

Dixons Middleton Academy

Futures Programme Strategy 2026-2029

A whole-school careers education, information, advice and guidance strategy.

1. Vision and Purpose

The Futures Programme provides a structured careers education journey that enables every student to develop the knowledge, skills and experiences required to make informed decisions about their future. The programme is designed to raise aspirations, promote social mobility and ensure students are prepared for further education, apprenticeships and employment.

2. Strategic Objectives

- Deliver a stable and progressive careers programme.
- Ensure full Gatsby Benchmark coverage.
- Increase employer and education encounters.
- Develop employability and digital skills.
- Support positive post-16 destinations.
- Provide personalised guidance for all students.

3. Programme Framework

The strategy is built around three pillars: Knowledge, Skills and Experiences.

4. Implementation Timeline

Year 7: Career pathways, university visit, workplace awareness and careers resources.

Year 8: College visits, teamwork, digital skills, careers fairs and job role exploration.

Year 9: Employer encounters, employability skills, presentations and workplace wellbeing.

Year 10: Personal statements, applications, mock interviews and Futures meetings.

Year 11: College interviews, apprenticeship awareness, finance education and transition support.

5. Gatsby Benchmark Mapping

- GB1 Stable Careers Programme
- GB2 Labour Market Information

- GB3 Addressing Individual Needs
- GB4 Curriculum Links
- GB5 Employer Encounters
- GB6 Workplace Experiences
- GB7 Further and Higher Education Encounters
- GB8 Personal Guidance

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Senior leaders provide strategic oversight. The Careers Leader coordinates delivery, monitoring and evaluation. Teaching staff embed careers learning within the curriculum. Employers, colleges and universities contribute encounters and experiences. Students actively engage with opportunities.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Programme effectiveness will be monitored through Compass+, destination data, student voice, employer feedback, attendance data and annual self-evaluation against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

8. Success Measures

100% student participation, sustained positive destinations, increased employer engagement and improved student career readiness.

9. Conclusion

Dixons Middleton Academy is committed to ensuring every student leaves school with the ambition, confidence and preparation required to succeed in their chosen future pathway.