outstanding Reading Progress

As a reward for our top Sparx Progress readers, a group of Year 8 students recently took part in an engaging BBC-led workshop designed to help them better understand how news is created, shared, and sometimes distorted in today's digital world. The session was part of the BBC National Schools Project, an initiative aimed at boosting media literacy among young people.

During the workshop, pupils explored the fundamentals of news production, media bias, and critical thinking through hands-on activities. They were encouraged to question what they see online and to examine sources more carefully, a vital skill in an era where misinformation can spread rapidly.

A follow-up session gave students the chance to put their learning into practice by creating social media-style news reels. This creative exercise highlighted how easily content can be shaped to influence opinions, reinforcing the importance of verifying facts before sharing.

The initiative comes at a time of growing concern about fake news and influencer-driven content. A recent research poll revealed that nearly three-quarters of Britons believe misinformation is widespread online. Among 16–34-year-olds, the most active users of digital platforms, 77% agreed that fake news is a significant issue, particularly in influencer content.

The BBC's Other Side of the Story workshops aim to empower students to navigate this complex media landscape with confidence. As the BBC reminds us: when you're scrolling through social media or watching your favourite influencers, you're consuming news, so how do you know what's true? These sessions provide practical tips to help young people check the facts and think critically about the information they encounter every day.



**other side  
of the story**  
BBC Bitesize



# Paignton Academy Post-16 Transition Fair



On Tuesday 25th November, Paignton Academy proudly hosted its annual Post-16 Transition Fair in the Arena at the Borough Road site. The event provided an invaluable opportunity for Year 11 students and their parents/carers to explore the wide range of pathways available after GCSEs.

The fair featured an impressive line-up of local and regional providers, including:

- Torquay Girls' Grammar School
- St Cuthbert Mayne
- Brixham College
- Exeter College
- Royal Air Force
- Next Steps South West
- Churston Ferrers Grammar School
- The Spires College
- South Devon College
- Southampton Solent University
- Royal Navy
- South Devon University Technical College

Representatives offered expert guidance on A-Levels, vocational courses, apprenticeships and specialist training programmes, as well as advice on entry requirements, applications, and future career pathways.

The event was a great success, with students and their families taking full advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, compare establishments, and gather essential information to support informed decision-making. This engagement is a vital step in helping students plan a smooth and successful transition into post-16 education or training.

Paignton Academy extends its thanks to all participating providers and to the families who attended. Your involvement ensures that our students are well-prepared for the exciting opportunities ahead.



# Bright Lights, Big Jobs: Behind Torbay's Bay of Lights

From 28 Nov to 2 Jan, the English Riviera, Paignton, Torquay & Brixham, transforms into a stunning sea of lights. But who makes the magic happen? Let's shine a light on those jobs!

Role	What they do
Project Planners	Torbay Council & BID choose displays, budget, and safety plans.
Event Managers	Coordinate teams to set up the Illumination Trail and opening-night fireworks.
Electrical Contractors	Install miles of LED cables and ensure everything's safe.
Riggers & Scaffold Crew	Climb and secure lights high on piers and buildings.
Lighting Designers	Create magical effects, like pixel-mapped Christmas trees in Paignton & Brixham.
Volunteer Guides	Greet visitors, guide families along the trail, answer questions.
Marshals & Safety Staff	Help with crowd control, first-aid, safe queuing.
Catering Team	Serve festive snacks, hot chocolate, donuts, treats at stalls.
Marketing & Social Media	Promote the events and encourage families to visit and share online.
Cleaning & Maintenance	Keep paths tidy and accessible throughout the evening.

Every dazzling display in the Bay of Lights is powered by real careers—electricians wiring miles of LEDs, designers planning layouts, riggers climbing high to install lights, marshals keeping visitors safe, and marketing teams spreading the word. These roles show how creativity, technical skill, and teamwork come together to create an event that not only lights up Torbay but also opens doors to exciting future jobs in engineering, events hospitality and digital media.

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# Christmas in London

Last week, 40 Year 10 students and 4 staff enjoyed a two-day end-of-term trip to London. After a 4.5-hour coach journey filled with chatter and anticipation, their first stop was the Natural History Museum. Students explored dinosaur skeletons, gemstones and interactive displays in small groups, taking plenty of photos and engaging with the exhibits.

Next, they headed to Covent Garden, which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Sparkling lights, market stalls and street performers created a festive atmosphere, with the huge Christmas tree providing the perfect backdrop for group photos. Students loved browsing the shops before we enjoyed a much-needed meal at Frankie and Benny's.

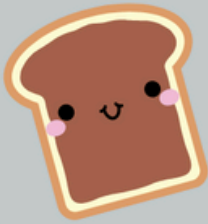
The evening highlight was Matilda the Musical at the Cambridge Theatre. The lively music, staging and brilliant cast captivated everyone, with many students calling it their favourite part of the trip.

The next morning brought more excitement at the Harry Potter Studios. From the Great Hall to Diagon Alley and the Forbidden Forest, students were immersed in the magic behind the films and wished they could stay longer. After two packed days, the journey home was filled with tired but happy chatter and a quiz from Mr Scott. The trip combined learning, culture and festive fun, a memorable experience for all.





# Welcome to the Library!



**8.00am - 8.20am**  
**Free toast and squash!**

**Chromebooks are available  
during Breakfast Club, Break &  
Lunch and Homework Club**



**Comedy, Horror, Mystery,  
Sci-Fi, Adventure, Romance and  
History... we have them all!**

**Homework Club**  
**3-4pm Mon-Thurs**  
**3-3.30pm Fri**



THINKING SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST



# TERM DATES 25/26

Sep-25		Oct-25		Nov-25		Dec-25	
Monday	01	06	13	03	10	01	08
Tuesday	02	07	14	04	11	02	09
Wednesday	03	01	08	05	12	03	10
Thursday	04	02	09	06	13	04	11
Friday	05	03	10	07	14	05	12
			17		21		19
			24		28		26
			31				

Jan-26		Feb-26		Mar-26		Apr-26	
Monday	05	02	09	02	09	06	13
Tuesday	06	03	10	03	10	07	14
Wednesday	07	04	11	04	11	01	08
Thursday	01	05	12	05	12	02	09
Friday	02	06	13	06	13	03	10
			20		27		24
			27				

May-26		Jun-26		Jul-26		Aug-26	
Monday	04	01	08	06	13	03	10
Tuesday	05	02	09	07	14	04	11
Wednesday	06	03	10	01	08	05	12
Thursday	07	04	11	02	09	06	13
Friday	01	05	12	03	10	07	14
			19		27		21
			26				28

COLOUR KEY		Teaching Days Per Half Term			
		Autumn	32	Autumn	34
		Spring	30	Spring	29
		Summer	24	Summer	35
		Total		Total	184





Mrs Hay



Ms Vere



Mrs Deane



Mrs Barter

