Therfield Sixth Form Year 12 Plan for Tuesday computer sessions

Week	Focus	Action Item	High-Quality Resource Link
Week 1	**Personality & Skills Profile**	Take a buzz quiz or personality test to see how your traits map to potential industries.	Take the UCAS Buzz Quiz
Week 2	**Industry Deep Dive**	Explore job growth statistics, average salaries, and daily tasks in fields that caught your eye.	Research sectors on the National Careers Service
Week 3	**University vs. Apprenticeship**	Learn the fundamental pros, cons, and structural differences between full-time higher education and working.	Read the UCAS Alternatives to University Guide
Week 4	**The Hidden Labour Market**	Research dynamic corporate sectors and local economic growth areas.	Explore resources on Success at School
Week 5	**Alumni & Role Model Research**	Read case studies of real young professionals to see how they mapped their post-18 journeys.	Read real career journeys on icould
Week 6	**Review & Longlist**	Compile a "longlist" of 3 general career sectors or subject fields you want to focus on.	Track your ideas using the UCAS Hub Dashboard

Phase 2: Pathway Exploration (Weeks 7–13)

Focus: Deep-diving into specific courses and apprenticeship opportunities.

Week	Focus	Action Item	High-Quality Resource Link
Week 7	**University Course Search**	Search for degrees using filters like entry requirements, student satisfaction, and modules.	Compare degrees on Discover Uni
Week 8	**Understanding Higher & Degree Apprenticeships**	Learn how you can get a debt-free degree funded by an employer while earning a salary.	Download the guide from Amazing Apprenticeships
Week 9	**League Tables & Campus Reality**	Use independent rankings to evaluate university teaching quality and campus environments.	Look up tables on The Complete University Guide
Week 10	**Apprenticeship Live Vacancy Search**	Set up alert profiles on the government portal to look at live roles and entry requirements.	Register on Find an Apprenticeship (GOV.UK)
Week 11	**Uncovering Corporate Early Careers**	Check large company websites directly (finance, tech, engineering) for their bespoke school-leaver schemes.	Look up employers on RateMyApprenticeship
Week 12	**Student Finance & Budgeting**	Demystify how university loans work, tuition fees, maintenance grants, and repayment thresholds.	Use the Save the Student Loan Calculator
Week 13	**Midway Review & Pathway Selection**	Decide if you are leaning toward Uni, Apprenticeships, or a parallel track (applying to both).	Structure your choices with Prospects Career Planner

Phase 3: Building Your Profile (Weeks 14–19)

Focus: Gaining experience and learning how to stand out.

Week	Focus	Action Item	High-Quality Resource Link
Week 14	**Securing Work Experience**	Source a formal placement or reach out locally for a structured job shadowing opportunity.	Find local insight opportunities via Speakers for Schools
Week 15	**Super-Curricular Exploration**	Go beyond your school curriculum by reading academic journals or listening to sector podcasts.	Access free courses via OpenLearn (The Open University)
Week 16	**MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**	Complete a certified short online course to add academic weight to your applications.	Browse subject-specific micro-courses on FutureLearn
Week 17	**Virtual Work Insights**	If physical work experience is tough to get, log on for interactive corporate work simulations.	Complete a top-tier virtual placement on Forage
Week 18	**CV & Cover Letter Construction**	Write a professional CV targeted at corporate roles or part-time work, highlighting your transferable skills.	Use templates from the National Careers Service CV Builder
Week 19	**The Power of LinkedIn**	Build a clean, professional profile to safely network with alumni and employers in your target field.	Read the student profile guide via LinkedIn Students

Phase 4: Application Action (Weeks 20–25)

Focus: Putting your plans into motion by drafting statements and prepping for interviews.

Week	Focus	Action Item	High-Quality Resource Link
Week 20	**Booking University Open Days**	Check the dates for summer university open days and plan your campus visits.	Plan your schedule on OpenDays.com
Week 21	**Registering on the UCAS Hub**	Formally open your application for the upcoming admissions cycle and fill in your basic details.	Register or log in to the official UCAS Hub Application Portal
Week 22	**The Personal Statement/Cover Letter Outline**	Structure your core profile statement using the 80% academic/skills to 20% extracurricular rule.	Use the interactive guidance on the UCAS Personal Statement Tool
Week 23	**Drafting Your Personal Statement**	Write your first full draft, focusing heavily on what you learned from your super-curricular reading and work insights.	Check writing structures on The Student Room Personal Statement Guide
Week 24	**Apprenticeship Application Strategy**	Learn how to navigate situational judgment tests, psychometric testing, and application forms.	Take practice tests on AssessmentDay
Week 25	**Interview Preparation & Next Steps**	Practice answering behavioral questions using the STAR technique (Situation, Task, Action, Result).	Review common prompts on the Prospects Interview Tips Guide

💡 **Pro-Tip for Year 12s**

If you are torn between university and an apprenticeship, **apply to both.** You can submit your 5 choices on UCAS in the autumn, while simultaneously applying to degree apprenticeships as they pop up throughout the winter. This gives you a solid academic safety net while you hunt for your dream job.