

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



INSPIRING FUTURES THROUGH CAREERS EDUCATION

Welcome to the first edition of our Spotlight on Excellence newsletter, celebrating outstanding practice across our trust and beyond. This month, we shine a light on three inspiring individuals whose work in careers education is helping students imagine and shape their futures.

We begin with two passionate educators—Becca Archer and Amanda Condliffe—whose commitment to inclusive, person-centred careers guidance is transforming lives across Thames Valley School and Church Lawton School. We also celebrate Zarko Zahariev, recipient of this year’s Stakeholder Choice Award for Individual Recognition, presented by external partners in recognition of his outstanding contributions to young people with SEND across the Lambeth Schools Careers Network.

Becca Archer– Thames Valley School

Designated Safeguarding Lead, PSHE & Careers Lead

Becca’s integrated approach to careers education ensures

that pupils at Thames Valley School receive tailored, inclusive, and aspirational support.

“These roles are deeply interconnected with careers education and guidance,” Becca explains. “As the Careers Lead, I oversee the planning and delivery of a robust careers programme that supports pupils in exploring post-16 pathways, gaining meaningful work encounters, and developing the skills needed for adulthood.”

In summer 2025, Becca led a strategic review of the school’s careers programme, aligning it with the Gatsby Benchmarks and embedding it across the curriculum.

“We developed a document titled Careers in the Curriculum, showcased on our website,” she shares.



“It reflects our belief that careers education is a shared responsibility—much like safeguarding—and should be embedded across the whole school community.”

Becca’s work has already had a transformative impact:

“When I first took on the role, several Year 11 pupils expressed doubt about their ability to ever secure employment. Now, those same pupils are actively discussing their next steps, exploring career options, and expressing genuine enthusiasm about their futures.”

Her advice to others:

“Make it personal. Tailor opportunities to the needs, interests, and strengths of your pupils. Stay flexible, involve everyone, and above all—believe in the impact.”

Amanda Condliffe – Church Lawton School

HLTA & Work Experience Coordinator

Amanda’s dedication to careers education is rooted in a belief that every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their aspirations.

“I strive to take a person-centred approach, offering direction and encouragement that helps students believe in their potential and pursue their goals with determination.”

Amanda delivers careers-focused lessons, coordinates tailored work placements, and supports students through every step of their journey. She introduced the careers platform Xello, helping students explore pathways and plan for their futures.

“Exposure to the workplace is a powerful tool in shaping students’ aspirations and future goals.”

She also works closely with employers to promote inclusive practices. Amanda often faces challenges when contacting new establishments, particularly around employers’ understanding of autism and Special Educational Needs. Some employers express concerns about the suitability of roles for students, often due to a lack of awareness.

“I approach these situations with positivity and professionalism, aiming to educate and encourage employers to consider the potential of every student.”
She highlights each student’s interest in the specific career and coordinates pre-visits to help students familiarise themselves with the environment and assess comfort levels. These visits also allow Amanda to identify potential challenges and work with employers to implement reasonable adjustments.



One student recently completed a Level 1 Food Hygiene qualification and secured a job over the Christmas period—a powerful example of how real-world experience can lead to real-world success.

“My enthusiasm and passion for careers education gives me the confidence to help students achieve meaningful outcomes.”

Zarko Zahariev - Vanguard School

6th Form and Careers Lead

Zarko was presented with this year’s Stakeholder Choice Award, presented by stakeholders. It recognises an individual who has shown exceptional dedication to improving outcomes for young people with SEND. Zarko’s energy, creativity, and relentless drive have helped shape new partnerships, enrich the curriculum, and open doors for students across the Lambeth Schools Careers Network.

He’s known for his proactive, thoughtful communication and his ability to turn opportunities into real, lasting impact. Whether coordinating support for GCSE Results Day, building college partnerships, or responding swiftly to new initiatives, he always puts students first.



A Shared Vision for Student Success

Becca, Amanda, and Zarko exemplify what it means to lead with purpose. Their work is rooted in collaboration, inclusion, and a deep belief in the potential of every student. Together, they are helping to build a culture of aspiration, confidence, and opportunity across our trust and wider networks.

“When pupils begin to imagine their futures,” Becca says, “they start to shape them.”

“By helping students raise their aspirations and believe in their abilities, we can break down barriers and open doors to new possibilities.” Amanda adds.

Zarko’s recognition by stakeholders highlights the broader impact of our community’s work and the importance of strong partnerships in supporting young people with SEND.

Coming Soon

Stay tuned for the next edition of Spotlight on Excellence, where we continue to celebrate the incredible work happening across our trust.