

CAREERS ACTIVITIES REPORT**David Game College Careers Activities Report – Academic Year 2025-2026****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and evaluation of the careers-related activities that took place during the academic year 2024-25 at David Game College. This report aims to reflect on the various events, workshops, and experiences that were offered to students, detailing the outcomes and the impact these activities had on their career development. By documenting these activities, the report will also inform future planning, ensuring that the careers education program continues to meet the evolving needs of our students.

Throughout the year, students were engaged in a wide range of activities designed to support their exploration of different career pathways, enhance their employability skills, and connect them with professionals and industry experts. These activities were designed to complement the broader objectives of our careers policy, which aims to provide all students with meaningful, relevant, and diverse career-related experiences in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Careers Development Institute (CDI) Framework.

David Game College's Careers Policy is designed to provide students with the necessary skills, attributes, and experiences that will help them excel in their future careers. By integrating real-world events and hands-on opportunities such as community festivals, industry workshops, and university fairs, the policy ensures that students are well-prepared for their next steps, whether in higher education, apprenticeships, or entering the workforce.

Community and Industry Engagement**Aldgate in Winter Festival: December 2025**

Incorporating community events such as the Aldgate in Winter Festival into the careers policy not only enriches students' personal development but also enhances their employability. By volunteering at events like these, students gain real-world experience in a supportive environment, fostering essential skills such as teamwork, communication, organization, and problem-solving. Roles like stewarding, workshop assistance, and event support help students build confidence, community awareness, and a sense of responsibility. This experience is especially valuable for those interested in careers in event management, the arts, public service, and community engagement.

BFI's Amy Study Day: March 2025

The BFI's Amy Study Day allows students to critically engage with documentary filmmaking and gain practical experience in narrative construction, ethical decision-making, and technical production. Through exposure to real-world practices in the creative industries, students develop skills relevant to careers in film, media, journalism, and communications. In addition to developing technical skills, the event provides networking opportunities with industry professionals, giving students valuable insights into career pathways. The discussions and analyses during the event also help students refine transferable skills such as critical thinking, communication, and media literacy.

As part of the College's commitment to preparing students for a technology-driven world, students were also encouraged to consider how advancements in AI may influence creative industries—both in terms of new opportunities and changing skill requirements.

2. Industry-Specific Workshops

AI Virtual Workshop and Tour Istituto Marangoni London (March 2025)

The AI Virtual Workshop and Tour at Istituto Marangoni London presents a unique opportunity for students to explore the intersection of artificial intelligence and the creative industries. Through immersive experiences such as the workshop in Visual Design 'Exploring the Future: Creating Immersive VR Experiences', students gain first-hand exposure to how AI is revolutionizing design processes, from concept development to virtual exhibitions. This workshop enhances students' digital literacy while also fostering an understanding of innovative technologies that are shaping future career landscapes in fashion, design, and technology sectors. Participation in such workshops equips students with valuable insights into emerging industry trends, helping them stay at the forefront of technological advancements.

JCA Workshop: November 2024

Hosting a workshop from the Jimmy Choo Academy (JCA) offers students an exclusive opportunity to engage with one of the most prestigious fashion institutions in the world. Students gain an in-depth understanding of brand development, design processes, and the business aspects of the fashion industry. This immersive experience is complemented by a competition, where one student had the incredible opportunity to sketch alongside the iconic designer Jimmy Choo himself. These hands-on experiences enhance students' understanding of the fashion world and inspire them to pursue careers in design, entrepreneurship, and related fields.

These experiences were complemented by the College's strategic focus on AI competency through the Futura course, which helps students understand how technological advances may influence both traditional and creative industries.

3. University and Career Pathway Support

DGC University Fair and lecture series – November 2025

The DGC University Fair, held in November 2025, was a significant event (to be held annually) that enabled students to explore their post-18 options. The fair featured representatives from Russell Group universities, specialist institutions, and international universities, offering students a diverse range of opportunities to consider. Students were able to engage directly with university representatives, ask questions about courses, entry requirements, and campus life, and gather valuable materials to assist in their decision-making. Additionally, subject-specific lectures and talks, including a session by the prestigious Architectural Association (AA), helped deepen students' understanding of specialist pathways and application expectations, ensuring they were well-prepared for the next step in their academic journey.

Alumni and Dragons' Den Event – April 2025

The Alumni and Dragons' Den event provided students with a unique opportunity to connect with former students and industry professionals. The highlight of this event was the Dragons' Den-style pitch competition, where students presented their business ideas to a panel of industry experts and received direct feedback on their proposals. All participants were offered internships or shadowing placements with industry professionals, giving them real-world experience and a deeper understanding of their chosen fields. This event helped students refine their presentation skills, build confidence, and understand the intricacies of business development. It also emphasizes the importance of innovation, leadership, and resilience for entrepreneurial careers.

UCAS Events at the Excel Centre, London – October 2024 and March 2025

Attending events such as the UCAS Discovery Exhibition and the 'Create Your Own Future' exhibition, offers students invaluable opportunities to explore higher education and future career paths, particularly in creative or practical fields. The UCAS Discovery Exhibition enables students to connect with a wide range of universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers, gaining important information on application processes, courses, and career opportunities. The 'Create Your Own Future' Trip provides practical workshops and

interactive sessions, focusing on design, art, performing arts, and media courses. These experiences help students refine their goals, gain confidence in their future plans, and understand the career paths they could pursue..

4. **Tailored Support and Guidance**

To support students and their families in navigating the UCAS application process, the college hosts a UCAS Information Evening for parents every September. The session covers university selection, timelines, and key deadlines. Additional support includes 1:1 appointments with the Head of UCAS/Careers, personal tutor sessions, and workshops on writing strong personal statements, preparing for admissions tests (such as the UCAT or Oxbridge exams), and navigating mock tests. Tailored support for early applicants to competitive courses, including Medicine and Oxbridge, helps students strengthen their applications and prepare for the admissions process.

Unifrog Platform

All students at David Game College are provided with access to Unifrog, a comprehensive destinations platform that supports both GCSE and A-Level students in their career and university planning. The platform allows students to explore universities, apprenticeships, and career opportunities, offering personalized recommendations based on their interests and goals. Through Unifrog, students can track their academic progress, reflect on super-curricular activities, and prepare for university applications. This tool is crucial for guiding students throughout their academic and extracurricular endeavours, ensuring they remain focused on their career aspirations.

Students were additionally encouraged to use Unifrog to explore emerging AI-related career fields, ensuring they have access to up-to-date information on roles being shaped or created by technological change.

5. **National Careers and Apprenticeship Weeks**

David Game College takes part in National Careers Week (March 2025) and National Apprenticeship Week (February 2025), which are integral components of the college's career program. These weeks provide students with valuable exposure to various career pathways, including apprenticeships, and help deepen their understanding of post-16 and post-18 options. Activities during these weeks include careers quizzes, and interactive sessions on emerging industries which are embedded into the tutorial sessions and delivered by PTs. Teachers also embed career relevance into their lessons, helping students make connections between academic subjects and future careers.

During these events, students were also introduced to ways AI is influencing apprenticeships, emerging industries, and evolving professional skills, ensuring a future-focused understanding of their career choices.

6. **Supporting GCSE Students**

GCSE students are encouraged to meet with the Head of UCAS/Careers to discuss their academic and career pathways. Tailored guidance is offered on A-Level choices and post-16 pathways. Assemblies on topics like the future of work, AI, sustainability, and green careers, as well as post-16 options, help students understand the opportunities available to them. Ongoing 1:1 support ensures that GCSE students are well-prepared for the decisions they need to make for their academic future.

7. Clearing and Post-Results Support

Clearing and Post-Results Clinic

The Head of UCAS/Careers delivers a webinar on the clearing process for students and their parents/guardians in June. Following the release of A-Level results, one-on-one consultations are provided during a post-results clinic. This clinic helps guide students through the Clearing process, advising them on next steps and potential university options. This support ensures students are equipped to make informed decisions, even in the event of unexpected results.

Guidance also includes discussion about the future of employment in a rapidly changing labour market influenced by AI, helping students make informed choices even under time pressure.

8. DG Advisory Board for Careers, Employment, and Entrepreneurship (DG ABCEE) (formed May 2025)

The DG Advisory Board for Careers, Employment, and Entrepreneurship (DG ABCEE) has been formed to guide, inform, and enhance the college's approach to careers education, employability skills, and entrepreneurship development. Comprised of successful entrepreneurs and industry leaders, the Board acts as a strategic partner to the college, ensuring our students gain exposure to current professional practices, entrepreneurial thinking, and future career pathways. The DG ABCEE plays a vital role in advising on curriculum development, ensuring students are well-equipped with the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to succeed in the modern workforce.

The Advisory Board also provides insight into how AI is reshaping employment sectors, ensuring the College's strategic planning keeps pace with technological change.

9. Student voice and engagement

All students at David Game College participate in an annual careers survey designed to capture their aspirations, interests, and feedback on the careers programme. This helps ensure that careers education remains relevant, personalised, and responsive to students' evolving needs, while also informing future planning and provision.

10. Destination Data

We produce destination data for A-level students as part of our ongoing evaluation of the careers program. This data provides insight into the pathways students take after completing their A-levels, including placements at Russell Group universities, apprenticeships, employment, and other training opportunities. A key focus of our analysis is the number of students progressing to Russell Group universities, which reflects the success of our guidance in supporting students aiming for highly competitive institutions. Additionally, we assess the alignment between subject choices and students' chosen destinations, ensuring that their A-level selections are well-suited to their future academic and career aspirations. This analysis helps us understand trends, such as a growing interest in specific subject areas, and enables us to provide targeted advice for future cohorts.

We also monitor interest in AI-related degree pathways, technical qualifications, and emerging digital fields, reflecting the growing influence of technology in students' long-term career choices.

11. **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

The Head of UCAS/Careers at David Game College is committed to ongoing professional development to remain informed about the latest trends in careers education. CPD events attended this academic year include the Career Development Institute's Conference (April), which focused on the role of AI in Careers Education, the Unifrog Careers Conference (May), and the QM University of London Conference (June). These events, alongside various webinars from Oxbridge and UCAS, ensure that the college's careers guidance remains up-to-date and of the highest quality.

This training supports the College's commitment to delivering high-quality AI-related guidance through both careers education and the Futura programme.

12. **Ongoing Strategic Focus**

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we recognise the value of developing longer-term partnerships with a broader range of employers. Doing so will enable us to offer students more sustained and varied exposure to the world of work, particularly in sectors outside the creative industries. We also plan to strengthen parental engagement by introducing termly communications (workshops or webinars), helping parents/guardians feel better informed and empowered to support their children's career planning and post-18 decisions.

A key strategic focus will also be the continued development of the Futura programme, ensuring students build strong AI literacy and understand both the challenges and opportunities of an AI-driven labour market.

Conclusion

At David Game College, we are proud of the strong alignment our careers provision has with the Gatsby Benchmarks, which underpin our strategic and well-coordinated approach to careers education. We have established a stable and progressive careers programme (Benchmark 1), which is strengthened through the creation of the DG Advisory Board for Careers, Employment and Entrepreneurship (DG ABCEE), ensuring our careers strategy remains both current and industry-relevant. We actively meet Benchmark 2 (Learning from Career and Labour Market Information) through our use of the Unifrog platform, which provides students with structured access to careers and progression data, and we tailor our support to meet the needs of each student (Benchmark 3) via individual guidance appointments, support for early applicants, and an annual careers survey that informs programme development.

We embed Benchmark 4 (Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers) through targeted activities during National Careers Week, where staff link subject knowledge to relevant career pathways. Students engage with employers and employees in a meaningful way (Benchmark 5), for example through our Dragons' Den competition, alumni networking opportunities, and industry-specific workshops such as those hosted by the Jimmy Choo Academy. Experiences of the workplace (Benchmark 6) are provided through volunteering roles like the Aldgate in Winter Festival, which help students build vital employability skills in real-world settings. Our careers provision also ensures strong engagement with higher education (Benchmark 7) through events including our University Fair, UCAS Discovery Exhibition, and the Create Your Future trip. Benchmark 8 (Personal Guidance) is embedded through regular 1:1 appointment, a structured programme of assemblies and tutor support, and evening events for parents. In addition, our commitment to continuing professional development ensures that our Head of UCAS/Careers remains well-informed of sector developments and best practice. Overall, we believe our careers programme is inclusive, comprehensive, and responsive to the evolving needs of our students, and we remain committed to refining and enhancing it year on year.

The College is also committed to preparing students for a future shaped in significant ways by Artificial Intelligence. Through the Futura course and ongoing integration of AI-focused guidance across events,

workshops and LMI, we ensure students are equipped with both realistic expectations and the confidence to pursue the many new and emerging opportunities technology is creating.