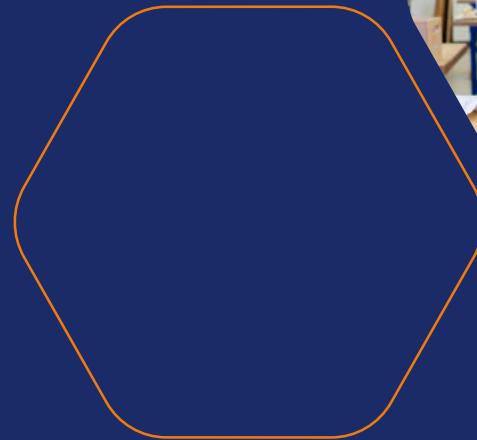


Careers Hub Calendar

2026 - 2027



West Midlands
Combined Authority
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Introduction

The West Midlands Careers Hub continues to work in partnership with schools, colleges, employers and careers professionals to ensure that every young person has access to high-quality careers education and meaningful encounters with the world of work.



As part of a national network of Careers Hubs, we support institutions to develop strategic, impactful careers programmes that raise aspirations, improve outcomes and prepare young people for their next best step.

This academic year marks an important shift in the delivery of work experience following updates to the Department for Education's statutory careers guidance. From September 2026, schools are expected to reform work experience programmes in line with the Government's ambition that all young people access a minimum of two weeks' worth of meaningful workplace experiences by the end of Year 11. These experiences should start earlier, be progressive in nature, and support pupils to develop career readiness through a variety of employer-led activities and workplace encounters.

Modern Work Experience moves beyond the traditional one-week placement model, providing multiple, high-quality workplace experiences throughout a young person's education journey.

These experiences may include workplace visits, employer projects, work shadowing, mentoring, virtual experiences and placements, all designed to be meaningful and linked to learning outcomes. The WMCA Careers Hub is at the forefront of this development, supporting schools and employers across the region to build sustainable, inclusive work experience programmes that meet the needs of both young people and local labour markets.

Alongside these developments, the updated Gatsby Benchmarks remain the foundation of world-class careers education. The revised framework strengthens the focus on workplace experiences, personalisation and progression, ensuring that every learner can make informed decisions about their future. The Careers Hub team is here to support schools and colleges with benchmark implementation, strategic planning, employer engagement and continuous improvement. We look forward to working with you throughout 2026/27 to create meaningful opportunities that inspire ambition and help every young person in the West Midlands achieve their potential.

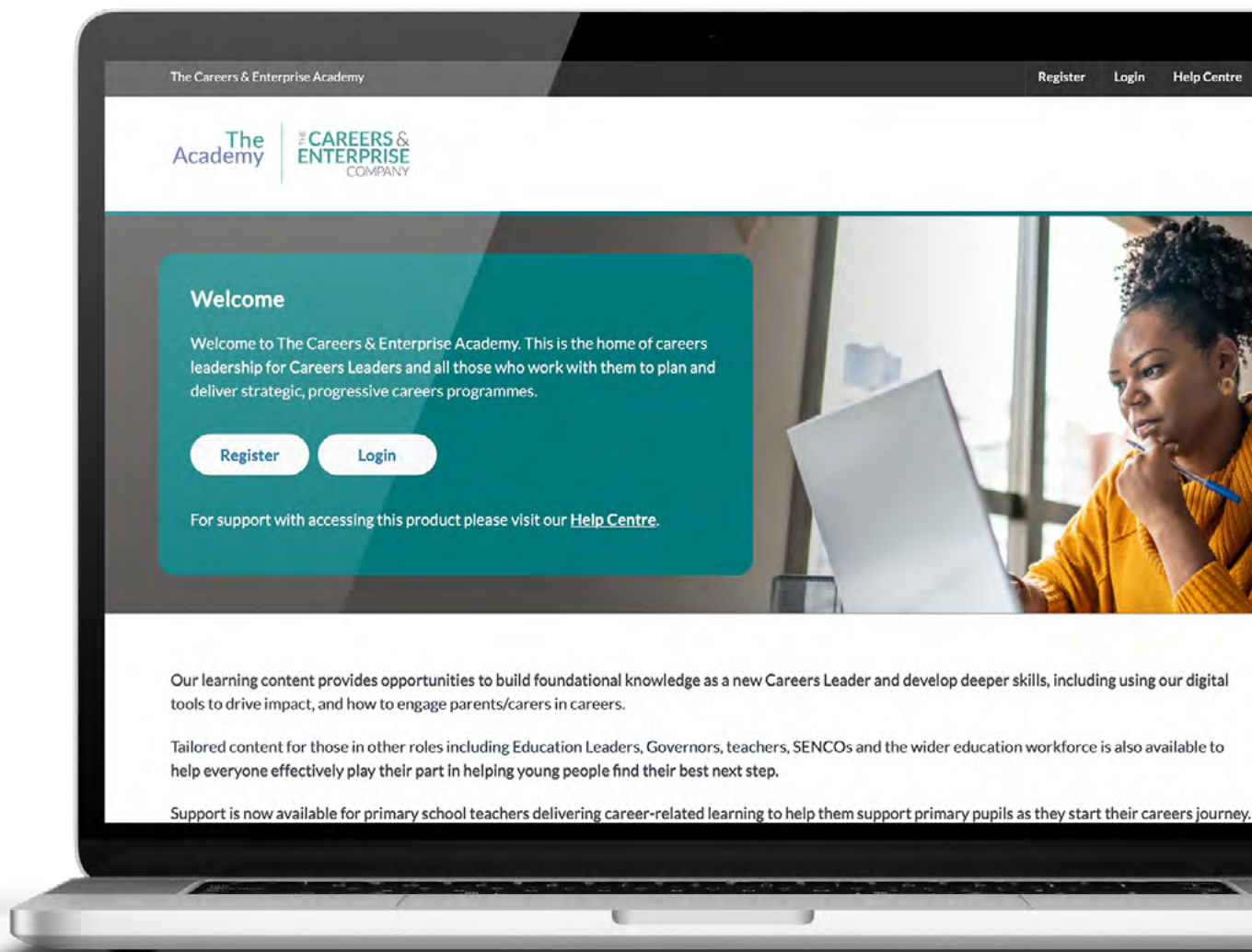
The Careers and Enterprise Company

Accessing the Academy

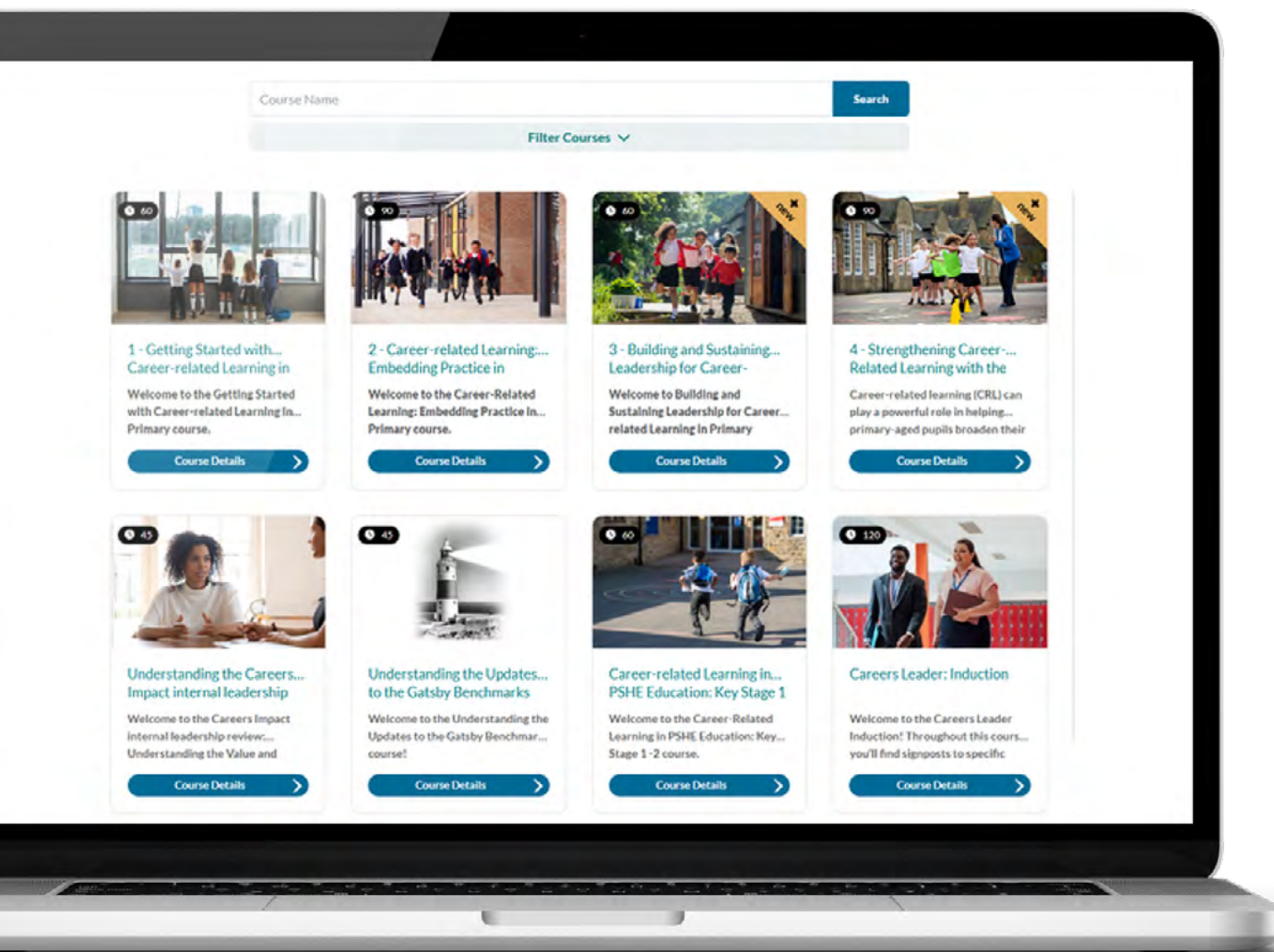
By using the button below, if you haven't already, we recommend that you register to access The Academy from The Careers and Enterprise Company. This platform replaced the Digital Hub last academic year and is the go to place for training, resources and up to date information. The picture to the right is linked to the landing page you will need.

Throughout the academic year 2026-2027 we will be signposted Careers Leaders, teachers, school leads and our employer network to the academy to ensure they are aware of key updates, webinars and free training courses that are available.

[Access the Academy](#)



Be sure to visit the Library and access modules that will help you and your team with continuous professional development opportunities.



Useful links

All the above logos below are linked to the resources available through The Careers and Enterprise Company...

Resource
Directory

COMPASS +

COMPASS

Provider
Directory

Primary
Platform

Careers Friendly - Learn Live

Careers Friendly- Learn Live, supports schools and colleges in delivering high-quality careers education by providing access to employer-led virtual events, labour market information, skills development sessions and career pathway exploration. The platform helps connect education and industry, ensuring young people are better informed and prepared for their future careers.

During last academic year, the WMCA Careers Hub, collaborated with many organisations to bring 10 on demand videos, covering:

- Careers That Make a Difference: Pathways into Local Government
- Digital, Tech and Creative (and AI)
- Construction: Boosting Skills Pathways
- Transport: Focus on Rail
- Health and Medical Devices- MedTech
- Clean Tech and Smart Energy
- Advanced Engineering, light electrical vehicles and battery technology
- Green Tech
- Careers in Gaming
- Careers in Charity and Voluntary Sectors

You can access all of the WMCA Careers Hub videos by signing up to the Careers Friendly platform - **Sign up here!**

2026 - 2027

We are really excited to be working with Learn Live again for 2026-2027 and are already starting to draft our programme of content.

You will be able to access content that covers:

- Provider Access Legislation
- Modern Work Experience
- Health and Social Care
- Defence - Midlands Nuclear Skills Hub
- Aerospace

And many more...

We are really excited to be working with Learn Live again for 2026-2027 and are already starting to draft our programme of content.

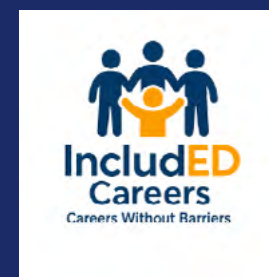
Keep an eye out for our updated links shared through our comms.



WMCA Careers Hub Pop-up Shops

The WMCA Careers Hub Pop-Up Shops are practical enterprise and work experience opportunities, primarily designed to support SEND (learners in developing employability skills in a real-world setting). Schools and colleges are given the chance to run a temporary retail space where students create, market and sell products to members of the public.

- Our Confirmed venue locations are:
- Coventry: Coventry Cathedral, CV1 5EX
- Dudley: Provision House, DY1 1PY
- Walsall: The Crossing at St Pauls, WS1 1DA
- Walsall: Walsall Market, Park Street, WS1 1LY (Monday, Tuesday, Fridays)
- Walsall: Bloxwich Market, WS3 2JH (Tuesdays and Fridays)
- Wolverhampton: Bilston Market, WV14 0DN (Friday)
- Wolverhampton: Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU (May-June only)
- Sandwell: West Bromwich Outdoor Market, B70 7NW
- Sandwell: Wednesbury Outdoor Market, B70 7NW (Tuesday & Friday)
- Solihull: Chelmsley Wood Mall (Shopping Centre), B37 5TS (for GPS use B37 5EX)
- Solihull: Birmingham Hospice Charity Shop, Unit 4-8 Mell Square, Solihull, B91 3AY



Dedicated Resources:

Our colleagues at IncludED Careers - Careers without Barriers have supported us to create some amazing resources to use to help with planning and prep for attending a pop up shop. Be sure to visit the site and utilise the resources that are available. These resources support schools to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks.

[Book a pop-up shop](#)

[School resources](#)



Compass Completion Dates 2026 - 2027

Dates to add to your calendar:

Autumn Term completion date: **Friday 11th December 2026**

Spring Term completion date: **Friday 19th March 2027**

Summer Term completion date: **Friday 9th July 2027**

IncludED Community of Practice Dates 2026 - 2027

Dates to add to your calendar:

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Thursday 19th November 2026

Tuesday 19th January 2027

Wednesday 10th March 2027

Thursday 13th May 2027

Tuesday 6th July 2027



Annual Projects

Project	Project description	URL
Energy Quest STEM Challenge	Energy Quest is a curriculum-linked programme for schools which encourages young people to find out all about sustainable energy and learn about associated engineering careers.	https://www.engineeringuk.com/our-programmes/energy-quest/
Greenpower Electric Car Challenge	Greenpower inspire young people around the world to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through a unique challenge: to design, build and race an electric car.	https://www.greenpower.co.uk/
Step into the NHS Competition	Students to choose an NHS career that interests them and create a job description and an advert. Students can work on their own or in teams of up to four.	https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/schools
Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge	Student teams learn how to build, program and control autonomous LEGO robots to complete a series of short, exciting missions using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 sets. Activities can be run with your team outside the classroom or during lessons.	https://roboticschallenge.org.uk/

Events, activities and campaigns 2026 - 2027

September 2026

All month and 21st	World Alzheimer's Month	September 21st is World Alzheimer's Day. The theme for this year throughout the whole of September is 'Time to act on dementia, Time to act on Alzheimer's.	https://www.alzint.org/get-involved/world-alzheimers-month/
All month	Organic September	Organic September is a month-long campaign promoting organic products, sustainable farming, and awareness of the health and environmental benefits of organic living.	https://www.soilassociation.org/support-us/take-action/organic-september/
All month	World Fun Fair month	World Fun Fair Month is a month of celebrating the past, raising awareness for the present and protecting the future of all Traveling Fairgrounds and funfairs internationally please support your local Fun fairs!	http://www.future4fairgrounds.com/
8th	World PT (Physiotherapy) Day	The toolkit for World PT Day includes information sheets, posters, banners, and activities guide.	https://world.physio/wptday
16-22nd	National Coding Week Upskilling staff and parents	Opportunity to raise the profile of coding. Children are learning digital skills in school or through coding clubs such as CoderDojo. We therefore would like these clubs to open their doors to parents for a one-off session in which the children will teach the adults some of the skills they have learnt.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zhgw4xs

September 2026

18th	Youth Mental Health Day	Youth Mental Health Day encourages understanding and discussion of mental health in young people. Theme is #ControlYourScroll. You can be in control of how your phone impacts your mental health	https://stem4.org.uk/youthmentalhealthday/
22nd	World Car Free Day	All around the world towns and cities allow people to experience streets free of motor traffic.	https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-action/world-car-free-day
27th	World Tourism Day	World Tourism Day will be celebrated as the shift towards tourism is being recognized as a crucial pillar for development and as progress is well underway. May 2022 marked the first time the United Nations General Assembly held a special debate on tourism, illustrating the historic relevance of the sector. Tourism is now on the agenda of governments and of international organizations in every global region.	https://www.un.org/en/observances/tourism-day
30th	International Translation Day	International Translation Day is meant as an opportunity to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.	https://sdgresources.relx.com/events/international-translation-day

October 2026

All month	Black History Month	The 2026 theme for Black History Month is “A Century of Black History Commemorations” in the U.S. and “Honouring Our Communities” in the U.K.	https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/black-history-month-2026/
All month	International Walk to School Month	Get your walking shoes on!	https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/international-walk-to-school-month/
4th - 10th	World Space Week	The 2026 theme, “Rocket Revolution,” highlights rapid advancements in rocket technology, including reusable, efficient, and more affordable launch systems that expand opportunities for space exploration, Earth observation, and scientific research.	https://www.worldspaceweek.org/
5th	World Teacher Day	Held annually on 5th October, WTD has become the occasion to mark progress and reflect on ways to counter the remaining challenges for the promotion of the teaching profession.	https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldteachersday
8th	World Sight Day	World Sight Day will highlight the critical importance of prioritising child eye health and give children everywhere the opportunity to love their eyes.	https://www.iapb.org/advocate/world-sight-day/
10th	World Mental Health Day	Each year, WHO selects a theme to highlight a specific challenge; for 2026, the focus is on mental health in humanitarian emergencies, emphasizing the psychological impact of conflict, disaster, and displacement, and the urgent need for accessible support.	https://mentalhealth-uk.org/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-days/world-mental-health-day/

October 2026

13th	Ada Lovelace Day	Ada Lovelace Day (ALD) is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Why not invite one into a science lesson to inspire young people into STEM subjects.	
16th	World Food Day	The worlds farmers produce enough food to feed more than the global population, yet hunger persists. Right to foods for a better life and a better future.	http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/home/en/
27th	National Mentoring Day	Opportunity to raise the profile of mentoring for young people and to encourage more people to sign up to be mentors.	http://www.nationalmentoringday.org/
29th	RSPB Feed the birds day	Wild birds are important to many people in society and have an impact on our ecosystem. During this weekend The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (R.S.P.B.) advises people to put out food and water for birds regularly. These can be kept in safe environments where the birds can land, rest and replenish themselves. Birds can be in danger of malnutrition during colder months. The weather naturally limits the amount of food the birds get access to in the wild.	https://nationaltoday.com/rspb-feed-the-birds-day/

November 2026

8th	International Day of Radiology	The 2026 theme will be highlighting the critical role of radiology in healthcare and honouring radiology professionals worldwide.	https://www.internationaldayofradiology.com/about-idor/
8th	Remembrance Sunday	We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.	http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/events/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday
10th - 14th	Tomorrow's Engineers Week	Tomorrow's Engineers Week aims to shine a spotlight on engineering, engineering careers and engineering professionals. From individual engineers to professional engineering institutions and global engineering companies, it's an opportunity to showcase modern engineering and inspirational engineers and technicians.	https://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/tomorrow-s-engineers-week/
24th and 25th	National School of College Leavers Festival	NSCL Fest showcases all opportunities including Apprenticeships, Further and Higher Education, entry level roles, and general employment, offering visitors the chance to engage with England's top Employers, Colleges, Universities and Training Providers in a face-to-face, interactive environment. The National School + College Leaver Festival is the perfect opportunity for School and College leavers, as well as young adults, parents and carers, to discover more about post-School and post-College opportunities across England, from Liverpool to Manchester, all the way down to Bristol and London, and everywhere in between!	https://nscfest.com/want-to-visit/

November 2026

10th	BIMA Digital Day	The only initiative of its kind, BIMA Digital Day gives 11-16 year olds an insight into a world of digital careers. Students get to meet digital experts and compete in a sponsored nationwide digital challenge for a chance to win £500 cash for their school and some fantastic prizes for themselves. Linking industry professionals with schools and Colleges to raise awareness of the opportunities for young people in the digital sector.	https://bima.co.uk/bima-programmes/bima-digital-day/
19th	World Philosophy Day	By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for everyone.	https://internationaleventday.com/event/world-philosophy-day/

December 2026

3rd	International Day of Persons with disabilities	The annual observance of the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with a disability. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with a disability in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.	https://internationaleventday.com/event/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities/
-----	--	---	---

December 2026

5th	World Soil Day	World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources	https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-soil-day
6th	Small business Saturday	Celebrate entrepreneurial spirit by inviting some local small businesses to talk about their career journeys, how they built their own businesses and see them inspire your young people.	https://smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/
7th	International Civil Aviation Day	The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to social and economic development.	http://www.icao.int/secretariat/SecretaryGeneral/AviationDay/Pages/default.aspx

January 2027

24th January	International Day of Education	Capturing the spirit of the International Day of Education, UNESCO and partners have spearheaded the Learning Planet Festival to celebrate learning in all contexts and share innovations that fulfil the potential of every learner, no matter what their circumstances.	http://www.unesco.org/en/days/education
29th	RSPB Big birdwatch	Big Garden Birdwatch is a wildlife survey organized to motivate everyone to take steps for the protection of these species and their habitat by counting and keeping track of birds in your garden.	https://nationaltoday.com/big-garden-birdwatch/

February 2027

All month	LGBT+ History month	BT History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high school history teacher Rodney Wilson.	https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/
8th - 14th	National Apprenticeship Week	An annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships across England and is a time to recognise and applaud apprenticeship success stories across the country.	https://naw.appawards.co.uk/
11th	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	International awareness to recognise the critical role women and girls play in science and technology. Each year there is a different theme.	https://www.un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day
27th	World NGO day	World NGO Day is an international day dedicated to recognise, celebrate and honour all non-government and non-profit organisations and the people behind them that contribute to the society all year round.	https://worldngoday.org/
26th and 27th	What University & What Career? Live Virtual Event	Held at the NEC benefit from one-to-one advice with expert advisors and get the support you need to take your next step with confidence	https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/events/birmingham/

March 2027

Throughout March	Open Doors: Get into Construction	Open Doors goes behind the site hoardings to showcase the fantastic range of careers available in construction.	https://opendoors.construction/
1st - 5th	National Careers Week	Empowering positive change through Careers Education. A celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.	https://nationalcareersweek.com/
1st - 7th	Food Waster action week	WRAP & Love Food Hate Waste dedicate a week of action to raising awareness of the environmental consequences of wasting food and promoting activities that help reduce the amount of food wasted.	https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/citizen-behaviour-change/love-food-hate-waste/key-campaigns/food-waste-action-week
4th	World Engineering Day	International Day of Celebration of engineers and engineering.	
4th	World Book Day	Designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.	https://www.worldbookday.com/
5th - 14th	British Science Week	Events, school projects, challenges. Grants, support and resources available. Connections' is an apt theme for British Science Week 2023.	http://www.britishscienceweek.org/

March 2027

8th	International Women's Day	Celebrating women's achievements and reinforce a commitment to women's equality. Invite an inspiring female employee to speak to your female students about their career.	http://www.internationalwomensday.com/events
14th	Pi Day	Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about math and eat pie.	http://www.piday.org/
18th - 27th	English Tourism week	Opportunity to promote jobs within the tourism sector and invite in local tourism employers/employees.	http://www.visitbritain.org/english-tourism-week
21st	International Day of Forests	International Day of Forests aims to help the restoration and sustainable management of forests and to help address climate-change and biodiversity crises. It also produces goods and services for sustainable development, fostering an economic activity that creates jobs and improves lives.	https://nationaltoday.com/international-day-forests/
22nd	World water day	Water means different things to different people. This conversation is about what water means to you.	http://www.worldwaterday.org/
27th	World Theatre Day	This is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "theatre".	http://www.world-theatre-day.org/

April 2027

All month	National Pet Month	National Pet Month (NPM) celebrates and raises awareness of responsible pet ownership through our educational campaigns and resources across various platforms.	http://www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk/
15th April	World Art Day	World Art Day is an occasion to shine a light on arts education in schools, as culture can pave the way for inclusive and equitable education.	https://nationaltoday.com/world-art-day/
22nd	Stephen Lawrence Day	Invite a relatable role model to come into mentor and judge you're your people's next social action project to benefit and improve your local community.	https://stephenlawrenceday.org/
22nd	Earth Day	Annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection.	http://www.earthday.org/
27th	International Design Day	On this day, we challenge designers to reflect deeply on the well-being of people within their local environments and to find innovative solutions to local needs by using design as a vehicle to honour diversity and transcend.	http://www.theicod.org/activities/international-design-day

May 2027

3rd May	World Press Freedom Day	3rd May acts as a reminder to government of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom and is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics.	http://www.unesco.org/en/days/press-freedom-day
4th	International Firefighters Day	International Firefighters Day (IFFD) is a time where the world's community can recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.	http://www.firefightersday.org/
5th	International Day of the Midwife	Advocating for investment in quality midwifery care around the world, improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health in the process.	https://bimcal.uk/calendar/international-midwives-day
12th May	International Nurses Day	International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12th, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.	https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-withus/nurses-day
11th - 17th	Mental Health Awareness Week	Bringing an awareness of mental health for everyone.	https://mentalhealth-uk.org/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-days/
17th - 17th June	National Smile Month	The Oral Health Foundation will be raising awareness of important health issues and ready to put a smile on everybody's face.	https://nationaltoday.com/national-smile-month/

May 2027

22nd	International Day for Biological Diversity	Biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation.	http://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day
31st - 6th June	National BBQ Week	Invite volunteers to speak about their careers in food technology, food production and how this links with the curriculum they are studying.	https://nationalbbqweek.info/

June 2027

All month	Pride Month	Across the globe, various events are held during this special month as a way of recognising the influence LGBT people have had around the world. Why was June chosen? Because it is when the Stonewall Riots took place, way back in 1969.	http://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/
1st - 7th	Volunteers Week	Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering.	https://volunteersweek.org/

June 2027

5th	World Environment Day	World Environment Day calls for urgent action to revive our damaged ecosystems.	http://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day
18th	Clean Air Day	Clean Air Day is the UK's largest air pollution campaign, bringing together communities, businesses, schools and the health sector.	http://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day

July 2027

29th July	International Tiger Day	Affected by: Illegal wildlife trade, human wildlife conflict, habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change. The beautiful, awe-inspiring tiger is one of our planet's most iconic animals. But here's the shocking truth. Wild tiger numbers dropped by more than 95% since the beginning of the 20th century.	https://www.wwf.org.uk/
-----------	-------------------------	--	---



Careers Hub Calendar 2026-27

careershubnetwork@wmca.org.uk

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)
16 Summer Lane Birmingham, B19 3SD
Tel: 0345 303 6760 | wmca.org.uk

West Midlands
Combined Authority
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY