

Pathways Handbook

Your Guide to Career Guidance,
Options, Pathway Choices
and much more



About The Pathways Handbook







Purpose of the Handbook

The Pathways Handbook is a comprehensive resource designed to help parents and carers to understand and support the procedures, requirements and career programme within Frome College. It serves as a guide to promote understanding, create a safe and inclusive environment, open effective communication and give knowledge to support networks in order to aid all students to achieve and access guidance for the best possible pathways to future success.

This handbook outlines key dates, pathway choices and how-to guides for parents/guardians, carers and students. It is intended to ensure transparency and provide clarity for our Frome College community.

What You'll Find in This Handbook

-  **Career Programme Schedule** Overview of Career Programme schedule throughout our students time at Frome College
-  **Unifrog Guide** Comprehensive guide on how to use Unifrog from Years 9 to Years 13 and beyond
-  **Pathway Options** Impartial pathway options for all outcomes
-  **Year by Year Guidance** Expectations and requirements set out by our Career Programme for each academic year group

01



Career Programme

Employability Calendar

Years 9 to 11	Careers Programme activities, fortnightly in tutor time
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Years 9 - 13	Update Unifrog activity log half termly
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September

Year 9	Unifrog launch events
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Year 11	Career Advisor interviews begin
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Year 11	Weekly assemblies on Further Education, employment opportunities, apprenticeships, and alternative courses
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Year 12	Launching Work Experience (WEX) initiatives, emphasising Unifrog's benefits and promoting the Career Advisor Service
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October

All Year Groups	Career Talks - Guest speakers
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Year 10	WEX Deadline
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Year 12	University and apprenticeship fair and Uni trip.
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November

All Year Groups	Student survey - knowledge of next steps.
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Years 11 & 13	Gather information on intended destinations
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December

Year 12 WOW
Year 11 Aspire
& SEND
Students

Support from Somerset Skills For Learning Support

Year 9

Career Assemblies

Year 12

Careers Assemblies

January

Year 10

Work Experience Week

Year 13

UCAS Deadline

February

Years 12 & 13

Career Assemblies based around degree level apprenticeships

All Year
Groups

National Apprenticeship Week

Year 11 SEND

Trip to Trowbridge and Bath Colleges using public transport

March

All Year
Groups

Career Talks

Year 12

WOW students mock interviews

April

Year 10

Assemblies on mock interviews

Years 9
11 & 13

Recognising stress and anxiety; Importance of CVs;
Questionnaire about careers provision

May

Year 9

Assemblies - Introducing WEX

Year 12

Support with applying for degree level apprenticeships

June

Year 10

Mock interviews start

Years 9,
10 & 12

Career Talks

July

Year 10

Check on WEX progress

Year 12

Raising achievement parents evening

02



Unifrog

Your Family Unifrog Platform

Supporting Your Child's Future

The Unifrog platform is designed to empower learners to make well-informed decisions about their futures. Each student has their own personal account that provides customised information based on their unique interests and aspirations.

Key Features

1. Exploring Pathways

- Interactive personality quizzes to identify strengths and preferences
- Comprehensive career and subject profiles for inspiration
- Access to MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and educational webinars

2. Personal Development Recording

- Self-reflection tools for documenting extracurricular activities
- Framework for identifying and developing key employability skills
- Portfolio building for future applications

3. Opportunities Search

- Live vacancy listings for apprenticeships and placements
- Comprehensive university course finder (UK and international)
- Further Education options explorer
- Virtual work experience opportunities
- Additional pathways and placement options

4. Application Support

- CV builder and templates
- Personal Statement development tools
- Common Application Essay guidance
- Application tracking and management

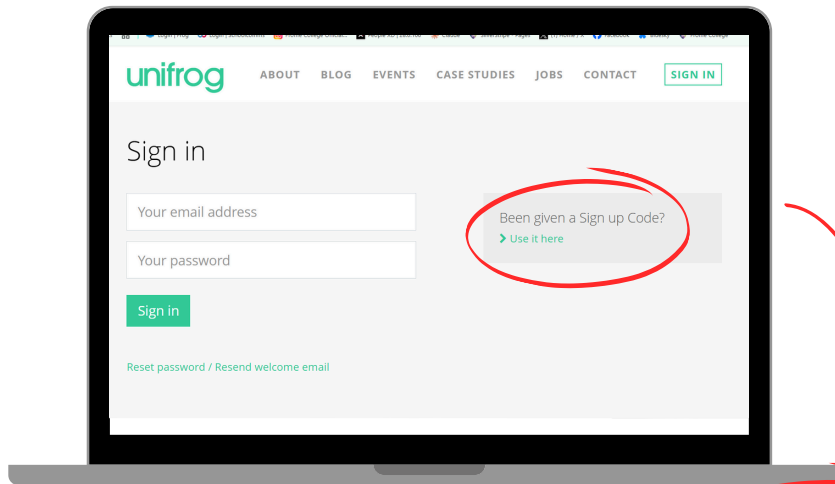
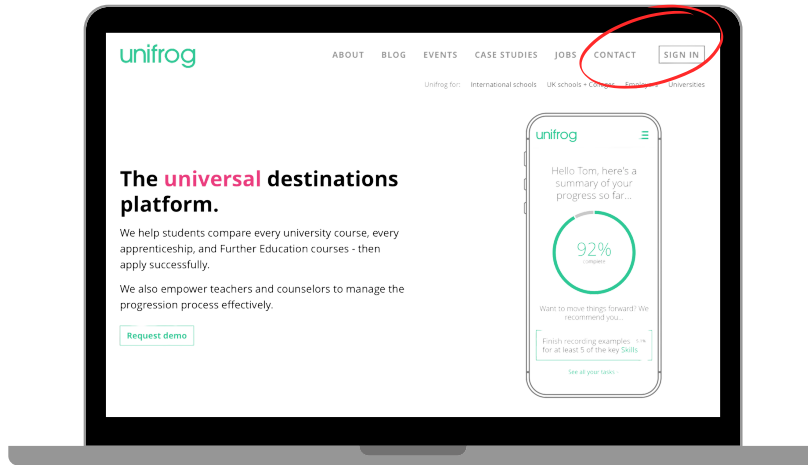
5. Getting Started

We encourage families to explore the Unifrog platform together. By engaging with these resources early, you can help them discover potential career paths, develop essential skills, and prepare strong applications for their chosen next steps.

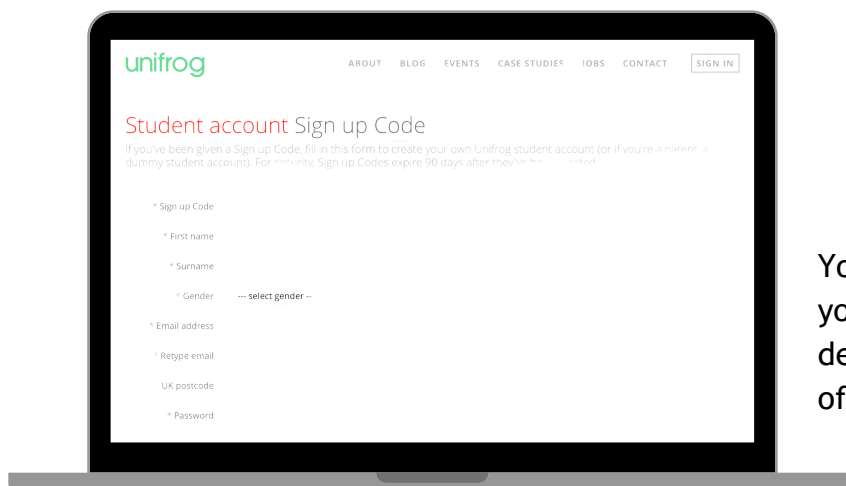
How to log in to Unifrog - a parents' guide

To get the most out of Unifrog, it helps if parents/carers set up a dummy account. This will help you explore all the features Unifrog offers and in turn fully support your child.

www.unifrog.org



Unifrog Parent Login Code: **FRCCfamily**



You'll need to enter your own personal details and not those of your son/daughter.

Supporting Your Child's Future: Unifrog Access After Frome College

Extended Unifrog Access

We're pleased to inform you that Unifrog remains available to all students after they leave Frome College:

- Year 13 leavers: 4 years of continued access
- Year 11 leavers: 6 years of continued access

Important Account Updates

Once exams are completed, students will need to:

1. Change their school email on their Unifrog account to a personal email address
2. Grant permission for Frome College to contact them via this personal email

Please note that students will only be contacted when absolutely necessary for destination tracking or other legal requirements. This personal email address will become their login credential from that point forward.

Tips for Year 13 Students

We strongly recommend that Year 13 students "favourite" universities they are interested in, even if not part of the 5 they apply to.

This important step:

- Links these universities to their accounts
- Automatically connects them during clearing periods
- Reduces stress during uncertain times by pre-filtering clearing options

Benefits for Parents

By using your parent code, you'll gain access to:

- All Unifrog webinars
- Extensive resources
- Complete university lists and courses

Simply search terms like "parent," "student finance," or "choices" to find comprehensive information to support and guide your child through their next steps.

Helpful Resources

Unifrog offers webinars explaining results day and clearing processes. These resources are valuable not only during exam season but also for future reference when helping your child make important pathway decisions. Webinars such as 'results day and clearing' and 'student finance a parents guide'

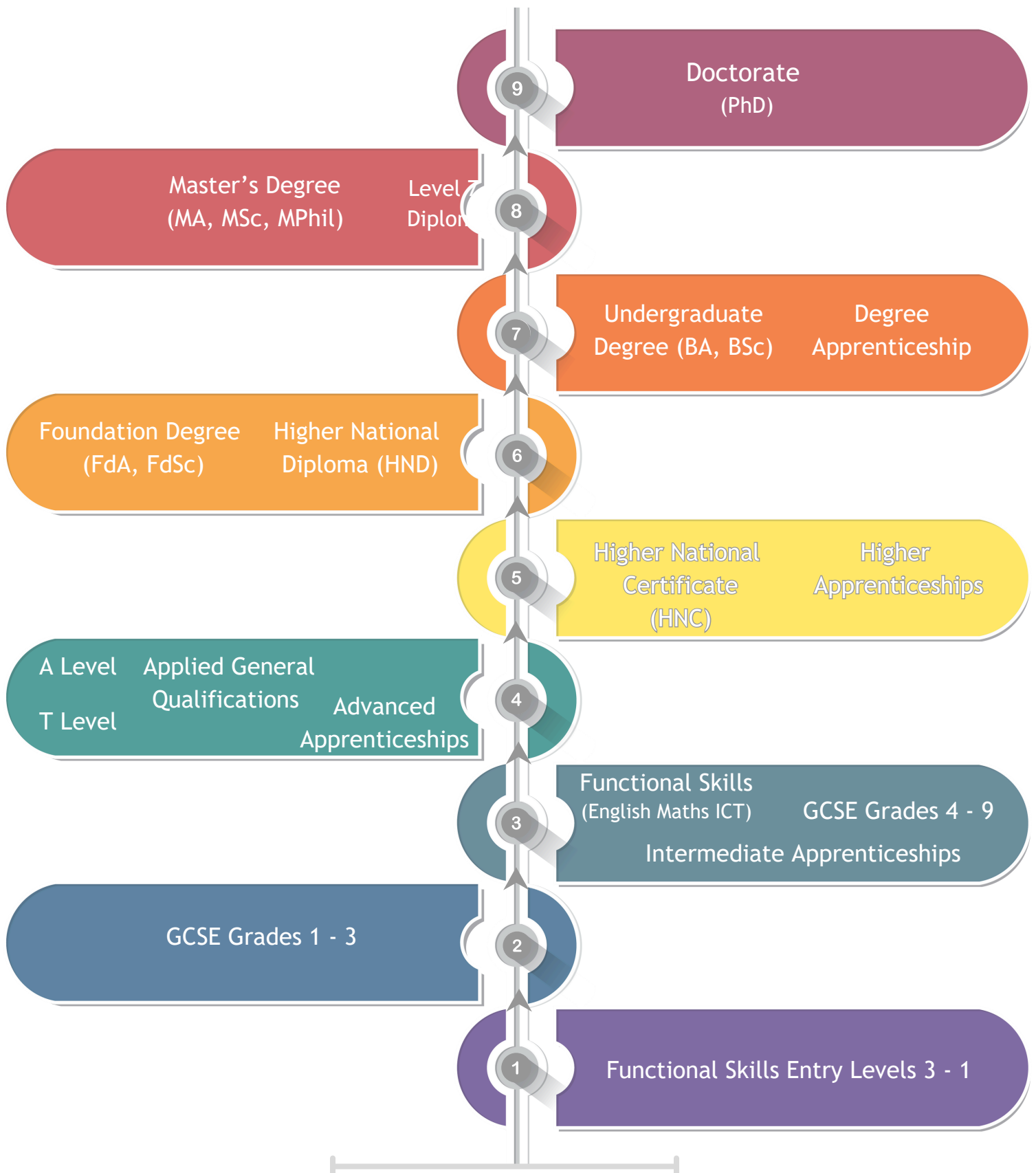
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Pathway Options

What Qualifications Are There?

This graph shows each qualification and its level of study. For example, both T Levels and A Levels are Level 3 qualifications, along with Applied General Qualifications and Advanced Apprenticeships. The level of a Foundation Degree is not as high as an Undergraduate Degree, but is the same as a Level 5 Diploma.



Top Tips:

- Get your application completed as early as possible.
- Look around lots of providers to see what is available.
- Have a Plan B, in case Plan A doesn't work.
- Use all the support and advice available.

Options 16+

All routes of learning and study on this options map may be delivered by colleges, ITPs or any other approved institution; and all routes provide support to LLDD (learner with learning disabilities or disabilities) and SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) learners.

T Levels
(aged 16 - 19)

Academic Degree Study

Applied General
Qualifications (eg BTEC)

Further Professional
Qualifications

Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeship

HTQS
HNC/HND

Employment
with other training

Traineeships
(age 16-24, or 25 with EHCP)

Study Programmes
(age 16-24, or 25 with EHCP)

Employability
Programmes

All options must include an element of further training & study until age 16



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Career Schedule

Employability Support in each year group

Year 9 Career Development Activities

Initial Adjustment & Skill Development

- Students focus on settling into Frome College
- Begin identifying personal skills
- Enhance abilities by joining clubs
- Take advantage of opportunities like the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Career Exploration

- Attend three mandatory Careers Talks
- Begin considering potential career paths and areas of interest
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Self-Assessment & Research

- Complete online Unifrog Careers assessment
- Research career options based on assessment results
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Work Experience Preparation

- Attend Work Experience launch and assembly
- Start identifying suitable placement opportunities
- Focus on placements that explore career interests and enhance CV development

Parent/Student Information Session

- "Maximising Your Employability" presentation delivered at Year 9 Raising Achievement Evening

Year 10 Career Development Activities

CV Development

- Presentation on qualities of a good CV and its importance
- Dedicated presentation on CV writing techniques
- IT room sessions for students to create their own CVs
- Professional feedback from business personnel with suggestions for improvement

Interview Skills

- Interview preparation presentation
- Mock interviews conducted by business professionals
- Personalized feedback and improvement support offered

Year 10 cont.

Career Exploration

- Attendance at three Career Talks
- Continued exposure to diverse professional paths

Work Experience Programme

- Detailed work experience presentation
- "Expectations in the Workplace" presentation
- Full week dedicated to work experience placement
- Students attend placements in businesses of their choice

Year 11 Career Development Activities

Post-Secondary Planning

- Assembly highlighting all available routes after Year 11
- Information sent to parents regarding post-Year 11 options
- Dedicated assembly on Sixth Form options and subject selection
- Apprenticeship information sessions

Career Planning Support

- "Maximising Your Employability" presentation at Raising Achievement Evening
- Individual meetings to discuss post-Year 11 plans
- Personalised guidance ensuring appropriate and aspirational pathways
- Discussion of college or workplace options

CV Enhancement

- CV improvement sessions offered during Careers Talks Events
- One-to-one support for CV strengthening

Ongoing Support

- "Next Steps" drop-in sessions available at the Next Steps Hub during break times
- Attendance at three Career Talks
- Continuous guidance throughout critical decision-making period

Year 12 Career Development Activities

Targeted Career Information

- Specialised information sent to students based on career interests
- Specific guidance for teaching and law careers

Career Exploration

- Attendance at three Career Talks
- Trip to Bristol University
- Visit to Bristol University Apprenticeship Fair

Work Experience Programme

- Work experience presentation
- "Expectations in the Workplace" presentation
- Full week dedicated to work experience in a business of choice

Further Education & Training Opportunities

- Apprenticeship assemblies
- Rotary Youth Leadership Scheme participation
- "Next Steps" evening focusing on higher education and apprenticeships
- Destinations Day: dedicated learning about university and apprenticeship pathways

Year 13 Career Development Activities

1. Career Exploration

- Attendance at three Career Talks
- Continued exposure to professional paths

Personalised Support

- Individual meetings with students not pursuing higher education
- Focused discussions on post-graduation plans
- Meetings with workplace-bound students to strengthen CVs

Interview Preparation

- Interview skills sessions
- Assistance with planning and improving interview questions
- Mock interviews offered to build confidence

Year 13 cont.

Ongoing Assistance

- Drop-in support available at the Next Steps Hub
- Guidance for career research, job searching, and application completion
- Job opportunity information sent to workplace-bound students
- Gap year support and information provided
- Resources to enhance employability skills during gap year





Communication & Support

Frome College Careers Department values open and honest communication. We encourage students and parents/carers to share ideas, concerns, or suggestions regarding our Next Steps Pathway.

Our Open Door Policy ensures everyone can voice opinions, resolve issues, and access support when needed in a constructive manner. By fostering open dialogue, we create an environment of mutual respect and continuous improvement.

Location: The Next Steps Hub is located in N7 (to the left of Student Services) in the main Northcote Building.

Contact: nextsteps@fromecollege.org.uk

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Useful Websites

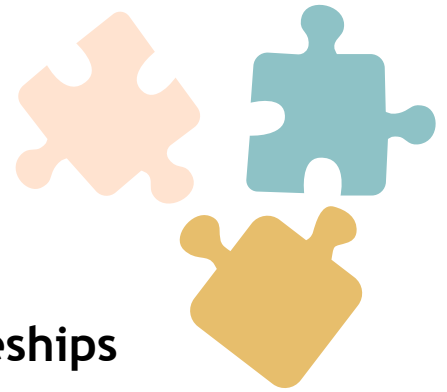


Career Quizzes & Profiles

- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.icould.com
- www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers
- www.careerpilot.org.uk

Higher Education

- www.ucas.com
- www.russellgroup.ac.uk
- www.disabilityrightsuk.org
- www.opendays.com
- www.theuniguide.co.uk
- www.informedchoices.ac.uk
- www.unifrog.org
- www.youthemployment.org.uk



Apprenticeships

- www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- www.amazingapprenticeships.com
- www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk
- www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
- uk.indeed.com
- www.instituteforapprenticeships.org

Education & Training Courses

- nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- www.sslcourses.co.uk
- www.open.ac.uk
- www.youthemployment.org.uk

Finance

- www.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund
- www.unifrog.org

Voluntary Work & Self-Employment

- www.doit.life
- www.kingstrust.org.uk
- www.vinspired.com
- www.youthemployment.org.uk/starting-your-own-business





We are committed to supporting your child's professional and personal growth. This Pathways Handbook is designed to help you navigate their journey with us and beyond. Please reference this document for questions about career guidance and future choices.

For further support, don't hesitate to contact us. Together, we can create a productive, inclusive environment that benefits everyone.

Thank you for supporting our Careers Team to be part of your family's Next Steps journey.



Frome College is proud to be part of the
Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

Frome College
Bath Road
Frome
BA11 2QH

T: 01373 465353
E: office@fromecollege.org.uk



W: Fromecollege.org

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Design JOwen
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