



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter aims to inform and update you on key information, news, events and opportunities relating to careers and the world of work.

Please use the links within the body of the newsletter to discover more information.

Focus on A Levels

Advanced level qualifications (known as A levels) are subject-based qualifications, taken after GCSEs that can lead to university, further study, training, or work.

A Levels are two-year qualifications that give students a chance to study an existing GCSE subject in greater depth or try a completely new subject. Students should expect an increase in difficulty to GCSEs and a difference in teaching styles, with more emphasis on independent study.

A Levels are considered an academic pathway.

There are more than 40 different A level subjects to choose from. Most students choose 3 subjects to study but you can take more or fewer. You can even study for a BTEC or other qualification at the same time. (This is often known as a mixed study programme)

Students normally need at least, 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and a high grade in the subjects you want to study.

A Levels are graded from A* – E. They are assessed in a variety of different ways, from formal exams to coursework and practical projects, depending on the subjects.

To decide which subjects to take at A level, you should consider which subjects: you're good at or would be interested in; you might need for a certain job or further study after A levels, or will help you keep your options open if you're not sure what you want to do in the future.

West Hill School students who want to study A Levels typically move on to Ashton 6th Form College, Clarendon 6th Form College, Oldham 6th Form College, Loretto 6th Form College or Laurus Ryecroft 6th Form College.

Find out more: [A Levels](#) | [Discover Your Education Options](#) | [GMACS](#)

CAREER OF THE MONTH

What else could it be for December?



TOYMAKER

[Career of the month: Toymaker - Indigo](#)

See the display in school or find out more on the school VLE

POST-16 OPTIONS

Year 11 students have been busy completing their college applications.

Interviews will be held over the next couple of months. Remember to check emails, messages and post regularly.



LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

Have you ordered a parcel online this Christmas?

Have you ever considered a career within the growing logistics and e-commerce sector?

The **logistics industry** is all about getting the products you need from one place to another. It's extremely important for buying things online. The sector covers jobs in areas like tracking, warehousing, and delivery, as well as digital skills for building and promoting e-commerce websites.

E-commerce (buying things online) has become hugely important since the pandemic changed the way we all work and buy things. Most businesses have developed new ways to make money online, whether that's selling on e-commerce platforms or developing their own websites.

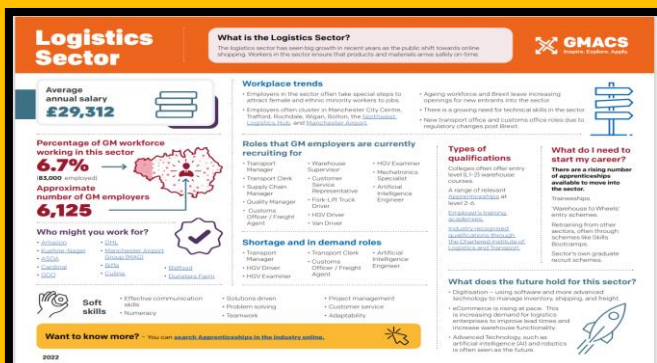
It takes thousands of people to get the product you just bought online from the store to your hands. Think about all the people involved in things like:

- Designed and coding a website
- Marketing the product online
- Predicting how many people will buy the product and future trends
- Taking payment online
- Storage, picking and packing at a warehouse
- Truck driving
- Tracking your parcel
- Delivery to your door



Find out more: [Logistics & Ecommerce | Growth Sectors In GM | GMACS](#)

This interactive resource from GMACS is on the school VLE [GMACS – Logistics Infographic](#) (westhillschool.co.uk)



Discover more job roles within the sector with these links:

[Supply chain manager](#) | [Explore careers](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

[Careerpivot : Job sectors : Logistics : What's this about?](#)

[icould - personal stories](#)

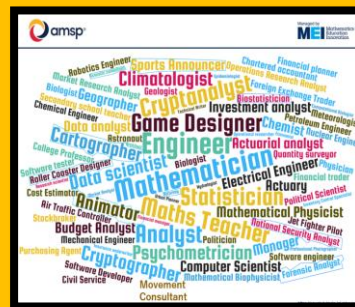


RECENT EVENTS IN SCHOOL

ASFC XL Theology Conference. On Friday 17th November, a group of Year 10 students took part in a student conference held at Ashton 6th Form College. The XL Academy event aimed to inspire students across key areas of the Arts – History, Sociology, Law and Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. A key note speaker from The University of Leeds gave students an insight to what a university lecture would be like. College staff explained pathways to higher education and support available within the college to enable them to Aim High.

We are looking forward to attending further conferences next year, across different subject areas.

The Maths Department hosted the area coordinator of the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme run by The University of Manchester to talk to students about **Where Maths can take you after GCSE.**



Year 10 students learnt about the importance of Maths in a wide range of careers and the invaluable skills that studying Maths allows you to develop e.g. problem solving and logical thought.

Did you know studying Maths at A Level improves your chance of attending a top university and increases your lifetime earnings by up to 11%?

The PE department hosted Mr Richards from **Ron Hill.com** at the start of the Year 7 annual cross-country event. Alongside a motivational speech for the run, students heard how local runner Dr Ron Hill MBE used his love of running to create a successful international business.



GCSE Success Fair. Year 11 students and parents were welcomed into school for an opportunity to share key information and strategies to support students to achieve their full potential in their final year at West Hill School.

GM Higher and ASFC XL Academy have both been into school this term to speak to students about routes into Higher Educations. Echoing our school Motto - Aim High



BBC Bitesize Careers School Tour came to West Hill on November 10th

West Hill was delighted to welcome the BBC into school on the 10th November and to take part in the 2023 BBC Bitesize School Tour.

Hosted by **Radio 1Xtra presenter, Fee Mak**, the school hall came to life with lights, music and videos as Fee interviewed three young professionals from our local area:



- Ethan Lloyd, a freelance Camera Assistant;
- Emily Dawson-Masterson, a BBC Early Careers Production Apprentice and
- Joe May, a freelance production secretary.

The Panellists shared information about their roles and discussed their career path so far.

They shared details of the trials and tribulations that they have all faced on their journey up to this point in their career. Covering a variety of topics including, relevant qualifications, personal anecdotes, advice on work experience and key soft skills needed for the workplace.



Students in Years 7 to 10, learnt

- About job roles within the media industry that perhaps they weren't aware of.
- To work hard in school, to revise, to always do your best and to set your own pathway.
- The importance of personal skills and strengths. Recognise and develop your skills through your school work, hobbies and extra-curricular activities. Problem solving. Communication, Team work, Leadership, Creativity etc.

The BBC's careers support for students doesn't end with the school tour; students were directed to the BBC Bitesize Careers site, where they will find an ever-growing library of job profiles to explore across all industries, alongside careers advice and information about next steps in education and the world of work



[Careers - BBC Bitesize](#)



CAREERS ADVICE

The focus of our personal career guidance interviews will turn to Year 10 students in the new year.

However, appointments with Ms Davidson from Positive Steps are available throughout the year for any students wishing to discuss their career options - just ask Mrs Appleby.



USEFUL WEBSITES AND PUBLICATIONS

Apprenticeships: The latest edition of the Parents and Careers pack: [Parents and Carers- Pack December 2023.pdf \(ctfassets.net\)](#)

The Parents guide to: Sign up to the free newsletter or look at the free parent guides for information and support [Free resources | The Parents' Guide \(theparentsguideto.co.uk\)](#) (West Hill School does not endorse any of the paid-for resources)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SCHOOL

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE: We will be launching our work experience programme to Year 10 students in January. Students will spend a week working in a local business, gaining invaluable experience and developing their personal skills.

We would love to hear from anyone able to offer our students a placement between Monday 8th July and Friday 12th July.

CONTACT US

Careers office – Hewitt building.

School office: 0161 338 2193

Email:

careers@westhillschool.co.uk

X [@WestHillCareers](#)

School website & VLE

Are you an ex-student?



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a successful new year.

Are you a local employer?

