Sixth Form Destination Data Review 2026

Executive Summary

- University remains to be the most popular post sixth form destination with a stable 2/3rds of students going to university straight after studying at Thomas Adams.
- The Liverpool universities remain popular, especially Liverpool John Mores and there is a significant number attending BIMM.
- Increase in gap years from 2025, however, these continue to be lower than before 2024.
- SEND students have a higher percentage than the cohort attending University.
- PP students attending university is significantly lower than the average cohort, however, they chose a variety of other options.

Recommendations

- Increase employer encounters specifically linked to apprenticeship pathways.
- Invite former students currently undertaking apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships to speak with Year 12 and 13 students.
- Increase targeted support for UCAS applications, personal statements and student finance applications.
- Expand participation in university outreach programmes, particularly through Liverpool John Moores, Chester, Keele, Harper Adams and Wrexham.
- Maintain current SEND careers guidance and transition arrangements.

Destination Breakdown Analysis

Destination	Count	Percentage 2026	Percentage 2025	Percentage 2024	Percentage 2023	Comparison to last year
Apprenticeship	3	3.4%	4.54%	5.88%	4.5%	-1.34%
Employment	5	5.7%	15.15%	8.82%	6.7%	6.33%
Gap Year	10	11.4%	6%	24.5%	22.47%	-18.46%
University	55	63.2%	63.6%	54.9%	57.3%	8.70%
Retaking Y13	1	1.1%	0	0	0%	0.00%
Military	1	1.1%	0	0	2.2%	0.00%
Further Education	3	3.4%	1.51%	1.9%	2.2%	-0.39%
Seeking Apprenticeships	2	2.2%	0	0.98%	2.2%	-0.98%
Unknown	4	4.5%	7.5%	0.98%	4.5%	8.02%
Seeking Employment	3	3.4%	1.51%	1.9%	0	-0.39%

The results show that apprenticeship uptake and interest has decreased when compared to last year's results. University application percentages remain similar with previous years with around 2/3rd of students choosing to attend University. There has been an increase in Gap Years, although this is lower than in the past. There has been an increase in the number taking less well established routes such as FE, military and retaking Year 13.

Final Destination V Intended Destination

The classification of the final destination against the intended shows

Classification code	Count	2026 Percentage	2025 Percentage	2024 Percentage	2023 Percentage	Difference to last year
1	72.2%	65	74.2%	67.6%	77.7%	-2%
2	21.1%	19	18.18%	26.4%	17.7%	+2.92%
3	6.6%	6	7.5%	2.9%	4.4%	-0.9%
4	0	0	0	1.9%	0	0

The analysis shows that the vast majority of students get their first choice option. There is a very slight increase in students changing their mind for destinations post results. Classification 3, meaning those we can't analyse remains low but most of these are due to not having their "intended destination" data. No students are classed as NEET.

Sub Group Analysis

Pupil Premium

Destination	Count	Percentage
University	4	36.3%
Employment	1	9%
Unknown	3	27%
Gap	1	9%
Apprenticeship	1	9%
Military	1	9%

Code	Count	Percentage
1	8	72.7%
2	1	9%
3	2	18.1%

For our PP students (including Service) university was the most popular option with 36.3% going to university. This is lower than the average for the cohort. The variety of options tells us that

Careers education is strong for PP students. Unknown destinations are high which damages the validity of this data. The results show that the majority of students got their intended destination.

SEND

Destination	Count	Percentage
University	5	71.4%
Gap Year	1	14.2%
Looking for employment	1	14.2%

Code	Count	Percentage
1	5	71.4%
2	1	14.2%
3	1	14.2%

The results show that for our SEND students that the majority went to university and got their first choice destination which shows that SEND students have been highly successful in accessing Higher education. The unknown is due to the student not having an intended destination data set.