



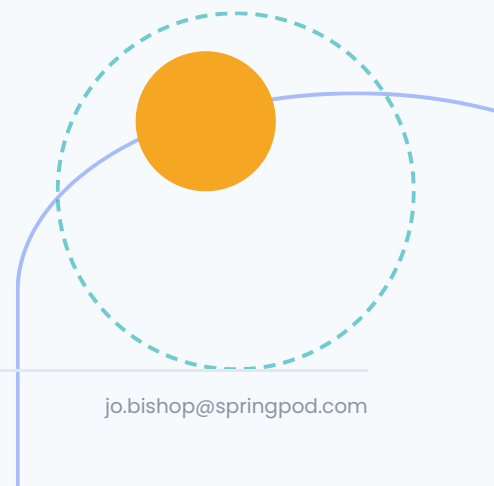
FOR TEACHERS & ADVISERS

NEW: EDUCATOR PORTAL

Getting started with Springpod

A practical guide to bringing employer-backed work experience and university subject experiences to your students — from your first login to evidencing impact.

Includes what the **Work Experience Guarantee** means for your careers programme, and how the new **Educator Portal** gives you visibility over every student's progress.



A free careers platform built for the classroom — and beyond it

Springpod gives your students free, on-demand access to virtual work experience, university subject spotlights and employer-backed programmes, so they can explore career paths and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Trusted by leading employers

Our employer and university partners — including Amazon, Barclays, the NHS, the BBC, Rolls-Royce, Siemens, the RAF, JD Sports, Aldi and the Met Office — ensure every experience is recognised and valued by universities and industry.

Built to sit alongside in-person experience

We're not trying to replace a great in-person placement. Springpod widens access for students who can't always get to an employer, adds structured preparation and reflection, and makes sure no one misses out because of where they live or who they know.

1.3 million+

enrolments

50% → 90%

confidence in job prospects,
before/after

47% → 99%

awareness of their chosen
industry, before/after

WHY IT MATTERS FOR YOU

As a teacher or adviser, you're balancing limited employer contacts, timetable pressure and students spread across very different confidence levels and circumstances. Because everything on Springpod is on-demand, self-paced and free, you can build it into a careers week, a drop-down day, form time or independent study — whatever fits your programme. All progress is saved and can be monitored by your school or college as it happens.

The Work Experience Guarantee — and what it means for your school

In June 2026, the DfE refreshed its statutory careers guidance, sharpening the rules around work experience while keeping the door open for virtual and blended delivery where it genuinely helps.

From September 2026, schools are expected to deliver two weeks' worth of work experience across Key Stages 3–4: one week of activities in Years 7–9, and one week of placement in Years 10–11.

Gatsby Benchmark 5 — Encounters with employers

"Virtual encounters can increase access to a wider range of employers, particularly where there are geographical or time constraints on visiting in person." Springpod's virtual employer encounters remain a strong fit here, with no restrictions.

Gatsby Benchmark 6 — Experiences of workplaces

For Years 10–11, placements should stay meaningful, in-person and immersive. Remote activity can sit *alongside* that placement — not instead of it — widening the sectors and employers a student can sample and supporting SEND or geographically isolated pupils where an in-person placement isn't practically achievable.

THE GAP THIS CLOSES

97%

of young people say direct work experience is crucial
to their future

39%

currently get it

Springpod exists to help close that gap: free, self-paced experiences that don't depend on personal connections, exam timetables or a student's confidence to walk into an unfamiliar workplace. As one careers lead put it:

"Springpod is genuinely innovative because it combines employer-led content with immersive technology to create engaging, high-quality learning experiences that are both scalable and inclusive. It enables colleges to broaden students' career horizons while supporting Gatsby Benchmarks and providing evidence of meaningful employer encounters."

Emma Swinburn, Associate Principal, Franklin Sixth Form College

Springpod isn't a substitute for the Years 10–11 in-person placement — in-person rightly remains the heart of that experience. It's the "alongside" delivery the guidance describes: widening access, adding preparation and reflection, and meeting the key stage 3 work experience activity requirement without needing to source an employer visit for every pupil.

Introducing the Educator Portal

Students sign up and explore independently — so the natural question for any career leader is how to keep visibility over who's actually engaging, and how to evidence that impact for Ofsted, inspection frameworks, governors or your own careers programme reporting. That's exactly what the Educator Portal is for.

A live dashboard, built for career leaders

See which of your students have signed up, which programmes and experiences they've started or completed, and how engagement is trending over time — without needing to enrol students yourself or chase them up individually.

The evidence layer behind Benchmarks 5 & 6

Instead of just knowing an encounter or experience happened somewhere, you can show which pupils took part, in what, and to what level of completion — useful day-to-day for spotting pupils or year groups with low uptake, and useful at reporting season.

SETTING IT UP

- ☐ **Complete the short application form** to request an Educator Portal for your institution — [it's a quick form to apply here](#).
- ☐ **You'll receive a link and password** to your Educator Portal. No need to create or enrol student accounts yourself — students still sign up independently.

Once set up, you can [log in here](#) to:

- Invite your students
- Track engagement
- Demo programmes
- Download certificates
- Export engagement reports
- Add more staff members

For more on how we handle personal data, see our [legal centre](#).

How to get started

Everything on Springpod is on-demand, so you can start whenever suits your programme. Work through this checklist at your own pace.

- ☐ **Go to [Springpod.com](https://springpod.com)** and explore what's available for your students, including [Explore Work Experience](#) and [Explore University Subject Spotlights](#).
Everything is on-demand, with interactive tasks and activities, and all progress is saved so it can be monitored by your school or college.
- ☐ **Set up your Educator Portal** — a short [form](#) gives you a live dashboard of student sign-ups and progress (see previous page).
- ☐ **Create your own student account** so you can see the experience exactly as your students will — select your school and enter a date of birth that makes you aged 13+.
- ☐ **Apply to join our Teacher/Adviser Community** — you'll be kept updated on upcoming experiences and platform developments, and you'll have a central point of contact at Springpod. You can reach Jo directly at jo.bishop@springpod.com.
- ☐ **Book a walkthrough with Jo** [here](#) if you have questions before you get started.
- ☐ **Book a virtual talk** [here](#) to introduce Springpod to your students directly, or contact Jo to discuss what would work best.
- ☐ **Explore our resources** in our [Introductory Pack](#) — including guides, activities and posters.

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS

Ready-made [slides here](#) you can use with staff or students to introduce Springpod.

Check out our latest introductory videos on our [Teacher and Adviser Playlist here](#).

Our short [animation here](#) is perfect for a quick introduction or assembly.

What's available, by year group

Whatever stage your students are at, there's a clear thread running from Year 7 and beyond.

Year group	What's available	Format	Maps to
Years 7–8	Springville (classroom experience)	Free, click-and-play, no login needed. Nine locations plus Speakers' Corner webinars; around an hour per building; ten built-in reflection and extension activities.	Benchmark 5 or 6 (depending on your delivery plan) – Years 7–9 work experience activities
Years 9+	Simulations , Programmes & Subject Spotlights (independent)	Free, self-paced, student sign-up. Simulations are single-task and bitesize; Programmes are built with leading employers across sectors, typically 6–8 hours of self-led activity; Spotlights are subject tasters with leading universities, typically 1–2 hours.	Benchmark 5 – employer encounters; Benchmark 6 – Year 9 activities and as a support layer around Years 10+ placements
All years	Educator Portal	Live dashboard for career leaders: sign-ups, participation and completion tracking by student and programme.	Evidence of progress against Benchmarks 5 and 6 for Ofsted, governors and internal reporting

Springville – Years 7 and 8

A free, click-and-play classroom resource that needs no login and no prior careers expertise to run. Built around an interactive map of nine locations (Tech Office, Airport, Leisure Centre, Hospital, Park, Court, Arts Centre, School and Speakers' Corner), each taking around an hour to explore – ideal for a single lesson or form-time slot. Although designed for Years 7 and 8, it's ungated, so it works just as well with other year groups or specific cohorts, including SEND. Ten ready-made extension activities take reflection further, from turning a "day in the life" into a personal development goal, to structured written prompts and student-led employer panels.

Simulations & Programmes – Years 9 and up

The model shifts from classroom-led to student-led. Students create their own account, link it to your school or college, and browse and apply for whatever interests them directly – as independent study, homework, or something they pick up outside school hours. Employer partners and universities span well-known names across sectors, so students can sample very different industries/subjects before committing to a subject or pathway choice.

Using Springpod in Sixth Form and FE

For sixth form and FE students, Springpod is there to support decision making and prepare for competitive university offers, degree apprenticeship applications, and vocational progression alike. Here's what that looks like in practice.

Practising for competitive interviews

Students preparing for university, degree apprenticeship or job interviews can use the AI Interview Skills Coach to practise and get instant feedback, building confidence before the real thing.

Employer networks, on-demand and in person

Beyond the virtual programmes, students can join Springpod's employer networks to open up further opportunities with the same partner organisations, including in-person events and activities.

Programmes inside the UCAS Hub

Thanks to Springpod's partnership with UCAS, students can discover and explore Springpod programmes directly within their UCAS Hub, alongside the rest of their applications.

Engagement tracking via the UCAS Adviser Portal

As well as your Educator Portal, you can track how your students are engaging with Springpod through the UCAS Adviser Portal.

ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL, SIDE BY SIDE

Springpod's library spans both routes. University subject spotlights and work experience programmes support students heading towards higher education, while sector-specific virtual work experience supports those on vocational and technical courses including BTEC, T Level and Level 1/2 study programmes.

What sixth form and FE colleges say

"The quality of the content, employer partnerships and interactive learning experiences create genuine engagement and inspire students to think more ambitiously about their futures. We are particularly excited to expand our use of Springpod next academic year, including the AI Interview Skills Coach, which we believe will further strengthen students' confidence and readiness for progression into higher education, apprenticeships and employment."

Emma Swinburn, Associate Principal, Franklin Sixth Form College

"Through Springpod, students can explore careers, develop employability skills and access high-quality experiences beyond the classroom... These experiences also help students build strong evidence for UCAS applications, apprenticeships and employment opportunities."

Adriano Fachini, Careers and Progression Manager, Leyton Sixth Form College

Sixth form campus, City of Portsmouth College

Students were set a target of 20 hours of virtual work experience, with an overall aim of 50% completion. "We were delighted to reach 41%, and Springpod played a fundamental role in helping us achieve this." — **Laura Meli, WEX/IP Lead/Coordinator**

Vocational courses, Capital City College

"Springpod plays an important role in supporting the work experience programme for our Level 1 and Level 2 learners. Its Sector Insights span a wide range of curriculum areas... The Ignite timetables support Level 2 learners to gain industry insights and a deeper understanding of the opportunities available within their chosen industry." — **Emma King, Head of Work Experience**

These are just a handful of examples — ask Jo for the full Springpod Case Studies pack for more.

Turning a virtual experience into something bigger

These experiences have no fixed timetable, so students can work through them over multiple sessions, in a dedicated careers week, or independently as homework.

Blending the virtual experience with in-person follow-up helps make it more meaningful — here are five ways schools and colleges do that.

1 Reflection & skill application workshops (in-person)

What: Host in-person workshops where students reflect on their virtual experience, discuss challenges, and apply skills in hands-on projects.

Why: Reinforces what they learned online and builds soft skills like collaboration and communication.

2 Employer meet-and-greets or networking events

What: Organise informal events where students meet employers from the industries and sectors they've learned about.

Why: Builds real-world connections and demystifies the professional environment.

3 Site visits or shadowing days

What: Arrange a day where students visit a company to tour the workplace, or ask them to research local employers and draft their own visit requests.

Why: Helps students see how their virtual tasks fit into the bigger picture.

4 Career panel discussions or Q&A sessions

What: Invite alumni or professionals from your employer network to take part in in-person panels or careers talks.

Why: Gives students the chance to ask deeper questions and hear different perspectives.

5 Project showcases or presentation days

What: Students present what they worked on or learned during their virtual placement to peers, teachers and industry guests.

Why: Builds confidence, presentation skills and peer learning.

We can provide sample programmes if you'd like help planning any of these — just get in touch.

Five more ways to build on it

6 Skills-building masterclasses or bootcamps

What: Run short, focused in-person sessions that build on virtual learning — coding, design or communication, for example.

Why: Strengthens specific competencies and shows your school's commitment to career readiness.

7 Career projects

What: Set a career-focused project where students design their own company, create a dream job or apprenticeship, and plan a recruitment strategy, including a job advert.

Why: Encourages critical thinking about the job market from both an employer and employee perspective, and builds entrepreneurial thinking and workplace awareness.

8 Inspiring younger students

What: Have students present their experience to younger peers, highlighting key takeaways. They can also create a quiz, survey or poster to engage others.

Why: Reinforces their own understanding, and builds communication, leadership and digital literacy while fostering a peer-led careers culture.

9 A day in the life video project

What: Students create short videos reenacting what a typical day might look like in a job they explored.

Why: Encourages creativity, research and a clearer understanding of real-world job expectations.

10 Problem-solving challenge

What: Set a real-world challenge related to an industry they explored — designing a marketing campaign, improving a product, or solving a customer service issue.

Why: Develops teamwork, innovation and critical thinking.

Want to track and monitor engagement?

Set up your Educator Portal (see page 4) for a live dashboard, so you can add incentives and celebrate achievements in assemblies without chasing progress manually.

FAQs for teachers and advisers

Does Springpod count towards the new September 2026 work experience requirement?

Yes, for the parts the guidance says virtual and blended delivery can support: the Years 7–9 work experience activity, and as the "alongside" element widening access for Years 10–11 placements. It isn't a substitute for the in-person placement itself. See page 3 for the full picture.

Can I create accounts for my students and enrol them in a programme?

No — students create their own accounts and apply for the programmes they wish to complete. We've made this quick and easy for students to do themselves. You can invite students via your Educator Portal, which speeds up the onboarding process. You can always see their progress through the Educator Portal.

Can I use Springpod experiences to suit my own timetable?

Yes. We always have a wide range of experiences available throughout the year and on demand, so you can fit it around a careers week, drop-down day, or independent study.

Do your experiences meet Gatsby Benchmarks?

Yes. You'll always find experiences that let you evidence progress towards the Gatsby Benchmarks, with experiential learning built into every programme or subject spotlight. Gatsby Benchmark guides are available for [Schools here](#) and for [Colleges and ITPs here](#).

Are your experiences mapped to the CDI Career Development Framework?

Yes. Every experience is underpinned by the six career development skills in the CDI framework, so the content stays engaging, relevant and up to date, with clear learning outcomes. A mapping document is [available here](#).

Are your programmes suitable for students who need additional support?

Yes. The flexibility of our experiences means students can take their time to work through the content, and staff can enrol alongside them for support. For some students, a virtual experience offers a lower-anxiety alternative to attending an in-person experience and meeting new people. We can also recommend programmes — contact Jo to find out more.

How do you keep students safe online?

Our staff are DBS-checked and responsible for in-programme communication with your students. There's an anonymised help desk, monitored by the Springpod team, and any live webinars are one-way for video and audio and moderated by a member of staff. Our safeguarding policy is [available here](#), and other documents are available in our [legal centre](#).



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

We hope your students find real value in their Springpod experience

If you have any questions, need a hand setting up your Educator Portal, or want a walkthrough before you start, reach out any time.

[Email Jo Bishop](#)

[Book a meeting](#)

Jo Bishop · Senior Schools and College Outreach Lead
jo.bishop@springpod.com · springpod.com

