



NEXT STEP AHEAD

THE FUTURE STARTS HERE

**BE PART OF IT
SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT**

Together we open doors



What is Next Step?

and why it matters

NEXT STEP AHEAD >>>

Next Step is a landmark careers event held in the heart of London, designed to connect individuals with meaningful, sustainable, and inspiring career pathways. This is not your typical job fair - it's an immersive, interactive celebration of talent, potential, and hands-on opportunity. Attendees will discover real stories, real skills, and real career journeys through demonstrations, discussions, and discovery.

Organised by Next Step Ahead, a not-for-profit company created for the community, with a mission to connect people of all backgrounds with meaningful, skill based career pathways.

Dates: September 2027
Open Days: Tuesday – Saturday – 9am – 5pm
Location: Central London (venue TBA)
Extras: Early morning 'breakfast visits' and 'after-hours receptions' and formal networking dinners will be held daily.

This is a collective initiative, to be delivered in partnership with Livery Companies, educators and industry leaders to help inspire the workforce of tomorrow.

The world of work is changing - and so are expectations. Young people (and career changers alike) are seeking purpose, skills, and connection. Next Step offers clarity and inspiration in a fast-moving world, empowering attendees to take charge of their future.



Who is it for?

and what makes Next Step different?

NEXT STEP AHEAD >>>

From school-leavers to career switchers, from the curious to the committed - Next Step is for everyone considering their next move. Whether it's your first job or your fifth, this is the place to explore the many routes to a meaningful career.

Our audience? Motivated and engaged.
At previous events:

78% were employed or self-employed - already in the game and looking to grow.
21% were students or career changers - actively transitioning and exploring.
1% Just 1% were unemployed, showing these events appeal to those ready to take action.

People want this. **Over a quarter of attendees travelled 30+ miles just to be there.** While 56% were local, that commitment to travel shows the value people place on real-world, career-changing experiences.

Watch. Listen. Learn. Connect.

- **Watch** master craftspeople at work - live blacksmithing, culinary arts, gardening, engineering and more.
- **Listen** to those who've made it - apprentices, entrepreneurs, and leading professionals share their journeys.
- **Learn** about apprenticeships, funded training, and work placements.
- **Connect** with the crafts and communities that keep Britain's professional heritage alive.



Why the Livery Companies?

Your Invitation to Participate

NEXT STEP AHEAD >>>

London's Livery Companies are the stewards of centuries of knowledge, craftsmanship and community. Next Step offers an unprecedented platform to:

- **Promote your craft** to the next generation
- **Inspire new members** by showcasing meaningful pathways
- **Demonstrate relevance** in today's world through hands-on participation
- **Contribute to social impact** by supporting aspiration, skills, and employability across all backgrounds

Your Invitation to Participate

Each participating Livery Company will be provided with:

- **Complimentary stand space** including modular shell scheme, carpet, lighting, power, table and chairs
- **Lecture slots:** A 30-minute daily platform in one of 10 theatres to showcase your craft, history and future vision
- **Craft Demonstration Zones:** Space for live demonstrations to engage and inspire
- **Ambassador Roles:** Nominate inspiring members to represent your Livery at student lunches
- **Exhibitor Showcases:** Feature member-made or supplier products
- **Evening Dinners:** Formal networking dinners with potential recruits, patrons, and partners



For the Next Generation

Shared Legacy, Their Bright Future

NEXT STEP AHEAD >>>

Next Step is about honouring the past while building the future. With your support, we can open the door to career paths that are often hidden from view - but rich in opportunity, meaning, and skill.

Join us in inspiring the next generation. The future of your craft - and your Company—starts with their Next Step.

- **School Participation:** Schools nationwide will be invited, with support for logistics and student comfort (picnic zones, facilities, guided tours)
- **Information Hubs:** Centralised advice desks covering apprenticeships, CPD, funding, and pathways

We reached all walks of working life.
At previous events:

77% were aged 30–60 - right in the heart of the workforce.
27% were under 30 - showing strong traction with younger audiences.
5% were 61+, revealing a growth opportunity to connect with older career-changers or retirees.

Reach & Impact

Our goal:

- Engage with over 5,000 students and career changers
- Generate 100+ apprenticeship leads
- Spotlight 50+ crafts and career pathways

Promotion Strategy

The event will be promoted nationally and locally with input from career advisors and the support of the industries being showcased.

Student experience

Students will attend in guided groups, with access to tailored talks, interactive zones and themed career trails to ensure meaningful engagement and discovery. UK wide school participation will be supported with logistics and dedicated coordination.

Post event impact reporting will be shared with all participants to highlight engagement, reach and outcomes – supporting your Livery's charitable and educational goals.





NEXT STEP AHEAD

THE FUTURE STARTS HERE

BE PART OF IT SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT

Together we open doors

Get Inspired. Get Hands-On. Get Moving.

At our event, you won't just be told about career paths - you'll see them in action. Watch skilled professionals at work, try out hands-on crafts, and meet people who are already living the careers you're curious about. It's not theory - it's real-life insight from real people.

And it works. Our past events sparked real change. **99% of attendees left satisfied - or better yet, very satisfied.** Why? Because face-to-face conversations and practical experiences don't just inform - they ignite ambition.

Interested Companies are asked to confirm participation by the end of September 2025.

A simple registration form will be provided, and a participation pack (including logistics and demonstration guidance) will follow. Don't miss the opportunity to represent your Company and your craft at this landmark event.

Next Step is more than an event - it's a movement to make opportunity visible, skills accessible, and heritage relevant to the next generation. Your craft. Their future. Let's shape it together.

GET IN TOUCH

To reserve your space or request more details, please contact:

Jeremy Storey-Walker,
Event Director,
Next Step Ahead CIC,
jeremy@nextstepahead.co.uk

