The Malling School
Beech Road
East Malling
Kent
ME19 6DH
Tel:
01732 840995
Web:
themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

THE MALLING SCHOOL

Headteacher: Karen Davey BSC (Hons), PGCE
Email: office@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

6th October 2026
AWi/SSn

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are aware that parents and carers play a key role in helping our year 11 students make their future plans. The information below will give you a better idea of what we talk about with students when it comes to careers information, careers guidance and timelines for when decisions and applications need to be made.

Please note that there is a wealth of useful information published in the careers section of The Malling School website The Malling School - Careers , our careers specific Facebook page (13) Facebook and further correspondence will be communicated via email and through our Year 11 bulletin throughout the year. Having said that, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have anything you would like to discuss.

All year 11 students will be seen by a careers adviser before the end of January 2027 to ensure they have made relevant applications for their future destinations.

Applying for post 16 options (College, Sixth Form, Apprenticeships)

The Kent Choices website https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/ is your main resource when researching and applying to post 16 options with your child. This is where your child can search and apply for any future provider; sixth form, college, apprenticeships and supported internships. I will be giving year 11 students their log in details in October so they can make their applications, but you can use the search function on the site now without having to log in. Please be aware that not all providers have uploaded their offer for next year yet. You can search, filter and use the map function to find courses and providers that are most suitable for your child. We strongly advise that your child makes their application(s) before the end of January 2027. Please note that different institutions have different deadlines for applications to be in. Sixth form providers are usually the most stringent here, so if you would like to go to a sixth form, please check with the specific institution to ensure you know their deadline.

College

Please be aware that if your child is interested in a trade course at college (multi-trades, plumbing, electrical etc.,) they should apply by the end of November to avoid disappointment. The trades are popular and spaces on these courses fill up quickly. It is wise for your child to apply to more than one institution, so they have a back-up plan in case they change their mind over the course of the year, or they do not achieve the necessary grades to be accepted for their first choice. Once your child has applied, they will be offered an interview by the institution. This can feel daunting for some. Please reassure your child that this will be good practice for the future and they will be given guidance from the careers team on how to behave during an interview. Your child can only apply to ONE course at MidKent College, so they need to be sure about that course.

One of the best ways to understand if the courses on offer suit your child is to visit the college at their open event. Please see dates for open events below or visit here to find a guide of all open event dates.

Latest Events

Please see the table below for key dates.

Event	Dates
TMS 6th form open evening	05/11/26
KentChoices log in sessions during period 1	Week beginning 19/10/26
Careers interviews in school	Started 17/09/26, end 29/01/27
Recommended deadline to apply for any trade at college to secure a place	27/11/26
Mid Kent College open events	MKC Maidstone Campus • 4 November 3:30pm to 7:00pm • 28 November 10:00am to 1:00pm Medway Campus • 11 November 3:30pm to 7:00pm • 21 November 10:00am to 1:00pm
North Kent College open events	Tonbridge Campus • 4 November 3:30pm to 7:30pm
Hadlow College	• 7 November 9:30am to 3:00pm

Apprenticeships

Students identified as showing an interest in apprenticeships will be offered support after Christmas as they will need to start applying when apprenticeships start being advertised around May 2026. We have already liaised with ASK apprenticeship service and they have agreed to come in to deliver a “search and apply” workshop to those who are interested. Apprenticeship opportunities can be sparse or offers can fall through and so we highly recommend that all students make additional applications to colleges and sixth forms as a back-up plan.

Short Term Goals

Now is the time for you and your child to look into their options for year 12. I would advise you to check dates for open events at colleges and sixth forms and go online to register for these where necessary. Please note that these open events usually take place in October and November. At this point you need to help your child understand the different options available and talk to them about why each option may or may not suit them as an individual. A few things to consider when having these conversations are; the GCSE results they are likely to get, pursuing subjects they enjoy, travel plans to and from their future provider and do they need to continue a subject at a higher level because of their future goals?

Long Term Goals

Some students will have a very specific idea of what they would like to do in the future, some will have no idea at all and there will be others who may have an idea of the industry they wish to pursue but not the specific job role. Please let me reassure you that wherever they are on this spectrum is fine. I have included some links below and recommend that your child takes time to navigate their way around these sites and explore various career paths. It is important for them to look outside the box and discover the variety of jobs out there and not just focus on the ones they already know about. Research will open their eyes to the many opportunities that are available to them.

Helpful Information

As you will see, I have included lots of links in this email – please use them together with your child as you see fit. Some will be more relevant to you than others. I have offered a variety so you can choose which most suit your individual needs. I also email these links and more to your child's school email address. Please remind your child to check their emails so they do not miss out on vital information. This is a good habit to get into as they head into making applications and communicating with sixth forms and colleges about interviews etc. I know that this information can sometimes be "lost" amongst all the other material sent, so we have decided to set up a Malling School Facebook page dedicated to our careers content. It is called "Future You – The Malling School". I will be sharing lots of helpful content here, so I recommend that you follow us to keep updated easily.

You can use the following links to spark conversations with your child about plans for next year and their future.

To research any careers or future pathways of interest why not try the following sites:

Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service – Explore careers and identify what your skills are on this site.
https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/ - For relevant information local to us and for applications.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers - I'm sure many of you will have used the BBC Bitesize website for other subjects but were you aware that they have an exciting careers section too? It's great and covers so many of the important aspects of careers as a subject.

And finally, please don't forget to subscribe to our Malling School "Future You!" Facebook page where I will be posting lots of updates for year 11 parents and students. https://www.facebook.com/FutureYouTheMallingSchool

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me; willisa@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Willis
Careers Adviser


School of
CHARACTER


RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS
unicef
UNITED KINGDOM
BRONZE – RIGHTS COMMITTED




DofE
THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD


ANTI BULLYING
PROJECT
SALUS
ACCREDITATION


Healthy Schools


KMPF
KENT & MEDWAY
PROGRESSION
FEDERATION


MUSIC
MARK
INFLUENCING
SUPPORTING &
CONNECTING