

CAREERS STRATEGY

2024/25





Catering students preparing food for Michael Caines Academy graduation evening

Opening of the BBC studio in the CCI building

WELCOME

Here at Exeter College, our aim is to ensure every learner has access to a wide range of impartial careers advice and guidance.

Our learners today are faced with an exciting but complex landscape of training and employment opportunities which are forever evolving. Our staff team here at college are committed to helping our learners make informed decisions on their next steps. We work closely with employers, stakeholders, and higher education institutions to provide a clear line of sight regarding their progression route. We proactively ensure that our learners develop the knowledge, behaviours and skills they need to take that next step. As part of this commitment we ensure all learners in our sixth form will be offered at least two opportunities to encounter providers of apprenticeships and technical education.

Looking ahead to the future, we also recognise the present individual needs of our learners and add value through an extensive range of enrichment activities that support their health and wellbeing. For example, our 16-19 curriculum is complemented by an extensive group tutorial programme and all learners are assigned a personal tutor to ensure their holistic development and care. Our adult and apprentice learners' pastoral needs are supported by our wraparound support programme.

Our core purpose is to inspire young people in our region through providing an inclusive and ambitious curriculum which serves as an engine for social mobility. Through this, we seek to ensure that all learners, regardless of background, fully investigate the post-16 opportunities available to them and feel supported in taking their own steps to reach their goals.

If you would like to help us with this initiative, please contact us.



Dee Rowett
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 Exeter College Careers Education Lead
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EXETER COLLEGE CAREERS STRATEGY

BE EXCEPTIONAL 

Our Vision:

To be an exceptional College.

Our Mission:

To shape futures by delivering world class education and training for our city and our region.



EXETER COLLEGE

Exeter College is one of the very few colleges nationally rated by Ofsted as Outstanding. In November 2022 we were again rated as Outstanding and became the first college in England to score the two top assessments (Outstanding and Strong) in Ofsted's new enhanced education framework. Exeter is a growing, successful, and thriving city, with several key sporting, education, public, civic, and business organisations who all work together for the good of Exeter and the South West. Exeter College is one of the key anchor institutions within the city and as a result works extremely positively and collaboratively with a very wide range of partners within the city and beyond. Our values of Ambition, Collaboration and Energy are at the heart of all our relationships and underpin everything we do.

John Laramy CBE

Principal and Chief Executive

Learners and apprentices take advantage of the well-planned and numerous opportunities for encounters with the world of work. They have frequent access to and are supported well by a dedicated careers guidance team. Teachers and tutors share their well-informed industry insights and their knowledge of progression to higher-level study and better jobs with learners and apprentices. Learners find this guidance very useful, and it gives them an insight into what to do after they finish their course.

Ofsted 2022



Libby studied A Levels in English Literature, Law and Sociology. She is currently taking a gap year and taking part in Camp America. She has gained an offer to study Law at the University of Cambridge and hopes to practice law in the future.



Ashley Jeary studied a BTEC National Diploma in Media Production. After gaining work experience at what was Gemini FM (now Heart Exeter), Ashley moved to Radio Exe where he progressed to presenting and producing his own weekday drivetime show. As well as being programme manager and presenter at the station, he is also Co-Director of ExeDAB and two-time awardee of the Radio Academy's 30 under 30.

CONTEXT

Exeter College is committed to ensuring all students have access to high-quality independent careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) services that enable all students to reach their full potential. The Department for Education (DFE) guidance states all schools and colleges use the internationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks to develop a careers programme that increases the opportunities for all students to access a wide range of careers guidance and experiences of the workplace, personal guidance with a qualified careers advisor and engagement with training providers. Alongside traditional academic pathways we ensure that all students are aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T-Levels, HTQs and other approved technical education qualifications and consider them alongside academic options when making decisions about their next steps.

● **The Matrix Standard**

Exeter College is proud to hold and maintain the Matrix Accreditation Standard. The Matrix Standard is a DfE quality standard that helps organisations to assess, measure and improve the management and delivery of their information, advice and guidance services.

The Matrix Accreditation Standard includes the information, advice and guidance we provide to prospective learners, on course learners, parents and stakeholders on a range of topics to meet our customers needs at every stage of their learning journey.

“The current careers IAG support model works very well and provides Exeter College with an effective careers IAG service to deliver high quality support to students. The work carried out is highly professional, well-focused and directed. The Careers and Employability agenda appears to be increasingly well embedded as a strategic theme. In turn this leads to improving services and a higher standard of IAG to enable students to progress more effectively and fulfil their potential and future career destinations.”

Steve Jackson Matrix Assessor 2021

For more information visit:
<https://matrixstandard.com>

● **The Gatsby Benchmarks (taken from CDI)**

The College is committed to the highest possible standards in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) through a set of standards which define best practice.

The Career Development Institute (CDI) also provide a framework that looks at six areas. We regularly audit the curriculum to measure how we are evidencing these areas against the framework.

● **DFE Guidance Gatsby Benchmarks**

The department expects all secondary schools and colleges to use the internationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks to develop a careers programme that increases opportunities for students to access everything from experiences of the workplace and personal guidance with a career’s adviser, to engagement with employers, colleges, training providers and universities. The benchmarks are non-statutory but support schools and colleges by providing a framework around which they can develop their careers programme in line with their legal requirements to provide independent careers to pupils throughout their secondary education (11 to 18-year-olds) and students aged up to 25 with an education, health and care plan. The benchmarks also support schools to fulfill their statutory duty to enable access of training providers to highlight to students what technical education and apprenticeships can offer.

For more information visit: **Gatsby Benchmarks; Gatsby Careers in Context.**



The eight Gatsby Benchmarks of “Good Careers Guidance” are:

- 1 A stable careers programme
- 2 Learning from career and labour market information
- 3 Addressing the needs of each pupil
- 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5 Encounters with employers and employees
- 6 Experiences of workplaces
- 7 Encounters with further and higher education
- 8 Personal guidance



● Ofsted December 22

- **Personal development - Outstanding**
- **Apprenticeships - Outstanding**

“Learners and apprentices take advantage of the well-planned and numerous opportunities for encounters with the world of work. They have frequent access to and are supported well by a dedicated careers guidance team. Teachers and tutors share their well-informed industry insights and their knowledge of progression to higher-level study and better jobs with learners and apprentices. Learners find this guidance very useful, and it gives them an insight into what to do after they finish their course.”

Leaders and managers identify exceptionally well the key skill areas that employers need within the locality and in the wider region... Staff at all levels work highly collaboratively with important stakeholders, including local authorities, the city council, and chambers of commerce, to understand the local economy, job market and priorities...

HOW EXETER COLLEGE EMBED CAREERS GUIDANCE IN THE LEARNER JOURNEY (Sixth Form)

1. Advice starts at school

Advice and Guidance from our College Advice Team starts in schools and at College Open Events. They can discuss skills, interests and career aspirations to help students make the right course choice for them. Students are also given the opportunity to attend Discovery Days at the College to explore their course options.

2. Apply now

Easy online application done via the College website. The website incorporates impartial careers advice via the Pathways tool, enabling students to explore career opportunities their chosen courses could lead on to. Our Open Events are the perfect way to find out more about life at Exeter College. Our Open Events are for school leavers, those looking for an Apprenticeship and adult learners interested in professional or degree level courses or leisure courses.

3. Attend an interview

This gives learners the chance to discuss their chosen course or Apprenticeship with a subject specialist and their long-term ambitions. This ensures our teacher specialist team can ensure they are on the right course for their future aspirations. Advice and Guidance is available from our College Advice Team and careers team at these interviews.

4. Enrol at College

GCSE exam results can have an impact on students' choices. Enrolment provides us with another opportunity to check that students are on the right course for them and go over any concerns about their course.

5. Induction in to College life

Induction to the College includes a meet the tutor evening, an introduction to the careers team and ensuring learners know how and when to access additional support.

6. Supporting parents and guardians

Information sessions are held for parents to provide guidance on the next steps once learners leave College. This includes advice on university applications, going on to an Apprenticeship, or into the world of work.

7. Getting industry ready

At various points throughout their studies with us, learners will have the opportunity to complete work experience. Every learner will have the opportunity to engage with employers through a range of established links and benefit from a number of meaningful employer encounters.

8. Accessing careers information, advice and guidance

Students can access drop-in sessions, 1-1 appointments and support with UCAS applications throughout the year. Delivered through our extensive college personal development tutorials and 1-1 tutoring and group tutorials. Throughout the year various events are held to provide careers inspiration and offer further information on sectors and industries. These include; progression fairs, application and personal statement sessions, UCAS sessions, employability skills, gap year advice, student finance and much more.

9. Results day

Our careers team are on hand to provide advice and guidance on results days, including, Level 2 results days and Level 3 results days and supporting learners through progression and next steps.

OUR CAREERS OFFER

CIAG for 16-19 full time learners

All learners will receive an extensive collection of Essential Core Themes embedded in both the tutorial curriculum and learners core curriculum, including the 'Your College, Your Next Steps' focus.

All learners have access to impartial, unbiased information and guidance careers information and guidance from qualified advisers, either by self-referral via our online hub or by recommendation of personal tutor. Our IAG offer is tailored to individual need. We provide a visible, professional careers hub where learners can actively engage in career exploration. The Career Development Institute's framework is embedded within our Careers offer.



Careers are embedded in all faculty areas which highlights the relevance of subjects studied with future careers. Employability skills are developed through a range of tutorial sessions, workshops and 1-1 bookable sessions.

We are committed to ensuring all learners have access to meaningful employer encounters throughout their period of study with us.

CIAG for Internally Progressing Students on the Adult and Higher Education Provision at Exeter College

The Adult Learning Hub provides advice and guidance to all internal 16-19 year old students on our full range of Higher Technical Education, Adult Learning and Professional training courses offered at Exeter College. The Adult Learning Hub is available for bookable 1-1 IAG appointments, walk in appointments, email and telephone enquiries. Support can be given to applying students with UCAS application completion and Student Finance queries.

The Adult Advice team hosts information sharing events throughout the academic year, including the HE Internal Progression Event and HE and Adult Open Event and attend College wide events organised by wider college teams including the FE Open Evenings, UCAS Progression Event and STEMM Fair.

The Adult Advice team aims to ensure all prospective students have access to accurate and informative information, including progression routes and funding options, that will allow them to make an informed choice with their learning pathway.





CIAG for access to Apprenticeship advice and guidance

We have a dedicated Apprenticeship and Employment Hub accessible on Queen Street in the city centre for drop in or pre-booked advice and guidance appointments. The team in the Apprenticeship and Employment Hub can support all students with general enquiries about apprenticeship pathways, including supporting students with suggesting employers in specific areas of interest, help with developing a CV, interview preparation and writing an application. The Apprenticeship team offer events throughout the year, including events during Apprenticeship Awareness Week and they also coordinate one of the largest Apprenticeship advice and guidance events in the South West annually, the Exeter College Apprenticeship EXPO in February. The College's Training and Recruitment Advisers have specialist Apprenticeship and industry-related knowledge and insight to support students and applicants in identifying the right pathway and employer for them.



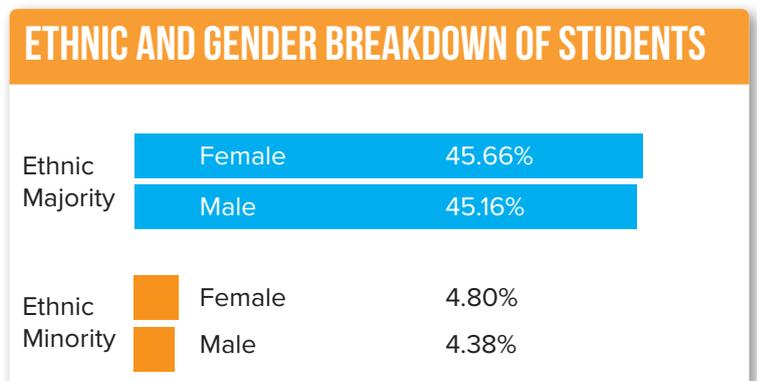
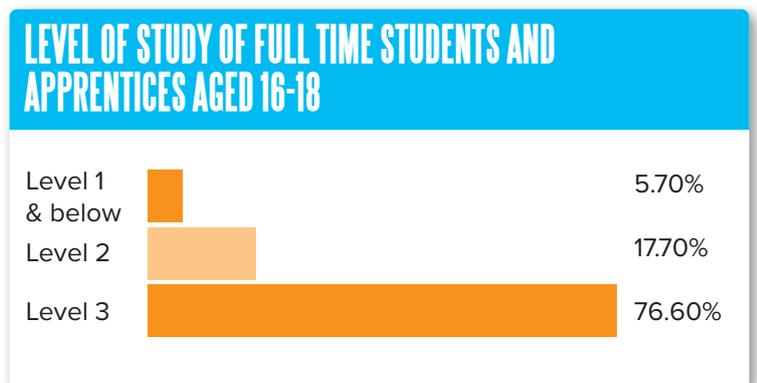
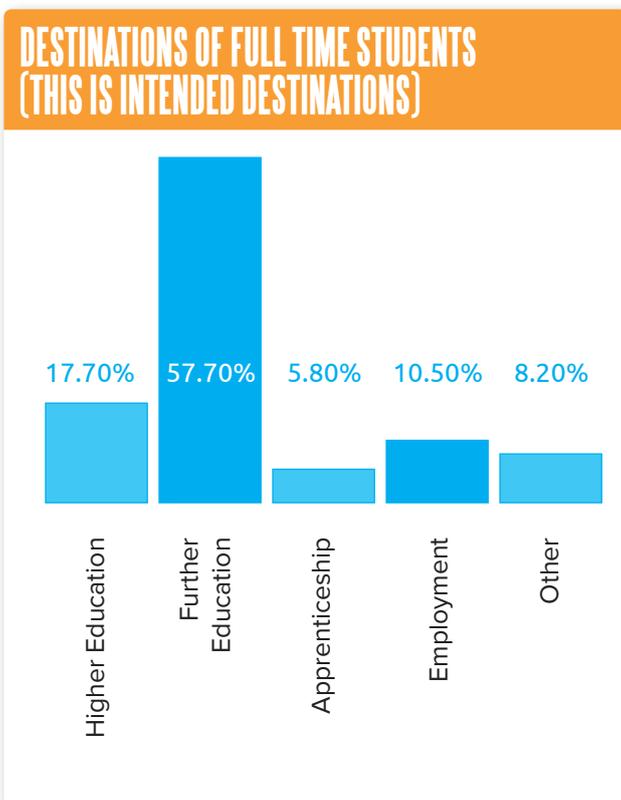
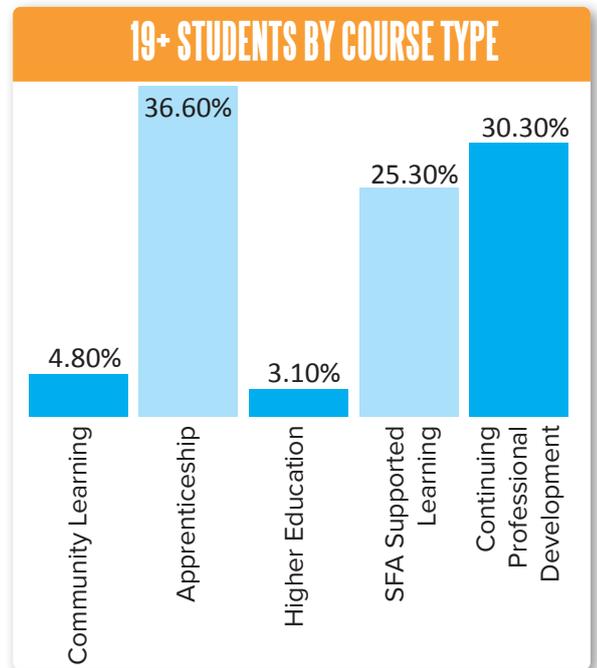
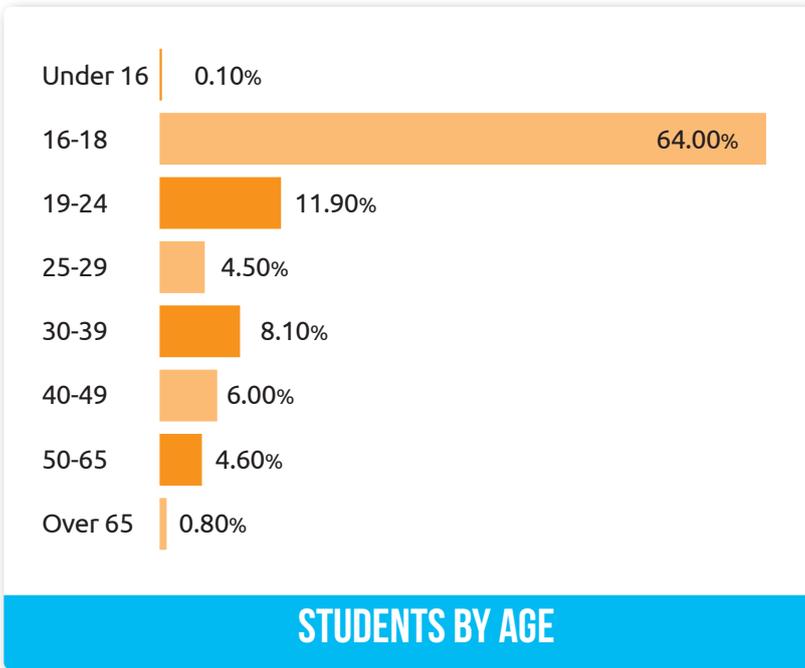
CAREERS PROGRAMME

This programme outlines an idea of the types of events and opportunities, support and guidance you can expect at Exeter College throughout the year.

	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
FURTHER EDUCATION PROGRESSION												
Re-enrolment												
Further Education Progression												
HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRESSION												
Apprenticeship Progression Week												
Early entry UCAS applicants												
Results Day and Enrolment support												
UCAS personal statement support												
UCAS sessions - Next Steps South West												
UCAS internal deadline												
UCAS tutor reference writing												
UCAS IAG 1-1, drop-ins, workshops												
Oxbridge interview support												
UCAS external deadline												
University taster days												
UCAS registrations for year 1												
Year 1 personal statement workshops												
CAREERS GUIDANCE												
NoK support HE and Apprenticeships												
UCAS support 1-1, drop-ins, workshops												
Careers IAG 1-1, drop-ins, workshops												
Non UCAS applicants follow up												
Gap Year advice												
PDP - Next Steps												
Adult Learning Hub												
EMPLOYABILITY												
Virtual WEX platforms												
Opportunity for WEX day												
Employability skills - workshops												
EVENTS												
National Apprenticeship Week and Expo												
Extra Freshers Fair												
“Local Skills Need” Employment Events eg STEMM Fair												
National Careers Week												
UCAS EXPO												
Student finance workshops												
HE internal progression event												
Adult and HE Open Event												
Employer Encounters in Events												

KEY PROGRESSION ROUTES 2023

Total students enrolled = 12081



REVIEWING THE IMPACT OF OUR CAREERS STRATEGY

We will know our Careers Strategy and approach to careers advice and guidance is effective because:

Impact of our Careers Strategy	Metrics
Learners are successful in progressing to relevant and aspirational pathways following their studies at Exeter College.	College destination data; UCAS reports; alumni case studies.
Learner on-course surveys and Learner Voice feedback indicate the positive impact of the College's career advice and guidance. We value this feedback and use it to shape and improve our career services.	Induction survey; on-course surveys; Learner Voice Conferences.
Learners engage positively with the College's careers advice and guidance and recognise the value of accessing this service in planning for their next steps.	High levels of engagement in tutorials and 1:1s. Future Steps data; learner feedback and on-course surveys; College destination data.
The curriculum offer meets current and emerging industry, employer, and labour market needs. The curriculum is co-designed alongside employers / industry partners and enhances the skills and experiences of learners to support them in achieving their ambitions.	Annual Review of Curriculum; Ofsted Report; Matrix; employer feedback.
Employers and industry partners are positive about their collaboration with Exeter College and enjoy working with our staff, learners and apprentices.	Training Provider Feedback -Gov. UK; Annual Review of Curriculum; employer and partner feedback.
External assessments and evaluations, such as those conducted by Ofsted and Matrix, validate and confirm the College's approach to providing effective careers advice, information, and guidance.	Exeter College Ofsted report; Exeter College Matrix report.
Learners' individual needs and circumstances are considered and planned for when providing careers advice and guidance meaning no learner is left behind.	College destination data; learner outcomes and curriculum data; college EDI data; Matrix.

Exeter College's Careers Steering Group will use the Careers Strategy and the associated impact metrics as a key evaluation tool to support the ongoing development and review of our careers offer.



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- **Careers Guidance and access for education and training providers**
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/63b69f3fe90e077246c83323/Careers_guidance_and_access_for_education_and_training_providers_.pdf
- **Provider Access legislation**
www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/fe-skills/provider-access-legislation
- **Gatsby guide to good careers guidance**
www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance