

Dormston School – Careers Programme 2026-2027

This is programme for 2026-2027. Events will be added to this programme throughout the year as and when they become available.

Whole School

Activity	Details	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered *See below
Displays	Career based displays are placed around school, with subject specific career related displays in key areas.	Increased awareness and profile of careers at Dormston School.	2, 4
Visiting Speakers	Careers focused visiting speakers throughout the course of the academic year. Some sessions for whole year groups (assembly slots, off timetable lessons)	Students have an improved awareness of the variety of jobs and careers available. They also have gained knowledge of the skills and qualifications required and the realities of the current labour market.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
National Apprenticeship Week 8 th – 14th February 2027	Whole school information and promotion of apprenticeships as post 16/18 pathway	Raise awareness of apprenticeship routes to support informed choices at Post 16/18	2, 3 ,4, 5, 6, 7
National Careers Week 1 st – 6th March 2027	Classroom based activities, workshops, employer engagement and drop-in sessions to celebrate NCW.	Raise awareness and aspirations of all students.	2, 3 ,4, 5, 6, 7
Student Voice	Student voice (formal and informal) used to gather views and understanding of careers. Student Leadership Team to contribute to & evaluate ongoing careers provision.	School aware of the strengths and areas for development which can then be used to inform future planning.	1, 2, 3
Parental Engagement	Engagement via meetings, school website, Parents/Options/Post 16 Evenings and newsletters at key points throughout the academic year.	Increased parental awareness of the variety of careers available within the local area, nationally and within key areas.	1, 2, 5, 7
Staff Feedback	Feedback from staff on careers related events and programmes to contribute to & evaluate ongoing careers provision.	School aware of the strengths and areas for development which can then be used to inform future planning.	1, 2, 3

Year Based Activities

Year 7

Activity	Date	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered *see below
Motivational Speaker (Assembly)	Autumn Term December 2026	Emphasise importance of resilience, hard work and dedication. Raise aspiration.	2, 3, 5, 7
Life Skills – World of Work NHS COMPETITION (including Employer Engagement)	Spring Term 2027	Raise aspiration and increase knowledge of transferable skills/attributes required for World of Work, University Life, LMI.	1, 2, 4, 7
National Apprenticeships Week	Spring Term 8th – 14th February 2027	Raise aspiration and increased knowledge of apprenticeship career pathways & labour market information.	2, 3, 5
National Careers Week Curriculum Focus/activities	Spring Term 1st – 6th March 2027	Link relevance of curriculum learning to careers	2, 3, 4, 5

Year 8

Activity	Date	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered *see below
PSHE – Changing World of Work	Spring Term	Greater understanding of job sectors/future jobs and employment needs, especially relating to transferrable skills.	2, 3, 4
National Apprenticeships Week	Spring Term 8th – 14th February 2027	Raise aspiration and increased knowledge of career pathways & labour market information delivered by external providers	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
‘Challenging Stereotypes’ Activity	Spring Term February 2027	Challenge stereotypes in the world of work. Opportunity to meet with employers from numerous job sectors.	2, 3, 4, 5
National Careers Week Curriculum Focus/activities	Spring Term 1 st – 6 th March 2027	Raise aspiration, increased knowledge of career pathways, LMI and link curriculum learning to world of work.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
National Careers Week Apprenticeship Assembly delivered by DWP	Spring Term	Greater understanding of Apprenticeships at Post 16/18 (to comply with PA Legislation)	2, 3, 5
National Careers Challenge	Spring Term	Employer engagement and interaction. Explore future careers. Employer focus and increased knowledge of career pathways and skills	2, 3, 5, 5

Year 9

Activity	Date	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered * see below
PSHE My Career / My Future	Spring Term	Gain knowledge & skills to raise awareness of personal skills & strengths	2, 3, 4, 5
Assembly delivered by a local FE College	Spring Term	Inform students of all pathways available Post 16/18, including apprenticeships and T Levels (to comply with PA Legislation)	2,3,8
National Apprenticeship Week	Spring Term 8 th – 14th February 2027	Raise aspiration and increased knowledge of career pathways & labour market information delivered by external providers.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
GCSE Options Evening	Spring Term	Students and parents have the opportunity to access information relating to GCSE study at Dormston and future pathways (post 16 & 18) including local FE establishments, training/apprenticeship providers. Students make well informed option choices to maximise achievement	1, 3, 7, 8
National Careers Week (Curriculum Focus/activities)	Spring Term 1 st – 6th March 2027	Raise aspiration, increased knowledge of career pathways, LMI and link curriculum learning to world of work.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Year 10

Activity	Date	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered *see below
Work Experience Student Launch	Autumn Term 8 th September 2026	Inform pupils the importance and benefits of WEX	2, 5, 6
Work Experience Parent Launch Evening	Autumn Term 9 th September 2026	Inform pupils and parents the importance and benefits of WEX	2, 5, 6
Creative Careers Workshop BOA Academy (selected students)	Autumn Term	Raise aspiration. Increase knowledge of careers available in creative industries and LMI.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
National Apprenticeship Week	Spring Term 8 th – 14 th February 2027	Raise aspiration and increased knowledge of career pathways & labour market information delivered by external providers.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PHSE -Post 16 Pathways & Work Experience Prep	Spring Term	Increase knowledge of all post 16/18 learning pathways available enabling student to make realistic and appropriate choices. Prepare students for WEX placement	2, 3, 7, 8
National Careers Week Activities/Curriculum Focus/activities	Spring Term 1 st – 6 th March 2027	Raise aspiration, increased knowledge of career pathways, LMI and link curriculum learning to world of work.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Interview Skills Workshop Delivered by DWP	Spring Term	Increase knowledge of job application processes and upskill learners regarding how to approach interviews.	2, 3, 4, 5, 8
CV Workshop Delivered by external providers	Summer Term	Prepare pupils for post 16 pathways and employment. Interact with FE providers	2, 3, 7, 8
Work Experience Week	Summer Term W/C 17 th May 2027	Students have first-hand experience of work place environments. Raise aspiration. Awareness of transferable skills	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
1:1 Interviews with Careers Advisor	Summer Term May 2027 onwards	Improved aspiration and understanding of career options available linked to potential future progression by providing independent careers advice and guidance	1, 2, 3, 8
Visits to FE and HE Establishments	Summer Term	Gain insight and raise awareness of opportunities on offer at FE and HE providers. Raise aspiration.	2, 3, 4, 7

Year 11

Activity	Date	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered *see below
Post 16 Assembly Delivered by FE Provider	Autumn Term	Increase knowledge of post 16 learning pathways and entry requirements. Increase knowledge of all apprenticeships Post 16 & Post 18. Provide Labour Market Information	2, 3, 7
1:1 Interviews with Careers Advisor (Continued from Year 10)	Autumn Term September 2026 onwards	Improved aspiration and understanding of career options available linked to potential future progression. Where identified students with issues (academic, personal, career pathways) can be referred as appropriate	2, 3, 8
PHSE – Post 16 Guidance and Support	Autumn Term	Increase knowledge of post 16 learning pathways and entry requirements.	2, 3, 8
PSHE - Post 16 Preparation	Autumn Term September/October 2026	Provide support and guidance with post 16 applications. Preparation for Post 16 Evening	2, 3
Post 16 Evening	Autumn Term 17 th September 2026	Students and parents have the opportunity to access high quality information relating to ALL post 16 pathways including local FE & HE establishments, training providers, employers and Careers Adviser.	2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Next Steps Questionnaires (1)	Autumn Term October 2026	To target careers support. Identify any possible NEETs.	3, 8
A Level Advice/Guidance Workshop (Delivered by King Edwards V1)	Autumn Term 7 th October 2026	Increase knowledge and provide support on A Levels including applications and personal statements	3, 7, 8
Creative Careers Workshop BOA Academy (selected students)	Autumn Term	Raise aspiration. Increase knowledge of careers available in creative industries and LMI.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7

Informal Drop-in College Sessions (Atrium)	Autumn Term Dates throughout Autumn Term	Provide informal support and guidance with Post 16 pathways, courses and applications	2, 3, 8
National Apprenticeship Week	Spring Term 8 th – 14 th February 2027	Raise aspiration and increased knowledge of career pathways & labour market information delivered by external providers.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
Apprenticeship Workshop (1) Delivered by external provider	Spring Term	To provide advice/guidance to students with the apprenticeship process and registration onto gov site	2, 3, 8
National Careers Week Curriculum Focus/activities	Spring Term 1 st – 6 th March 2027	Raise aspiration, increased knowledge of career pathways, LMI and link curriculum learning to world of work.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Apprenticeship Workshop (2)	Spring Term	To provide support students with the apprenticeship process and applications & CVs	2, 3, 7, 8
Next Steps Questionnaires (2) Compulsory information collection required by Local Authority	Spring Term March/April 2027	To target careers support. Identify any possible NEETs. Information sent to LA	3, 8

Staff CPD

Activity	Date	Impact	Gatsby Benchmark(s) Covered *see below
Curriculum Leaders Meetings	As calendared	Raise profile of careers. To keep staff updated on careers legislation & school policies/events	1, 4
Staff CPD	Various	Provide staff with relevant CPD opportunities to support with linking the curriculum with the real world of work, LMI and post 16/18 pathways available to students.	1, 2, 4

*The eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance