



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



8 September 2026

Dear Families,

Ref: Career Connect – KS4 and KS5 Students

Please find attached some important information about the independent careers advice and guidance available to students in Years 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 at Abbot's Lea School.

If you have any questions about the careers advice and guidance offer, please contact Suzanne directly using the details provided in the attached information.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Mason
Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department



8 September 2026

Dear Families,

I am pleased to introduce myself as the Careers Adviser for Abbot's Lea School. My name is Suzanne McMahon, and I will be based in school on Thursdays.

I have over 20 years' experience of supporting young people and their families. Before becoming a Careers Adviser, I worked as a social worker and Play Therapist, which has given me a wide range of experience in supporting young people with their individual needs, aspirations and future plans.

Careers Connect

I work for Careers Connect, a charity committed to helping young people realise their potential and supporting them to explore and achieve their future career aspirations. Careers Connect works with young people in a range of settings and provides guidance to help them make informed decisions about their next steps.

My role at Abbot's Lea

My role is to support our students as they begin to think about their futures, including their plans for further education, training, employment and work experience.

This support may include:

- Individual careers guidance meetings with students.
- Group sessions focusing on areas such as further education, apprenticeships, internships and employment.
- Support to explore different post-16 and post-18 options.
- Working with students to identify their interests, strengths and aspirations.
- Providing advice and guidance to parents and carers about future education, training and employment options.

I am also available to speak with families who would like to discuss their student's future options. This can be arranged either in person or by telephone.

Planning for the future

I have included some information below about local providers offering a range of courses, supported internships and apprenticeships. There are also details of upcoming open events.

If your child is hoping to transition from Abbot's Lea next year, I would strongly encourage you to explore these opportunities and, where possible, attend open events. Visiting providers, looking around the facilities and speaking with tutors and support staff can be extremely helpful when considering which options may be the right fit.

Planning early is an important part of a successful transition, and I am here to support students and families throughout this process.

Contacting me

If you have any questions or would like to discuss careers, further education, training, employment or transition options, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Email: Suzanne.mcmahon@careerconnect.org

I am very much looking forward to working with the students and families at Abbot's Lea throughout the year and hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne McMahon

Careers Adviser

Careers Connect

Post-16 Options and Useful Links

As students begin to think about their next steps after Abbot's Lea, there are a range of sixth forms, colleges, training providers and supported internship opportunities available across Liverpool and the surrounding areas.

The providers below offer a variety of courses and pathways, including options for students who may benefit from additional support.

Sixth Forms, Colleges and Training Providers

- **City of Liverpool College** – <https://www.liv-coll.ac.uk/>
- **Hugh Baird College** – <https://www.hughbaird.ac.uk/>
- **Knowsley Community College** – <https://www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk/>
- **Carmel College – Foundation Learning** – <https://www.carmel.ac.uk/school-leaver-courses-16-18/foundation-learning/foundation-learning-entry-level/>
- **Greenbank College** – <https://www.greenbankcollege.org.uk/>
- **Myerscough College** – <https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/>
- **St Helens College** – <https://sthelens.ac.uk/>
- **Steps to Work – Strawberry Field** – <https://www.strawberryfield.salvationarmy.org.uk/steps-work>
- **SWRAC** – <https://swrac.co.uk/>
- **Riverside College** – <https://www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/>
- **Supported Internships – Liverpool City Council** – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/jobs-and-business/employment-and-skills/supported-internships/>

Open Events

Open events are a great opportunity for students and families to visit providers, look around the facilities, meet staff and find out more about the courses and support available.

Please note: Many providers require families to register before attending an open event, so please check the provider's website and book your place in advance.

- **Carmel College:** 30 September, 4 November and 19 January | 5:00pm–7:30pm
- **Riverside College:** 20 October and 17 November | 5:00pm–7:00pm
- **Knowsley College:** 4 November | 5:00pm
- **St Helens College:** 11 November | 5:00pm–7:00pm
- **Greenbank College:** 25 November, 25 February and 25 March | 5:00pm–7:00pm
- **Myerscough College:** 3 October, 21 November, 6 February and 17 April | Saturday mornings
- **SWRAC:** Individual visits can be arranged by contacting Jessica Riden at JessicaRiden@swrac.ac.uk

A reminder for families

Choosing the right post-16 pathway is an important decision, and there is no single route that will be right for every student.

We encourage families to start exploring options early, attend open events where possible and speak directly with providers about the courses, facilities, pastoral support and specialist support they can offer.

If you would like support in exploring post-16 options, please contact Suzanne McMahon, Careers Adviser, at Suzanne.mcmahon@careerconnect.org