

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

Career Spotlight of the Month

Renewable Energy

A Renewable Energy Technician installs, maintains, and repairs systems like wind turbines and solar panels. These roles are vital in helping the UK transition to clean energy.

Top Roles:

Wind Turbine Technician
Solar Panel Installer
Energy Efficiency Engineer
Offshore Maintenance Technician

Routes In:

College courses in electrical or mechanical engineering
Apprenticeships with energy companies
T Levels in Engineering or Construction
University degrees in renewable energy or environmental science

Regional Need:

The Northeast is a national leader in offshore wind and green energy, with major projects in Tees Valley and along the coast. Demand for skilled technicians is rising, offering strong job prospects locally.

Careers Support for students with Hearing Impairments.

Exploring Careers:

Students with hearing impairments can thrive in a wide range of careers. Many employers actively promote inclusive workplaces and offer adjustments to support communication and accessibility

Support Includes:

*Access to Work – A government scheme that funds communication support, equipment, and travel assistance.
BSL Interpreters – Available for interviews, training, and workplace communication.
Assistive Technology – Speech-to-text apps, vibrating alerts, and visual communication tools.*

Top Tips for EAL Students:

Use Unifrog to explore careers and filter by accessibility needs. Speak to your careers lead about arranging mock interviews or work experience with inclusive employers.

Provider Focus – East Durham College

What they offer:

East Durham College (EDC) is a top-performing college in the Northeast, offering a wide range of vocational, academic, and adult learning opportunities across three campuses:

Courses Include:

Vocational Courses – Construction, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Sport, Health & Social Care, Digital, Motor Vehicle, Public Services.

A Levels – Through ED6 Sixth Form.

T Levels – In areas such as Health, Education, and Digital.

Apprenticeships – Across multiple sectors.

Adult Learning – Access to HE, Teaching Assistant, Counselling, Maths & English, ESOL, and hobbyist courses like Photography, Music, and DIY.

Foundation Studies – For students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Why choose East Durham College?

Peterlee Campus – Home to state-of-the-art facilities for sport, hair & beauty, and digital technologies.

The Technical Academy (Peterlee) – Specialises in construction and engineering trades.

Houghall Campus (Durham) – The region's leading provider of land-based courses like animal care, agriculture, and veterinary nursing.

Open Events: [Events & Open Days | East Durham College](#)

Labour Market Insight: Northeast Growth Sectors

Health & Social Care – High demand across all areas.

Digital & Technology – Fast-growing, especially in Newcastle and Sunderland.

Green Energy – Offshore wind and sustainability roles expanding.

Advanced Manufacturing – Opportunities in Tees Valley and Washington.

(Source: North East LEP & National Careers Service)

Key Employers Hiring Locally:

- **Balfour Beatty** – expanding headcount significantly.
- **Northumbrian Water** – hiring across technical and operational roles.
- **AECOM & Labcorp** – offering roles in engineering, science, and project delivery.

Sector Growth Areas:

- **Construction:** Vacancies up **17.7%** – driven by infrastructure investment.
- **Engineering:** Up **16.2%**, especially in clean energy and advanced manufacturing.
- **Sales & Public Services:** Rebounding after a slow 2024.
- **Green Energy:** Tees Valley and coastal areas are seeing major growth in offshore wind and sustainability roles.
- **Consumer Goods:** Growing by over **60%**, showing strong recovery

Focus on SEND Learners & the World of Work

We believe every student deserves access to meaningful career opportunities, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Preparing for employment might look different for everyone — and that's okay. There are plenty of supported pathways to help build confidence and skills for the future.

Top Tips for Students with SEND:

- Explore **Supported Internships** and **Traineeships** — these offer real work experience with extra help.
- Look for employers who are part of the **Disability Confident** scheme — they actively support inclusive recruitment.
- Talk to your SENCO or Careers Advisor about **access to work support** like job coaches or adjustments for interviews.

Useful Resources:

- <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/> – post-16 support & employment guidance
- <https://disabilityconfident.campaign.gov.uk/> – Inclusive employers list

 Did you know? Many employers now offer neurodiversity-friendly apprenticeships and work experience.

Pathway Focus – Apprenticeships

What Are Apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are paid work-based training programmes that combine practical experience with study. They're available at different levels and lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

Types of Apprenticeships Available:

- **Intermediate (Level 2)** – Equivalent to GCSEs
- **Advanced (Level 3)** – Equivalent to A Levels
- **Higher (Levels 4–7)** – Equivalent to foundation degrees or above
- **Degree Apprenticeships** – Combine university study with work, leading to a full degree

Popular Apprenticeship Sectors in the Northeast:

- **Engineering & Manufacturing** – Especially in Tees Valley and Washington
- **Health & Social Care** – High demand across the region
- **Digital & IT** – Cybersecurity, software development, and data analysis
- **Construction & Trades** – Bricklaying, plumbing, electrical installation
- **Business & Finance** – Admin, accounting, customer service

Where to Find Apprenticeships:

Find an Apprenticeship – GOV.UK

Amazing Apprenticeships – Resources for students, parents, and educators

Local colleges and training providers like East Durham College, Newcastle College, and Hartlepool College, Bishop Auckland College

Art isn't just about creativity—it builds skills in visual communication, problem-solving, and innovation. It's a gateway to a wide range of exciting careers in both traditional and emerging industries.

Careers Linked to Art:

- **Graphic Designer** – Creating visuals for brands, websites, and advertising
- **Illustrator** – Working in publishing, fashion, or animation
- **Architect** – Combining design with technical knowledge
- **Art Therapist** – Using creativity to support mental health
- **Set Designer** – Designing environments for theatre, film, and TV
- **Tattoo Artist** – A growing creative field requiring precision and flair
- **UX/UI Designer** – Designing user-friendly digital experiences

Parent Tip of the Month

Supporting Career Conversations

- **Ask open questions** like “What job would you enjoy doing?”
- **Explore Unifrog together to look at career profiles.**
- **Attend school careers events and open evenings.**
- **Share your own experiences** – Talk about your job, how you got there, and what you've learned.
- **Encourage exploration** – Help your child look into different jobs, even ones they've never heard of. Use videos, podcasts, or local employer websites.

"Your future is created by what
you do today, not tomorrow."

– *Robert Kiyosaki*