

October Edition | For Students, Parents & Educators Across Our Trust Schools

Career Spotlight of the Month

Ecologist

Ecologists study the relationships between living organisms and their environments. They help protect wildlife, restore habitats, and tackle climate change.

Top Roles:

Field Ecologist

Conservation Officer

Environmental Consultant

Marine Biologist

Routes In:

A Levels in Biology,
Geography, or Environmental
Science

University degrees in Ecology,
Environmental Science, or
Zoology

Apprenticeships in
countryside management or
environmental

Regional Need:

The Northeast is rich in natural landscapes and biodiversity, with growing demand for ecologists in green infrastructure, rewilding, and environmental impact assessment projects.

Careers Support for students with Physical Disabilities

Exploring Careers:

Students with physical disabilities can pursue a wide range of careers with the right support and adjustments. Many employers are committed to accessibility and inclusion, offering flexible working environments and assistive technologies.

Support Includes:

Access to Work – Provides funding for mobility aids, transport support, and workplace adaptations.

Remote & Hybrid Roles – Many careers now offer flexible working options that reduce physical barriers.

Assistive Technology – From voice recognition software to ergonomic equipment, tech can help overcome physical challenges.

Top Tips for Students with Physical Disabilities:

Explore careers that match your interests and strengths, not just physical ability.

Provider Focus – New College Durham

What they offer:

New College Durham offers a wide range of vocational and apprenticeship programmes across sectors. They are a lead partner in the **Northeast Institute of Technology**, with cutting-edge facilities in advanced manufacturing, robotics, and digital construction.

Courses Include:

Construction & Engineering

Health & Social Care

Digital & IT

Creative Industries

Business & Management

Why choose New College Durham?

Rated highly for apprenticeship success

Strong employer links and industry-standard equipment

Inclusive support for learners with additional needs

Offers Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Open Events: Events

4th November 2025, 4:30–6:30 pm

2nd December 2025, 4:30–6:30pm

Labour Market Insight: Green Careers in the Northeast

As part of National Green Careers Week, we're highlighting the growing demand for jobs that help protect the planet.

Growth Sectors:

- Offshore Wind & Renewable Energy – Tees Valley and coastal areas
- Green Construction – Sustainable building and retrofitting
- Environmental Consultancy – Impact assessments and biodiversity planning
- Agriculture & Land Management – Sustainable farming and rewilding

Despite a cooling job market, investment in green infrastructure and public sector roles is increasing, especially in the Northeast

Focus on Anxiety & the World of Work

We understand that for some students, anxiety can make thinking about the future feel overwhelming. Whether it's fear of interviews, social situations, or change itself—there are ways to manage these feelings and still succeed in the world of work.

Top Tips for Students with Anxiety:

Start small – Explore careers online or talk to a trusted adult before attending events.

Practice interviews – Role-play with a teacher or family member to build confidence.

Look for quiet work environments – Some jobs offer low-stimulation settings or remote options.

Ask for adjustments – Employers can offer flexible hours, quiet spaces, or support during onboarding.

Useful Resources:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk> – Mental health support for young people

<https://www.mind.org.uk> – Advice on anxiety and employment

<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work> – Support for mental health in the workplace

 Did you know? Many employers now offer **mental health-friendly apprenticeships** and are part of the **Mindful Employer** network, promoting wellbeing at work.

Pathway Focus – Vocational Courses

What Are Vocational Courses?

Vocational education focuses on practical skills and real-world experience. It's ideal for students who prefer hands-on learning and want to enter the workforce quickly.

Types of Vocational Courses Available:

- BTECs and UAL Diplomas
- T Levels
- Apprenticeships
- Vocational college courses

Benefits

- Learn by doing
- Gain industry-relevant qualifications
- Strong progression into employment or further study
- Available in sectors like health, construction, digital, and creative arts

Vocational Qualification Levels:

- **Entry Level** – For students needing support with basic skills or transitioning into further education.
- **Level 1** – Introductory courses, equivalent to GCSE grades 1–3 (D–G).
- **Level 2** – Equivalent to GCSE grades 4–9 (A*–C), often a stepping stone to apprenticeships or Level 3.
- **Level 3** – Equivalent to A Levels; includes BTECs, UAL Diplomas, and T Levels.
- **Level 4–5** – Higher National Certificates/Diplomas (HNC/HND), equivalent to the first years of university.
- **Level 6–7** – Degree and postgraduate-level vocational qualifications.

English develops communication, creativity, and critical thinking—skills that are essential across almost every industry. It's not just about writing essays; it's about expressing ideas clearly and persuasively.

Careers Linked to English:

Journalist – Researching and writing news stories for print, broadcast, or online media

Copywriter – Creating persuasive content for adverts, websites, and social media

Publisher – Editing and producing books, magazines, or digital content

Lawyer – Using analytical and communication skills to build arguments and present cases

Marketing Executive – Crafting campaigns and messaging to promote products or services

Teacher – Inspiring the next generation through language and literature

Public Relations Officer – Managing communication between organisations and the public

Scriptwriter – Writing for film, TV, theatre, or video games

Environmental Campaigner – Using storytelling and persuasive writing to raise awareness and drive change

Parent Tip of the Month – Green Careers Matter

Green careers aren't just about saving the planet—they're shaping the future job market. From engineering to farming, digital to design, sustainability is becoming part of every industry.

How Parents Can Help:

- Talk about how climate change is creating new jobs
- Encourage curiosity about nature, science, and innovation
- Explore green careers together on Unifrog or National Careers Week resources
- Attend open events at colleges offering green-focused courses

Supporting your child to explore green careers now could help them thrive in the future world of work.

"The Earth is what we all have in
common."

— *Wendell Berry*