



# @DHFS\_Careers

Contact: Mr K Pickles  
careers@dhfs.uk

Autumn Edition  
2023

## Diary Dates:

Work Experience Student Deadline 1 - via ClassCharts  
November 2023

Sixth Form Options Evening - 15th November 2023

Careers Convention (Daytime) - 30th November 2023

Work Experience Student Deadline 2 - TBC February  
2024 via ClassCharts

GCSE Options Evening - 10th January 2024

GCSE Options Deadline - 9th February 2024

Year 12 Work Experience Student Deadline - TBC via  
ClassCharts February 2024

Careers Convention (Evening) - 7th March 2024

National Careers & Apprenticeship Week - 4th March  
2024

Year 10 Work Experience - 13th - 17th May 2024

Year 12 Work Experience - 1st - 5th July 2024

## Application Deadlines:

UCAS - 31st January 2024

## University Open Days

All dates subject to confirmation.

**The University of Sheffield. 18th November 2023**

**Sheffield Hallam University. 28th October 2023**

**The University of Nottingham 4th November, 2nd December 2023**

**Nottingham Trent University 4th November, 2nd December 2023, 20th January  
2024**

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## Year 10 & 12:

**Watch out for your  
Unifrog Work  
Experience email!**

## College Open Days

**Chesterfield College**

28th November 2023, 24th January,  
17th April 2024

**Sheffield College**

15th November 2023





## Sixth Form Careers at DHFS

So, how do we support students for pathways after Sixth Form?

Firstly, our curriculum and assembly structure advises students on the application process and their options.

This includes university, employment pathways and apprenticeships. The most important factor is supporting the student in making the right choice for them. This will mean considering every university via UCAS search and employment and training options across our locality.

Resources for every pathway are widely available in the Resource Centre, on our dedicated website, via Twitter and our open evenings and careers conventions. In addition, Mrs Marshall, our careers advisor from the local authority, provides individual guidance based on student needs. Finally, Mr Howell, Mr Stuart, Mr Lomas, Mrs Edwards and our House Academic Mentors also provide bespoke advice that is impartial and led by a student's individual needs. They can be contacted at: [sixthform@dhfs.uk](mailto:sixthform@dhfs.uk)

## Impartial Interviews

With years of experience, Mr Pickles and our careers partners Progress Careers, offer impartial and unbiased advice to students and parents concerning their career options and pathways. Mrs Marshall also advises on training and apprenticeship opportunities and further education pathways. All students in the school have an entitlement to a careers interview, and our careers team will also be available at parent/carer evenings and open evenings at the school. Please contact our team via [ckpickles@dhfs.uk](mailto:ckpickles@dhfs.uk).

## What is the Russell Group?

A common question; Russell Group universities are considered the top universities in the country. Often referred to as 'Red Brick' or 'older established'. There are many excellent universities offering excellent courses in the UK, although these universities often specialise in research based degrees and are highly regarded by employers.

At DHFS we continually encourage students to aim high and apply for the top courses at the top universities. Aim high - could you be applying? Our reporting processes allow us to identify potential in our students from Year 7 onwards.

So, what are the entry requirements? Minimum entry requirements can be as low as ABB at A Level, rising to a usual offer of AAB or AAA.

The most highly regarded courses will ask for A\*A\*A\*. An example of one such course would be studying physics with Professor Brian Cox at the University of Manchester.



Click here to visit our school careers and IAG website



@DHFSUpdate



## DHFS Sixth Form destinations

We had a very successful academic year for DHFS Sixth Form last year, not only did students receive some of the excellent results (99.5% A\*-E) but also a large proportion of students progressed to competitive universities.

Last year, the vast proportion of Year 13 students progressed to university with a number deferring their place or taking a gap year. At DHFS we pride ourselves on the high level of support, advice and guidance we provide to our students regarding destinations after Year 13.

We have a skilled team of House Academic Mentors who work alongside the Sixth Form team to support students to achieve their dream destinations. In addition to this, we hold additional sessions for parents of Year 12 students in June/July to provide them with an overview of UCAS. Sixth Form students have a day off timetable in June to start their applications and to have talks from universities about the process. We also encourage students to attend the free UCAS convention, held yearly at the Sheffield Utilita Arena in June, COVID-19 permitting. A number of DHFS staff are always on hand at this convention to support our students.

One of biggest concerns our students have about going to university is the cost. Every year we update students and parents/carers about the myths and realities of student finance. Students come away from this with a greater understanding and can make a more informed decision. Of the students going to university, nearly half (46%) of them obtained places to read at the Russell Group universities. Nationally, approximately 14% of students gain places at these universities, we are rightly proud that more than double that go from DHFS. For more information please go to [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk). For Oxbridge applications, students continued to be successful in securing places.

Destinations are not all about university. Many of our students continue to other educational institutions such as Chesterfield College to undertake bridging courses or foundation degrees in art before applying to university. Some students also progress to higher apprenticeships or use their skills and qualifications to find employment in their chosen field. We are also proud to report that our students were also successful in applying for degree level apprenticeships in 2023, supported by our Sixth Form team who run a dedicated Apprenticeship group to support students with their applications. Contact them on [Sixthform@dhfs.uk](mailto:Sixthform@dhfs.uk) for further details. Offers this year include prestigious employers such as Rolls Royce AMRC, Grant Thornton, and BAE Systems.

### RUSSELL GROUP

University of Birmingham  
 University of Bristol  
 University of Cambridge  
 Cardiff University  
 Durham University  
 University of Edinburgh  
 University of Exeter  
 University of Glasgow  
 Imperial College London  
 King's College London  
 University of Leeds  
 University of Liverpool  
 London School of Economics & Political Science  
 University of Manchester  
 Newcastle University  
 University of Nottingham  
 University of Oxford  
 Queen Mary University of London  
 Queen's University Belfast  
 University of Sheffield  
 University of Southampton  
 University College London  
 University of Warwick  
 University of York

## Options after Year 11, our guidance programme for students

Choosing the best course after Year 11 is a vital and individual task to complete, please remember to research all of the options fully, and only choose what is best for your career pathway. So, how do we support you in school? The following timeline gives you our timeline for events this year.

**September – December** - Sixth Form staff and students to attend Sixth Form events at schools. Guests from the local colleges and apprenticeships service attend Lifeskills lessons, possibly virtually. This allows you to examine all of the options. Application process starts for colleges and apprenticeships.

**October** - Year 11 Trial Interview Day. An excellent opportunity to practice your interview skills with a guest from industry.

**January** - Application forms for school Sixth Form, together with photographs, must be returned no later than the January 2023 deadline. These will be sent to faculty areas to confirm acceptance. Relevant staff will sign their form. In addition, students will be required to submit copies of their CV, Personal Statement and Career Action Plan. The school careers convention also takes place this month - another excellent research opportunity.

**February - March** - Applications will be reviewed and some students will receive guidance meetings and support by the Sixth Form team, House Progress Leaders and the Leadership Team. Successful applicants will be made a conditional offer of a place.

**April - July** - Some Sixth Form applicants may received further guidance and support to discuss course choices, changes, potential clashes and suitability.

**July** - Timetable rollover when new Year 12 students will begin their courses and have a taster week in the Sixth Form. A Level summer preparation work will be distributed to students.

**August** - GCSE Results Day. If students achieve suitable grades they should contact school to confirm. If not, then applicants will be interviewed provisionally on Thursday and Friday following receipt of their GCSE results.

**September** - Year 12 students enrol in the Sixth Form.

Remember, support is available every day via the Sixth Form team, Mr Pickles or our Progress Careers team. Contact them on [kpickles@dhfs.uk](mailto:kpickles@dhfs.uk) or [sixthform@dhfs.uk](mailto:sixthform@dhfs.uk).





## Completing my application form, help please!

Don't worry, you are not alone with this! Many students ask us for advice regarding completing their application forms, and support is always available via Lifeskills lessons, the library, mentor groups and in careers interviews. In this article, Mr Howell, Director of Sixth Form, gives some practical advice on completing your DHFS Sixth Form application.

When you are completing any application form, it is clearly important to sell yourself fully! Page one is important to us as it tells the Sixth Form team a lot about you, such as what your target grades are, what you are currently predicted to achieve and any GCSEs or BTECs that you already have. Most of this information can be found on your most recent Student Progress Report.

It is also an opportunity for you to pick your chosen subjects at A Level. You will need to get an agreement, comment and signature from a teacher in that subject and also the Head of Faculty. If you wish to choose core maths to support your other A Levels, you should put this in the 5<sup>th</sup> Choice column.

Making decisions about which A Levels to choose can be difficult. When selecting your A Levels, please consider:

- What subjects interest you?
- What subjects will I need to progress to further study?
  - (see [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for university entry requirements), or <https://dhfs.uk/file-a-guide-to-apprenticeship-applications/> for Apprenticeships
  - What subjects work well together? Eg maths, further maths and physics or history, sociology and English literature.

Subjects that are classed as 'facilitating'. The Russell Group consider maths, further maths, English literature, physics, biology, chemistry, geography, history and languages as facilitating subjects.

Go to: <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices/>

The second page will include a section from your mentor in support of your application. They will comment on your attendance, attitude to learning and homework as well as your contributions to mentor time.

You also have a space to explain why you wish to further your education at DHFS Sixth Form, to highlight your potential career plans and to explain why you think you are suitable for A Level study. This can be completed on an additional sheet or typed if desired.

The deadline for submission is the 28th January 2023, any applications after this date will be considered but only after all the applications are processed.

Mr M Howell - Director of Sixth Form. email: [mhowell@dhfs.uk](mailto:mhowell@dhfs.uk)




Remember to follow us on X

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## Where can I access good advice?

Another common question! Remember that in school we have dedicated careers advisors who are impartial and are there to offer you advice on your needs! Do not forget however, the power of the internet for exploring and investigating your future pathways.

There are literally thousands of websites out there that you can access, but here are a few of the more popular and more local ones for you to use.

DHFS IAG Advice: [www.dhfs.uk/careers-education-information-advice-and-guidance-ceiag/](http://www.dhfs.uk/careers-education-information-advice-and-guidance-ceiag/)

UCAS: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

The National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

The National Apprenticeships website: [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

Sheffield Hallam University: [www.shu.ac.uk](http://www.shu.ac.uk)

Sheffield University: [www.sheffield.ac.uk](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk)

Chesterfield College: [www.chesterfield.ac.uk](http://www.chesterfield.ac.uk)

Sheffield College: [www.sheffcol.ac.uk](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk)

Derby University: [www.derby.ac.uk](http://www.derby.ac.uk)

The University of Nottingham: [www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk)

The University of Leeds: [www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)

Nottingham Trent University: [www.ntu.ac.uk](http://www.ntu.ac.uk)

The University of Huddersfield: [www.hud.ac.uk](http://www.hud.ac.uk)



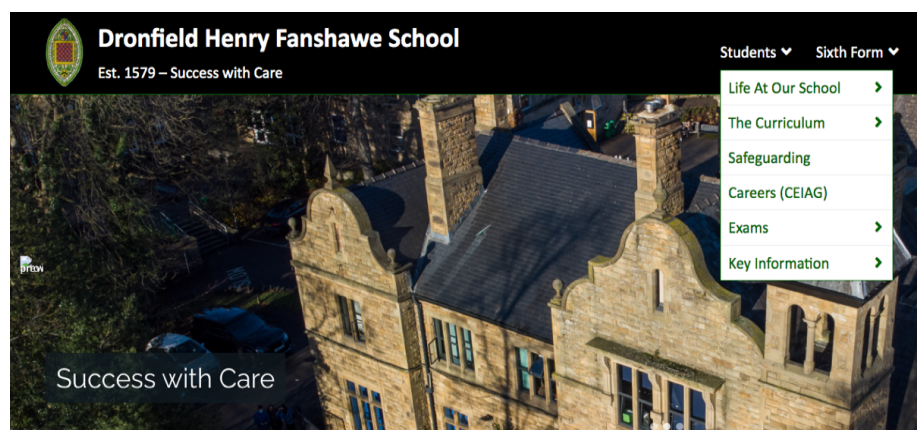
And remember to follow us on X  
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Continuing our commitment to outstanding Careers Advice & Guidance for our students, DHFS are proud to announce our new partnership with Progress Careers. Mr Jones and Ms Carr are available for Careers Interviews on Wednesday and Thursday each week. Parents & Carers are encouraged to attend their child's interview if possible. Please contact Mr Pickles at the school for more details

## DHFS CEIAG Website

Please remember to access our CEIAG website for a wide range of careers information, guidance, advice, software and internet links. Where is it? Go to the main navigation and you will find it here:



## Application skills, what are interviewers looking for?

So, what are sixth forms, colleges and universities looking for in a good application?

Why is this course appropriate for you? The reason why you have chosen the course is a key question, and commitment is being tested. Every institution wants you to finish the course successfully and, therefore, they will want to test that you are sure that the course is right for you. They will also be looking to see that you have the skills to be successful. This includes how your academic experience complements the subject, as well as your personal soft-skills.

It is vital to really sell your soft-skills. These are the skills for employment, and include communication, team-working, tenacity and problem solving. Often these can be demonstrated well by using practical examples of experiences both in and outside of education. They allow the interviewer to establish what you can offer to the course and how you have learnt from your experiences. This is where you show that you are a strong, rounded candidate with strong skills across the board.

Do not underestimate the value of part-time work. Voluntary activities in the community are also highly valued! This is why we register every student onto iVolunteer at DHFS, so that they can recognise and record their voluntary work in the Dronfield community. Clubs or societies that you are part of are also really important in strengthening the depth of your application. All of these really highlight your commitment to yourself, your community and those around you.

Work experience? Essential! Think about it. If you are in competition for limited spaces on a particular course, and the competition has a portfolio of experiences, who are they going to choose first? A Record of Achievement, or Portfolio, is also useful to compile in Year 11. Use it to record all of your experiences and successes. It is also a useful ice-breaker at the beginning of the interview too!

Sell yourself! Your personal statement should be clearly structured and logically ordered. Avoid starting every sentence with "I" and try to use paragraphs rather than bullet points. The statement must be professional. However, it should also sound like you've written it. Ensure that you avoid using words which you wouldn't naturally use.

A personal statement could make or break your application so it is important to sell yourself and show that you are passionate about the subject you have chosen to study.

Research? Definitely! Show the interviewer that you are serious about their course. Do your homework and be able to talk to them about the course that you are considering. A common question is "Why us?" Be ready to explain why the course is right for you and, therefore, that you are right for them. Open days are a useful way of gaining insider knowledge on a course - talk to students who are already on the course and gather their views.

Make the application work for you! It is your shop-window and it must sell your skills linked directly to the opportunity that you are aiming to join.





# Your Careers CEIAG Entitlement Meeting the Gatsby Benchments @DHFS\_Careers

## We promise to provide:

A stable careers programme. Embedded across all of our teaching areas, look at our Spiral Curriculum & our "Careers In..." noticeboards.

Learning which includes Career & Labour Market Information (LMI). A bespoke programme within Key Stage 3, 4 & 5, preparing you for the World of Work.

A curriculum and information portal which addresses the needs of each student. Bespoke planning & curriculum, targetting individual needs and supporting requirements.

A curriculum and information portal which links curriculum learning to careers. Why study a subject? Our "Careers in..." displays will show you how important ALL of your subjects are.

Encounters with employers and employees. Two large Careers Conventions, interview days & Work Experience are provided for you to talk to people who do the jobs that you want.

Experiences of workplaces. Work Experience and our Enrichment Curriculum link to a wide range of careers activities. Also, show your commitment by joining our DoFE group.

Encounters with further and higher education. Field Trips to Colleges, Training & Apprenticeship Providers, CEIAG Shows, and our Conventions. Opportunities are not far away.

Unbiased & impartial personal Guidance. CEIAG advice is available all week, every week for you to access. Contact: [kpickles@dhfs.uk](mailto:kpickles@dhfs.uk)



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