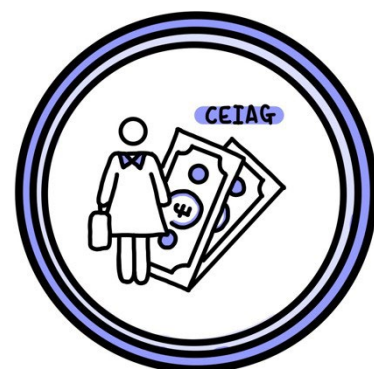




YEAR 9 PARENT INFORMATION PACK 2025-2026



CEIAG AT ORMISTON CHADWICK ACADEMY

“Our intent is to give students the education, advice and guidance to empower them to have high aspirations and self-belief so that they can achieve personal happiness and future success”

At Ormiston Chadwick Academy, our comprehensive CEIAG programme is integral to laying the foundations to encourage a successful future for our students. We offer a bespoke programme, tailors to each year group and accessing all Gatsby Benchmarks, including National Careers Week in order to make the biggest difference to the lives our all students.

Originality

We encourage students to aspire to original and exciting post-16 opportunities and career paths that complement individual personalities and dreams. We provide students with unique & intriguing opportunities and experiences to help lay the foundations of a successful future.

Community

We work together to help one another fulfill our dreams and aspirations. We utilise the links within the wider community to help equip students with the tools needed to enjoy a successful future.

Aspiration

We place CEIAG at the heart of our curriculum from year 7 onward to inspire high pupil aspirations. Clear careers links are embedded throughout all subjects to provide the information that pupils need to achieve future goals.

Excellence

We investigate a wide range of job roles and demonstrate a robust understanding of a myriad of post-16 and career related options, not just those which we ourselves are interested in.

Respect

We promote respect by listening to the stories of others. From fellow pupils to alumni and guests who visit to share their careers related journey.

An opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers at the year 7 progress evening on:

Thursday 18th June 2026

ADULT CAREER PROGRAMME

The National Careers Service offers an adult careers programme in which you can seek support and guidance in a variety of ways:

Completing a job application

Writing a CV

Preparing for an Interview

Seeking guidance into further & higher education to extend learning

If you would like any further information such as exploring different careers, there are plenty of resources available on their website –

www.nationalcareersservice.com

You may also find the resources below useful –

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/parents-and-teachers>

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/advice/parents>

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-finance-and-support/parents-and-carers/how-you-can-help>

<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/preparing-to-go/advice-for-parents/>

The logo for the National Careers Service. It features a bright pink square with a white diagonal line running from the bottom-left corner to the top-right corner. The words "National Careers Service" are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, positioned to the right of the diagonal line.

**National
Careers
Service**

CAREER CONNECT:

We also have a service level agreement with Career Connect in the academy. Our adviser is:

Kerry Hetherington

These are highly qualified, impartial advisers that help prepare our students for life after Year 11. We have a bespoke programme set up in which all students by the time they have reached the end of Year 11 will have met with our adviser at least once, however, the programme does target groups right from Year 7.

If you would like any further guidance or information from our adviser please email her on Kerry.Hetherington@careerconnect.org.uk

Get Connected Portal:

To assist with ideas of what specific careers involve, what skills and qualities they require or what jobs your personality may suit please visit the Career Connect Portal.

You will need to sign up and register for an account with your details, however, you can then access this at any time as there is a wealth of resources available on there.

You can find the link on www.careerconnect.org.uk or on the school website.



Students will also have the opportunity to access the advice and guidance from our Careers Adviser during the allocated programme for identified students or they are welcome to drop in.

***Every Mondays – Break and Lunchtime – Careers Office
Houghtpn Building***

- The Labour Market
- Apprenticeships
- Further and Higher Education prospectus'
- Career opportunities
- Top Tips i.e. writing CVs, completing job applications etc.
- Work Experience Placements

A parent's guide to apprenticeships



As a parent, you want your child to get the best possible start in their career. There are many options available to young people after they leave school, and in this guide, we outline information and benefits about apprenticeships as a key route into a successful career.

What's an apprenticeship? It is a genuine job, with training, meaning you can earn while you learn and gain a nationally recognised qualification.

What are the benefits?

Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and beyond. Over 70 national universities are currently offering a range of degree apprenticeships with more to be confirmed throughout the year.

- Earning a salary and paid holiday;
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace;
- Increased future earning potential – apprentices enjoy marked salary increases on finishing their training and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime.*

What levels are there?

There are various levels of apprenticeship to apply for depending on current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at Grades A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

All apprenticeships include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships will require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

How do you apply?

At any one time there are between 12,000 – 20,000 apprenticeship vacancies available online in a variety of careers and industries across England. Visit **GOV.UK/apply-apprenticeship**. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, your son or daughter can simply register on the website and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply for the role.

Our YouTube channel has useful hints and tips on applying plus other videos on apprenticeships, visit YouTube and search apprenticeships/NAS.

If they are not quite ready for an apprenticeship or job, they could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain valuable work experience and the opportunity to improve their English and maths, if needed. Visit **GOV.UK/find-traineeship** for more information or to apply for traineeship opportunities.

Brought to you by
National
Apprenticeship
Service

NAS-P-170003 April 2018

*University education – is this the best route into employment?
AAT and CEBR Feb 2013

Salaries

The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.70 per hour, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependent on the sector, region and apprenticeship level. E.g. some higher apprenticeships pay up to £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be accessed by looking at the vacancies on 'Find an apprenticeship'.

Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

Recent legislation has come into effect which changes the minimum English and maths requirements needed to complete an apprenticeship for people with a learning difficulty or disability. The changes will lower the English and maths requirements for these apprentices to an Entry Level 3 qualification.

A Disability Confident Employer will generally offer an interview to any applicant that declares they have a disability and meets the minimum criteria as defined by the employer. For more details, search Disability Confident on GOV.UK.

School leaving age

The government has stated that all young people must stay in some form of education or training until at least their 18th birthday. This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post 16, which could be through an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Search apprenticeships
on GOV.UK

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

The Labour Market Information refers to;

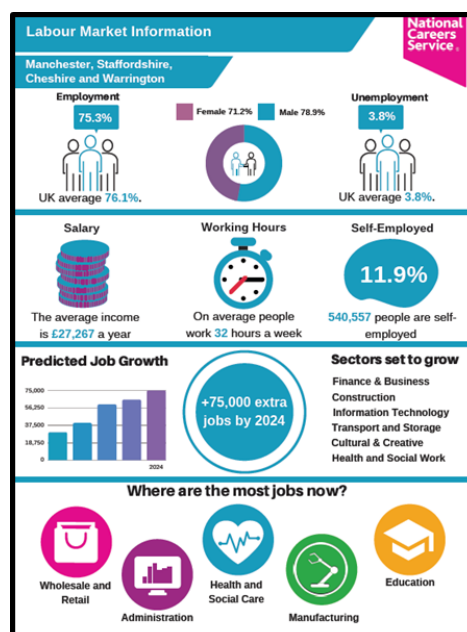
'Labour market information covers the principal elements of the labour market and its operations. The principal elements are the demand for labour and the supply of labour. Demand means the number of jobs available. Supply tells you the number of people who are able to work.'

It is important that both yourselves as parents/carers and students understand the changes to the Labour Market as this will impact what jobs and careers are available and which sectors are growing.

For example:



Students are regularly updated with Labour Market Information related to the 'spotlight career of the week' in our weekly Morning Enrichment careers sessions.



CEIAG PROGRAMME 2025 -2026 – YEAR 9

The programme below is an indication of the careers education, information, advice and guidance your child will experience throughout their time in Year 7.



Additional activities may be added on throughout the year as those opportunities arise.

Activity	Date	Details	Students involved	Benchmark
Spotlight Career of the Week	Weekly - Friday	Exploration of the 'spotlight career of the week' including information on salary, skills, routes into the role and case studies about those working in the specific careers.	Whole year	1, 2, 4, 8
In-house work experience	Throughout the year	Students take part in work experience within school in different departments and job roles	Whole year	6
Employer Talks	Throughout the year	Raising aspirations with a talks from employers led by Speakers for Schools. Providing insight into different career paths and the skills and qualities needed to be successful.	Whole year	5
Year 9 Options Evening	15 th January	Parents and students will be invited to talk to different subject teachers in order to receive support and information regarding option choices.	Whole year	8
Employers Fair	20 th January	Students to visit the main hall to talk to an array of colleges, universities, businesses and other providers about the application process, routes in, qualifications needed, job role etc.	Whole year	3,5 & 7
Parents Progress Evening	5 th February	An evening in which parents find out the progress of their children and what their next steps are. Parent survey to review the CEIAG programme.	Whole year	8
Aspiration Assembly	January 2026	An assembly delivered by vice principal, Mrs Johnson aimed at raising aspirations and introducing students to higher education, the benefits and career opportunities that are presented from having a degree.	Whole year	7 & 8
National Careers Week	March 2026	A variety of activities throughout the week to linking to the 2026 National Careers Week theme including an assembly and various activities surrounding LMI, employers, apprenticeships and development of life skills through careers.	Whole year	Various (specifically 4)
Small group sessions with Careers Connect	June 2026	Small group sessions with the Career Connect Advisor for identified students that need some additional support and guidance in ensuring they are on track to achieve and succeed in school.	75 students	3 & 8
OCA-er Week	July 2026	Students will take part in activities linking to our whole school values as well as undertaking visits linking to employment, i.e. Chester Zoo.	Whole year	4 & 6

CEIAG PROGRAMME 2023 -2024 – YEAR 7

The programme below is an indication of the careers education, information, advice and guidance your child will experience throughout their time in Year 7.



Additional activities may be added on throughout the year as those opportunities arise.

Activity	Date	Details	Students involved	Benchmark
OCA-er Week	July 2026	Students will take part in activities linking to our whole school values as well as undertaking visits linking to employment.	Whole year	4 & 6
National Apprenticeship Week		ASK Apprenticeships assembly TBC. Key activities delivered during the week via morning enrichment.	Whole year	8

EMPLOYERS FAIR

Tuesday 20th January 2024

We invite parents and carers of all students, including year 9, to attend our employers market. This event encourages pupils regardless of year group to begin considering their future aspirations and provides an opportunity to encounter further education settings and potential future employers who can help make these aspirations into reality!



OTHER KEY EVENTS:

Year 9 Options Evening – **Thursday 15th January 2026**

Year 9 Parents Evening – **Thursday 5th February 2026**

In-House WEX Opportunities (separate letter sent out)

Your child will be given the opportunity to complete a one-day work experience in school during one of the following weeks:

- w/c 13th October 2025
- w/c 8th December 2025
- w/c 2nd February 2026
- w/c 15th June 2026

REVISION AND SPARX

If you would like to support your child this year in preparation for them completing their Key Stage 3 courses, the following suggestions have been made alongside the lesson content which is uploaded onto Teams.

In addition, as part of our drive for pupils to make outstanding progress we have subscribed to Sparx Learner and our students in Years 7-9 will use the platform to do their Maths, English and Science homework.

For some time now our students have been completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths and we are delighted with the significant, positive impact on learning this has had so far. In addition, developing a love of reading continues to be a key aspect of our curriculum intent at OCA and we are always keen to develop new strategies to support students' reading. Therefore, this term we started using, Sparx Reader providing students with access to a wide range of age-appropriate eBooks, helping to promote careful, focused reading. Increase in reading ages will benefit students in all curriculum subjects as many examination papers have a reading age of 16.

Additionally, reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life and students who read at home do 19% better in maths than those who don't.

Each week your child's Maths, English and Science teachers will receive the results of the homework and the amount of time spent on it; we are confident that students will engage with their home learning and rewards will be awarded each half term to those students who have engaged with and excelled with their Sparx Learning.

We have now launched launching Sparx Science to further address misconceptions and any gaps in learning whilst allowing students to problem solve and promote independent study in Science.

All students in Years 7,8 and 9 will be set an hour of homework per week to complete, in English, Maths and Science i.e 3 hours of homework per week. This homework will be set each Friday and students will have until the following Wednesday to complete the homework.

Log in to Sparx Learner can be accessed form the school website and here:

[Sparx Learning Login](#)

Sparx Learning

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow the academy's social media sites as you find updated important information and news regarding the school:



team_oca

oca_careers



@OATChadwick



Ormiston Chadwick Academy



If you were, or know of anyone else, who was a past student at this Secondary School on Liverpool Road, please share your story.

Our Alumni page on the school website needs populating with success stories of how students have worked their way into a range of careers. Tell us about your pathway and an overview of your current role. Tell us your highs and memories from life at school.

We would like to celebrate your successes with our current students and illustrate just what they are capable of.

Email alumni@ocacademy.co.uk to be sent a password that will enable you to complete a profile on the website.

Please spread the word.