

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION (LMI)

### Engineering Skills Shortage

Labour market snapshots from the past year are constantly coming back to the same thing: skills gaps. Many report one of the biggest gaps being in the engineering industry.

Engineering is not just about 'fixing things' but rather about designing the future: clean energy systems, smart cities, advanced robotics and sustainable infrastructure.

In Cheshire, there are real engineering opportunities right on your doorstep. The Cheshire and Warrington Local Skills Improvement Plan highlights employers are actively recruiting, with engineering amongst the most in-demand jobs.

**Tip: most apprenticeships are advertised between January and April time so start exploring your options now.**

### Where do I start?

Here are some current and real engineering apprenticeships in and around Cheshire:

- [L2/L3 Apprenticeships with Reaseheath college](#) - gain on the job/paid learning opportunities.
- [Engineering apprenticeships](#) - local employer listings.

An alternative route to degrees or apprenticeships are L4/L5 Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) hosted at the [Cheshire and Warrington Institute for Technology](#).

## CONTACT US:

Want to hear more about how Inspired Futures support your child's next steps? Contact our team through:

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## WHAT'S ON AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR BE INSPIRED?

- National Careers Week
- Engineering skills gaps
- Alumni spotlight
- Careerometers

### NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

National Careers Week will take place 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 7<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to joining the celebrations at Alsager School. Over the week, students will engage in a variety of careers-based activities both in form time, around the school and curriculum subjects.

Year 7 pupils will take part in a treasure hunt to find a career-related phrase and learn about local companies and career opportunities in different curriculum areas. All students will also take part in a rock-paper-scissors quiz learning key career facts as well as quizzing their teachers on their own career pathways.

### COMPARING CAREER OPTIONS

Entering the career space as a young person can feel overwhelming. With so many pathways, qualifications and job roles available, knowing where to begin is often the hardest step. To help with this, we encourage families to use the [skillsometer](#) and [careerometer](#). These allow you to compare careers, explore salary information and discover where skills link to job roles.

### ADDRESSING SKILLS GAPS

In recent careers conferences, we have been made aware of data revealing skills gaps in young people based on employer reports. Some skills gaps businesses are facing nationally include the following areas:

- Resilience
- Communication skills
- Work readiness/independence
- Time management
- Confidence

At Alsager, we endeavour to bridge those gaps for our young people to ensure they are leaving school ambitious and prepared.

See below some examples of how students build on these skills everyday in school:

#### RESILIENCE



Responding and building on feedback, self regulation.

#### PUNCTUALITY



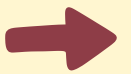
Arriving on time, utilising breaks, organisation of equipment and homework.

#### DIGITAL SKILLS



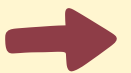
IT lessons, professionalism through emails.

#### COMMUNICATION



Discussions and debates, group work/projects, extra-curricular activities.

#### SELF MOTIVATION



Independent study and revision, extra-curricular activities

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### EDEN FOX 2016 SCHOOL LEAVER

We recently caught up with Eden Fox, a 2016 school leaver who is a trainee solicitor, looking to complete her contract and become a qualified solicitor in August this year. Eden talked through her journey to becoming a solicitor which began with her GCSE

options at Alsager. Eden took Spanish, history, drama and fashion, adding that drama has definitely helped her 'the most with confidence and advocacy skills'. Eden explained that acting is 'not that different' to standing up in court or putting on a presentation.

After her time at Alsager, Eden went on to do A levels in English, law and drama before completing a law degree at Derby University. This led to a post-graduate qualification at Staffordshire University before securing her contract. Eden's advice: "find what truly makes you happy and don't be afraid of a set back along the way. You'll find where you belong."



## MARCH EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

### YEAR 12 UCAS DISCOVERY TRIP

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Year 12 pupils will go on a trip to Manchester for the UCAS Discovery event. This event will give students the opportunity to explore a variety of university and apprenticeship options as well as visiting talks and workshops to navigate their next steps.

After the event, pupils will be given an orienteering task to navigate around the city, exploring the sites and campuses to gain experience and confidence ahead of them leaving Alsager in summer of next year.

### JOIN THE DOTS - UNIVERSITY PREPARATION ASSEMBLY

Y13 students will join a virtual assembly (3<sup>rd</sup> March) hosted by The Brilliant Club all about navigating university prep. The club look to support disadvantaged students in accessing university. See their offering here: [Join the Dots scheme](#)

### YEAR 8 PATHWAYS ASSEMBLY

As part of the Year 8 options process, students will attend an assembly on pathways hosted by Newcastle College. This assembly will talk them through the different qualifications and routes they can take in future to inform their option choices over the coming months.

### EXTERNAL EVENTS FOR KS4 AND KS5 PUPILS:

Good luck to all of our prospective medicine and dentistry students taking part in the [Medic Mentor virtual work experience](#) beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March. 15 students across KS4 and KS5 have signed up, setting them up with invaluable experience to enter these competitive industries.

Other opportunities across the month include:

- [Royal Signals Open Day](#) - 5<sup>th</sup> March
- [Women in Tech Scholarship and Internship](#) - applications close 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- [Rolls Royce work experience week \(Y10\)](#) - applications close 15<sup>th</sup> March for Derby event
- [Business and accounting work experience \(Y12/Y13\) with BDO](#) - potential for fast track to a degree apprenticeship!
- [University of Malaga in person or online Spanish courses](#)
- [Macquarie Rise to It Insight Day Manchester \(Y12\)](#) - kickstart finance career. Applications close 30<sup>th</sup> March

### Open apprenticeships

- [Network Rail apprenticeships open](#)
- [Tesco apprenticeships open](#)
- [Transport for London apprenticeships](#)

Contact Miss Brown for questions regarding opportunities.



**Inspired Futures**  
It's all about you!