



12 January 2026

Dear Parents (Second Year)

Following my email in December, I am pleased to share further details about the Next Steps Careers events taking place this half term. All events are designed to support students as they consider their future pathways, including direct employment, apprenticeships and graduate careers.

Next Steps: Careers Presentation (Online), Thursday 29th January, 6:00pm–7:15pm on Zoom

This virtual event is suitable for students and parents, and will feature:

- An Apprenticeship Presentation delivered by Manifest Coaching & Facilitation.
- Guest speakers from a range of local and national employers, including the NHS, Thales, Cripps, Architectural Plants and Barrington James.
- Current apprentices from Airbus and Rolls-Royce.

Our panel will explore career options and apprenticeship routes, offering advice on how students can progress directly into employment or an apprenticeship after their time at Collyer's.

The event aims to help students and their parents/carers to:

- Understand apprenticeship and employment pathways after college and university.
- Gain insight into a variety of career sectors.
- Hear directly from employers about recruitment processes and what makes a strong applicant.

Next Steps: Careers Fair (In Person), Wednesday 4th February, 5:30pm–8:00pm

Our annual Careers Fair brings together a wide range of organisations, including Civil Aviation Authority, Assurity Consulting, Gatwick Airport, Sussex Police, DMH Stallard, Honeywell Ltd, Rolls-Royce, Creative Technology, Environment Agency, Thales, HM Revenue & Customs, Army and many more! To help manage parking and footfall, we are offering five bookable arrival times for students and up to one accompanying parent. We anticipate high demand, so recommend booking early to secure a place.

In addition to the evening events above, we are hosting two additional daytime events for second year students:

- **Assessment Centre Workshop, Friday 27th February, 12:15pm-2:05pm.**
- **Interview Skills and Techniques Workshop, Friday 6th March, 12:15pm-1:20pm**

These sessions are highly recommended for students considering apprenticeships or employment as their progression route.

Bookings for all events can be made via MyProgress Shop – Enrichment.

Students Applying for Higher Education

If your student has applied for Higher Education, or is considering submitting a late application, please note the following important information:

UCAS Deadline – 14th January at 6.00pm

Forms must reach UCAS by this deadline for fair consideration. Students should check their emails if they have submitted their form but have not received confirmation from UCAS. In some cases, we may have asked students to make corrections to inaccuracies before their form can be sent.

Late Applications

Students can still apply through UCAS after 14th January; however, universities are not required to consider late applications or make offers.

Student Finance

Students should now visit [Student finance login - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-login) to begin their application for a student loan. They do not need to confirm their university choice until they receive an unconditional offer or their results in August. Completing the form early does not commit them to taking out a loan, but it does help ensure that funding is processed in time for the start of the academic year.

Clearing

The UCAS Clearing system runs from **2 July to 19 October 2026**. Students can use Clearing if they:

- apply after 30th June 2026
- do not receive any offers (or none they wish to accept)
- do not meet the conditions of their offers
- decline their firm choice
- achieve higher grades than expected and wish to explore opportunities on courses with higher entry requirements

Further information can be found here: [What is Clearing? Find out when Clearing happens and how it works.](#)

Further Support

For Higher Education application queries, please contact Ian McAlister (Director for Progression: Higher Education) at im@collyers.ac.uk.

For queries relating to employment or apprenticeships, please contact Rebecca Adams at rja@collyers.ac.uk. Additional guidance and resources can also be found on our Progression Guidance [webpage here](#).

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Next Steps Careers Presentation (online) on 29th January and at the Careers Fair (in person) on 4th February.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Adams
Director of Personal Development