



St Monica's RC High School

September 2026 Careers Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to share all the opportunities to help prepare for the world of education and work after St Monica's. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

Upcoming Careers & Apprenticeship Events: Mark Your Calendars!

Ready to figure out your next steps? We have a packed lineup of events designed to connect you with top employers, universities, and training providers.

Bury Careers Event 2026

When: Wednesday, 30th September | 3:30pm – 7:00pm

Where: Castle Leisure Centre

Who: All Year 10 & 11 pupils, plus parents and carers!

The Buzz: Plans are officially underway for this year's massive local hub! We already have **38 exhibitors** booked on, with more signing up every single day. Don't miss your chance to meet face-to-face with the people who can kickstart your future.

Year 10 Mock Interviews

When: Thursday, 19th November

Where: St Monica's RC High School

Who: All Year 10 Pupils

The Buzz: This activity offers students a low-stakes, 20-minute mock interview with a professional from Salford Foundation's network to help them prepare for future job or college applications. Right after the interview, pupils receive immediate, friendly feedback to identify their strengths and areas for growth. Facilitated throughout the school day by Salford Foundation coordinators, it is a pressure-free way for pupils to build confidence speaking with employers.

Everyday First Aid Workshop: Essential Skills to Save a Life

When: Friday, 11th December

Where: St Monica's RC High School

Who: Interested Pupils from Years 7-10

The Buzz: Emergency situations can happen anywhere. In this interactive, 1-hour workshop, pupils gain hands-on practice in life-saving first aid:

- **What to do when someone is unresponsive** (breathing or non-breathing)
- **How to perform chest compressions (CPR)** safely and correctly
- **Building the confidence to step up** and help in real life situations

Hands-on, learner-led, and practical—equipping young people with essential skills for life.





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Post-16 Events and Opportunities

Bury College Open Days: Saturday 3rd October 2026 10.30am - 1.30pm and Thursday 15th October 2026 5pm - 7.15pm

Holy Cross College Open Days: Saturday 3rd October 2026 10am - 1pm and Monday 12th October 2026 5pm - 8pm
Booking is essential, please check the website.

Loreto College Open Days: Saturday 10th October and Saturday 18th October 2026
Session Times 10.00 am – 12.00 pm & 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
Booking is essential, please check the website.

Xaverian College Open Days: Saturday 10th October and Saturday 18th October 2026
Drop in any time between 10.30am – 2pm. We recommend arriving early to make the most of your visit.



**Xaverian
College**



Career of the Month
Sustainability Analyst

The Job: Using data insights and statistical software to create strategies, write performance reports, set sustainability targets, and apply for accreditations (like B-Corp). *Hours:* Full-time (37 hrs/week, Mon–Fri) in an office/home setting.

The Skills: Problem-solving (asking the "so what's"), teamwork, strong communication, ability to work under pressure, inquisitiveness, and courage/risk-taking to try new ideas.

The Pay: Environment professionals earn a UK median salary of around **£43,362** (varies by region, with the West Midlands at £37,701 and South East at £36,437).

The Route: Most employers require a relevant degree (e.g., Environmental Science, Geography) or a Master’s degree. Professional experience in project management or junior roles (e.g., Sustainability Assistant) also helps. Progression leads to Senior or Group Sustainability Analyst roles.

Subject of the Month
Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Electronic and electrical engineers focus on the design of efficient and innovative electronic systems. Their responsibilities involve developing technologies for telecommunications, computing, and power distribution systems.

The Stats: Popular subject combinations include **Mathematics (80.96%)**, **Physics (66.33%)**, and **Computer Science (27.45%)**.

The Study: The course involves modules such as analogue electronics, circuit analysis, digital electronics, and electrical fundamentals. You'll spend time in labs and with computers, alongside work placements and sandwich years for on-the-job training.

The Future: Most graduates move into telecommunications or electronic/electrical engineering roles, with strong crossover into IT and computing, boasting an average starting salary of £36,792 and 90% in highly skilled jobs 15 months after graduating.

Local Labour Market Information
Did you know...?

Key local labour market insights for North West England, based on official 2026 data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) alongside regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) trends:

Top Job Growth in the UK: The North West leads the country in overall job growth, adding a total of **32,000 workforce jobs** over the past 12 months.

Strong Science & Tech Outlook: The wider Science, Engineering, and Technology sectors in the Northwest are on a long-term growth trajectory of **+38.5%**, generating over 80,000 new technical roles.

CTE & Work-Based Learning Integration: Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways across the region are shifting heavily toward **AI literacy, advanced manufacturing, and green tech credentials** as regional employers prioritise specialised skills and hands-on apprenticeships over traditional general degrees.

Online Careers Talks: Get Inspired!

Don’t miss out on these incredible insights! Click the links and give them a watch!

 Your Voice is Your Portfolio: Building a Creative Career in the Age of Social Media
[Click Here!](#)

 Things Nobody Tells You About Working For Yourself
[Click Here!](#)

 Meet Sky’s Apprentices: Why They Chose Apprenticeships Over Uni
[Click Here!](#)



St Monica's Alumni Spotlight

We're very proud of our illustrious Alumni network and are keen to shine the spotlight on an inspiring former pupil in each newsletter. This month, we're featuring Luke Donohue, Human Sciences Student currently studying at Oxford University.



When did you attend St Monica's, and where did you go after leaving?

I attended St. Monica's up until 2023, serving as Head Boy during my final year in 2022–2023. After leaving St. Monica's, I went on to study A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology at Loreto College Manchester, alongside completing an EPQ project focused on Adolescent Mental Health. While I initially aspired to study Medicine at university, a change of heart during my first year of A-Levels led me down a different path. I am now fortunate enough to be studying Human Sciences at Oxford University, based at Regent's Park College.

What does your typical day-to-day actually look like in your current role, and what is your job title?

My current "job title" is full-time undergraduate student reading Human Sciences at Oxford University! A typical day involves an intense but rewarding mix of lectures, independent research, and essay writing across interdisciplinary topics spanning biology, sociology, and human behaviour. The cornerstone of my week is attending academic tutorials, where I present and debate my work with leading academics in small groups—a setup that requires continuous preparation, critical thinking, and confidence.

Which school subject or extracurricular activity has helped you the most in your career so far?

Academically, studying Triple Science with my fantastic teachers—Miss Adams, Mrs Sherlock, and Mr Plunkett—was foundational; their genuine dedication sparked my initial passion for science. Serving as Head Boy in 2022–2023 was undoubtedly the most influential experience. Taking on the various leadership duties, speechwriting, and school representation built my confidence, public speaking, and organisational abilities, all of which continue to serve me directly during high-pressure university tutorials and academic presentations.

What are the three most important soft skills you use to get your job done?

Public Speaking: Communicating complex scientific ideas clearly and articulately, whether in a crowded lecture room or during a high-level university tutorial.

Organisation: Managing a demanding academic workload and research deadlines.

Adaptability: Having the willingness to pivot when your plans change—much like when I shifted my career goals from Medicine to Human Sciences—and staying open to new opportunities.

What is one thing you wish you had known, or worried about less, when you were at St Monica's?

I wish I had worried less about having my entire future mapped out perfectly from the start. When I left St. Monica's, I was set on studying Medicine, but changing my mind at Loreto College felt daunting at first. I quickly realised that it's completely okay for your goals to evolve as you learn more about yourself. Your path doesn't have to be linear to lead somewhere incredible.

If you could give our students just one piece of advice for their future, what would it be?

Throw yourself into every opportunity St. Monica's offers—whether that's running for leadership roles, speaking in public, or leaning into subjects that inspire you. The academic foundation and personal skills you build here will stay with you forever. Trust in the support of your teachers, embrace changes of direction along the way, and never count yourself out from aiming for top places like Oxford or Cambridge.

If you are a former pupil and would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, then please email agerschler@stmonicas.stoccat.org.uk

