

Birkenhead High School Academy Careers Programme (2026 - 2027) | YEARS 7 TO 13

SECTION 1: TERM-BY-TERM CAREER CURRICULUM (Y7 - Y13)

Year Group	Module Theme	Term	Gatsby Benchmarks	CDI Framework Alignment	Core Careers & Curriculum Content
Year 7	INSPIRE	Autumn Term	1, 2, 3	Grow throughout life (Who am I?), Explore possibilities (What is a career?)	Unifrog setup, Interests Profile & Personality Quiz, Future Skills Questionnaire. Personal Development: Exploring dream jobs, Careers of the future.
Year 7	INSPIRE	Spring Term	1, 2, 3, 5, 8	Balance life & work (My money personality, Savings & money)	PSHE Lessons: My Future, Into the Future, What my Future looks like, Money personality, Savings & money.
Year 7	INSPIRE	Summer Term	2, 3, 5, 8	Grow throughout life, Create opportunities	Careers focus assemblies
Year 8	ASPIRE	Autumn Term	1, 2, 5	Explore possibilities (Superhero CVs), Manage career (Challenges & rewards of work)	Unifrog refresh; LMI exploration; Personal Development: How many jobs? What motivates you? Why go to work?
Year 8	ASPIRE	Spring Term	1, 2, 3, 5, 8	Grow throughout life, Balance life & work	PSHE Lessons: Work skills, Using my skills, Children and work; Interview with a business ambassador.

Year 8	ASPIRE	Summer Term	2, 3, 5, 8	Create opportunities	LMI assemblies; Career library research on Unifrog.
Year 9	EXPLORE	Autumn Term	1, 2, 4, 7	Explore possibilities (Main learning pathways), Manage career (Choosing KS4 options)	Future Skills Questionnaire; PSHE: Careers for all, Thinking about options; Setting goals module.
Year 9	EXPLORE	Spring Term	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Grow throughout life (STAR model), Create opportunities	Personal Development: What employers want, How do people find a job?, A week in your life (skills & STAR method).
Year 9	EXPLORE	Summer Term	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	See the big picture (Labor market & future skills)	Interview practice with business ambassadors; Targeted mentoring programme.
Year 10	DEVELOP	Autumn Term	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Explore possibilities (Employer profiles), Create opportunities (Preparing for WEX)	PSHE Lessons: Budgeting, Economic cycles, The economy & government, Sell yourself, My CV, Covering letters.
Year 10	DEVELOP	Spring Term	1, 3, 5, 6	Create opportunities (Placement experience), See the big picture	Work Experience Preparation: Approaching employers, interview techniques, teamwork & professional communication.
Year 10	DEVELOP	Summer Term	2, 3, 5, 6	Grow throughout life (Reflecting on past, present & future journey)	Work experience debrief & reflection; Job of the Week exploration; Career drop-in sessions with Careers Lead.
Year 11	HORIZONS	Autumn Term	1, 2, 3, 7, 8	Manage career (Choosing Post-16 pathways), Grow throughout life	PSHE Lessons: Bank accounts & saving, Borrowing money, Career Pathways 16+, Preparing for Sixth Form, Revision skills.

Year 11	HORIZONS	Spring Term	2, 3, 5, 8	Explore possibilities, Balance life & work	PSHE Lessons: Understanding payslips, Zero-hour contracts. Career drop-in sessions & Parents' Evening advice.
Year 11	HORIZONS	Summer Term	2, 3, 5, 7	Confidently managing transitions	Post-16 application finalisation; Revision support & destination tracking.
Year 12	ASCEND	Autumn Term	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	Manage career (Setting career goals), See the big picture	Weekly Form Time Careers Briefings; Unifrog launch; UCAS registration; Future Focus webinars & HE research.
Year 12	ASCEND	Spring Term	1, 3, 5, 6, 8	Create opportunities (Networking & Work experience), Balance life & work	BLR Programme: Work experience prep, Reading payslips, Zero-hour contracts, Student finance, Apprenticeships & Gap years.
Year 12	ASCEND	Summer Term	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Personal branding (CV & online profile), Create opportunities	Future Focus Week: UCAS Clinic, ASK Apprenticeship workshops, Shaping Futures 1:1 sessions, Virtual WEX (Springpod).
Year 13	SOAR	Autumn Term	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	Manage career (Managing transitions), Grow throughout life (Personal branding)	UCAS Applications, Personal Statements, Degree Apprenticeship applications, 1-to-1 Guidance with Careers Connect.

Year 13	SOAR	Spring Term	2, 3, 5, 6, 8	Balance life & work (Self-employment & freelancing), Create opportunities	BLR Programme: Student finance (SFE), Work readiness, Payslips, Contracts, Budgeting for HE/Workplace.
Year 13	SOAR	Summer Term	3, 8	Confidently managing transitions into HE/Workforce	Destination tracking, final 1-to-1 exit interviews, transition planning, student life and workplace orientation.

SECTION 2: NATIONAL KEY CAREER AWARENESS DATES & EVENTS				
Date / Month	Key Awareness Event	Focus Area & Target	Integrated School Activity	Gatsby & Equalex Alignment
October 2026	National Work Life	Workplace wellbeing,	Year 7-13 Assembly: Work-	Gatsby 1, 3 CDI Balance Life & Work
October 2026	World Space Week	STEM careers, aerospace	Year 7 & 8 Science curriculum	Gatsby 4 Equalex Opportunity
November 2026	Green Careers Week	Sustainability, renewable	Year 7- 13 Assembly	Gatsby 2, 4 Equalex Growth Sectors
November 2026	Tomorrow's Engineers Week	Engineering pathways, apprenticeships, and technical problem solving.	Year 9 Big Bang Competition prep & STEM employer talks.	Gatsby 4, 5 Equalex Exploration of Roles
February 2027	National Apprenticeship Week (NAW)	Degree apprenticeships, T-Levels, traineeships, and vocational pathways.	Focussed assemblies for Y11 -13	Gatsby 2, 7 Equalex Roles & Pathways
March 2027	National Careers Week (NCW)	Comprehensive career guidance, employer encounters, and workplace readiness.	Year 10 March Work Placements.	Gatsby 1, 5, 6 Equalex Stage 3 Apply

March 2027	International Women's Day (IWD - March 8)	Gender equality, challenging career stereotypes, women in STEM & leadership.	Year 7-13 Special Assembly & Business Ambassador Interviews with female leaders.	Gatsby 3, 5 Equalex Inspiration & Stereotypes
March 2027	British Science Week & Healthcare Science Week	Medical careers, NHS healthcare science, biotechnology, and innovation.	Lunchtime drop ins - 'meet the professionals' offered to all year groups	Gatsby 4, 5, 6 Equalex Stage 2 & 3
June 2027	International Women in Engineering Day (INWED)	Female participation in engineering, technology, construction, and manufacturing.	Year 9 & 10 Girls in STEM workshops & alumni panel discussion.	Gatsby 3, 4, 5 Equalex Inspiration
July 2027	World Youth Skills Day	Youth employment, essential skills (Skills Builder framework), and future readiness.	Year 10 & 12 Post-WEX skill logging, reflection, and Unifrog journal completion.	Gatsby 3, 8 Equalex Stage 3 Reflection

SECTION 3: EQUALEX WORK EXPERIENCE FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT				
Equalex Theme &	Equalex Learning	Equalex Learning Objective	Mapped Year Group &	Supporting Tools & Platform
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Opportunity Awareness	Understand workplace types (office, remote, hybrid) and employment types (self-employed, freelance, FT).	Year 7 (Spring) / Year 8 (Autumn): - Hope Uni Workplace Event - Personal Development:	Unifrog Work Environments Profile Quiz; CDI Lesson: In person, hybrid & remote working
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Opportunity Awareness	Recall sectors/jobs and workplace characteristics.	Year 7 (Autumn) / Year 8 (Spring): - Unifrog Interests & Personality Quizzes - Careers Focus Assemblies	Unifrog Careers Library; Career & Subject of the Month resources

1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Opportunity Awareness	Identify links between curriculum and essential workplace skills.	Years 7-10 (Ongoing): - Gatsby Benchmark 4 Subject Integrations - STEM/Arts/MFL Career Links	Unifrog Careers in Curriculum Templates; Subject-specific career lessons
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Self Awareness	Self-assess essential workplace skills against Skills Builder Universal Framework.	Year 8 (Spring) / Year 9 (Spring): - Personal Development: STAR Method	Unifrog Skills Profile Quiz; Psychometric Testing; Unifrog Skills Logging
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Self Awareness	Identify passions, interests & skills to inform career pathways.	Year 7 (Autumn) / Year 8 (Autumn): - Unifrog Interest Profile - Personal Development: What motivates you?	Unifrog Personality Profile; CDI Lesson: Who am I? & What are my interests?
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Self Awareness	Describe work style and ideal working environment preferences.	Year 8 (Autumn) / Year 9 (Autumn): - Personal Development: Exploring Dream Jobs	Work Environments Profile Quiz; CDI Lesson: Challenges and rewards of work
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Inspiration	Recognise and challenge stereotypes about career pathways.	Year 8 (Spring) / Year 9 (Spring): - PSHE: Careers for All	CDI Lesson: What comes after school; Money talks: apprenticeships vs. HE
1. Introduce and Inspire (Years 7 - 10)	Inspiration	Identify career role models and articulate early aspirations.	Year 7 (Autumn) / Year 9 (Autumn): - Business Ambassador Interviews	Unifrog Careers Library; Personal Development: Aspirations & Role Models
2. Investigate and Explore (Years 9 - 13)	Career Readiness	Evidence essential workplace skills (Skills Builder Framework) and remote skills.	Year 10 (Autumn/Spring) / Year 12 (Spring): - Work Experience Prep & Journaling	Unifrog Work Experience Journal; Virtual WEX Courses (Springpod)
2. Investigate and Explore (Years 9 - 13)	Career Readiness	Create/design something based on an employer brief.	Year 8 (Nov) / Year 9 (March): - Entrepreneur Day (Market Stall Brief)	On-demand Virtual Work Experience; Employer Brief Projects

2. Investigate and Explore (Years 9 - 13)	Exploration of Roles & Pathways	Understand routes into employment (T-Levels, Apprenticeships, A-Levels, HE).	Year 11 (Autumn) / Year 12 (Spring): - Post-16/18 Choices & SLT Interviews	Unifrog Pathway Guides (Apprenticeships, T-Levels, Degrees); UCAS Portal
2. Investigate and Explore (Years 9 - 13)	Exploration of Roles & Pathways	Describe roles of different people within an organisation.	Year 10 (Spring) / Year 12 & 13 (Spring): - Hope University Workplace Events	Unifrog Employer Profiles; Know-How Library; NHS Pathway Guides
2. Investigate and Explore (Years 9 - 13)	Growth Sectors & LMI	Identify local/national growth sectors and changing economy dynamics.	Year 10 (Autumn) / Year 12 (Autumn): - Economic Cycles & Government PSHE	Unifrog LMI Explorer; Local Labour Market Reports
3. Apply and Demonstrate (Years 10 - 13)	Applying Knowledge & Skills	Evidence applied knowledge, essential skills, and behaviour in workplace; receive feedback.	Years 10 (March): Year 12 (May) - 1-Week March Work Placements - Placement Employer	Unifrog Placement Tool; Work Experience Journaling; Skill Logging
3. Apply and Demonstrate (Years 10 - 13)	Applying Knowledge & Skills	Demonstrate learning from workplace experiences to inform future choices.	Years 10, 12, 13 (Spring/Summer): - WEX Debrief & Reflection Sessions	Unifrog Placement Review Tool; Activity & Skill Logging
3. Apply and Demonstrate (Years 10 - 13)	Applying Knowledge & Skills	Evidence skills and behaviour in recruitment processes (Mock Interviews / Assessment Days).	Year 11 (Spring) / Year 12 & 13 (Autumn/Spring): - Corporate Mock Interviews - Future Focus Assessment Workshops	CDI Lessons: Interview Basics & Assessment Days; Unifrog Mock Interview Prep
3. Apply and Demonstrate (Years 10 - 13)	Applying Knowledge & Skills	Compare workplace experiences (e.g. Hope Uni vs. NHS vs. March WEX) and evaluate impact.	Year 12 & Year 13 (Summer): - Reflection on Hope Uni, May WEX - UCAS Personal Statement / App Prep	Unifrog Placement Evaluation & Personal Statement Builder



Curriculum Links (Gatsby 4)	
Curriculum Links (Gatsby 4)	Key Milestone Events & Work Experiences
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Half-termly Careers Focus Assemblies Oct: National Work Life Week & World Space Week Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week Recurring drop in 'meet a professional events Drop in station with careers adviser every Wednesday lunchtime
Careers in the curriculum starters.	● Feb: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week Recurring drop in 'meet a professional events Drop in station with careers adviser every Wednesday lunchtime
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Annual Careers Fair ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Oct: World Space Week Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week Chester Zoo Careers assembly Recurring drop in 'meet a professional events Drop in station with careers adviser every Wednesday lunchtime
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Experience of the Workplace Event at Hope University; National Apprenticeship Fair visit (Feb) ● Feb: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week

Careers in the curriculum starters.	Annual Careers Fair; Targeted University Visits (Edge Hill & Hope Universities) ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Year 9 Options Evening preparation; Careers focus assemblies Liverpool Hope Univserity Pre 16 experience days ● Oct: National Work Life Week & World Space Week ● Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week, Chester Zoo Careers assembly
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Liverpool Hope Univserity Pre 16 experience days ● Feb: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Annual Careers Fair , Liverpool Hope Univserity Pre 16 experience days ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Work Ex preparation assemblies and Unifrog sessions ● Oct: National Work Life Week & World Space Week ● Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT WEEK (March); ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Careers Fair ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day
Careers in the curriculum starters.	1-to-1 Impartial Guidance (Careers Connect); SLT Post-16 Pathway Interviews; Sixth Form Open Evening ● Oct: National Work Life Week & World Space Week ● Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week

Careers in the curriculum starters.	Experience of the Workplace Event at Hope University; Corporate Mock Interviews; Loudspeaker / NCS sessions ● Feb: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Annual Careers Fair: Sixth form taster day ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day
Careers in the curriculum starters.	● Oct: National Work Life Week & World Space Week ● Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	● Feb: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS WEEK Future Focus Week - university visits ect ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day
Careers in the curriculum starters.	● Oct: National Work Life Week & World Space Week ● Nov: Green Careers Week & Tomorrow's Engineers Week

Careers in the curriculum starters.	WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT WEEK (March); TASTE OF THE NHS DAY; Experience of the Workplace Event at Hope University ● Feb: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) ● Mar: International Women's Day (IWD - Mar 8) ● Mar: National Careers Week (NCW) & Healthcare Science Week
Careers in the curriculum starters.	Final Pathway Destination Confirmation & Transition Support ● Jun: International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) ● Jul: World Youth Skills Day

