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Sixth Form Careers newsletter



Edition 4
Spring Term 2020

Welcome to the spring term edition of our Sixth Form Careers newsletter

What has been happening?

- The last term and a half has been very busy with year 13 finalising and sending off their UCAS applications. We beat our previous record with 183 applications being sent! Many students have received all 5 offers, including 5 Oxbridge offers, 2 Medicine and 1 Veterinary Science.
- Our year 13 apprenticeship & employment students participated in a mock assessment workshop run through the Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge programme.
- Well done to all of our Year 12's who managed to secure work experience placements during half term. These ranged from spending time at Sky News, Vauxhall Motors, primary schools, the Magistrates Court and many more! Other students hope to be undertaking their work experience in either the easter or summer holidays.
- Many students have been able to attend insight days to find out more about particular areas of industry. Two students opted to take up the opportunity to attend a law insight day at Berkhamsted School to find out more about careers in law. This is Lucy's account:-

"Myself and Noemi attended a law insight day held by Berkhamsted School to offer us an introduction to this field of work. The day was led by a barrister who previously attended Oxford University. He guided us through the process of becoming a lawyer, giving us a taster of what area we may want to take up ourselves. At the end of the day he introduced us to negotiations-discussions aimed at reaching agreements based on law. This was the most useful part of the day as we worked in teams on a particular case study of divorce law to reach the best outcome for our client. It gave us a chance to test and develop our persuasive and orator skills which are key elements to the practice of law. Overall the day was a useful introduction to the legal profession and the key practices".

University information

Student finance is now OPEN!

Register now! Information about this has already been sent by Mrs Mouncey.



University open days and events

If you are considering university, you should book onto summer open days and events through university websites. Some offer pre-registration to receive notification of when the open day bookings are open. We ask that students attend Saturday open days rather than missing lessons in the week for these.

Taster days for degree courses

The University of London and other London universities offer free 'taster days' on a variety of courses and are great introductions for courses you may be wanting to find out a bit more about, even if you're not planning to attend university in London. Places go fast!

<http://www.london.ac.uk/tasters>

The **debate chamber** offer the opportunity for you to explore subjects on offer at university through their summer schools (fee payable)

<http://www.debatechamber.com/>



University of Bath Programmes

Please note – specific entry criteria to attend - <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/widening-participation-criteria-for-students/>

Discover Bath - Summer 2020 <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/discover-bath-residentials/>

Discover Bath residential programmes give you a taste of first year study at the University of Bath. During your stay on the University campus you will take part in first year undergraduate lectures, workshops and projects.

Pathway to Bath – Summer 2020 www.bath.ac.uk/guides/pathway-to-bath-programme/

Pathway to Bath is a free, online curriculum enrichment programme aimed at academically-able Year 12 students who are considering applying to the University of Bath. This will improve students' knowledge of their subject and develop their independent learning and key skills such as research and problem solving. The programme will also help students to make an informed choice about their university choices.



Enrichment events & work experience opportunities

The Engineering Development Trust aim is to increase interest in STE(A)M careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) through a variety of engaging and dynamic programmes for ages 9-21 that replicate experiences found in the workplace. We advertised their **Headstart Programme** in our previous newsletter. Over 1,000 applications from across the country have already been received in response to the 'early offer' campaign, but there is still time for students to apply! Applications CLOSE on **Monday MARCH 23rd**. Funded places are available for qualifying students.



<https://www.etrust.org.uk/headstart>

They also offer paid placements through their 'Year in Industry' programme, for year 13 students thinking about a gap year and wanting to gain some industry experience.

<https://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>

InvestIN Careers Experiences



InvestIN is a London-based organisation led by a group of professionals from some of the most competitive careers.

Their programmes aim to create the 'ultimate work experience' through interactive simulations, site visits, seminars, networking sessions and career coaching guidance. Experiences are offered in: investment banking, law, medicine, engineering, computer science, entrepreneurship, psychology, architecture, marketing & PR, filmmaking, politics and journalism and include one-day experiences and summer internships. (Please note, there is a fee for these programmes).

For further information go to:

<https://investin.org/>

Vodafone's #CodeLikeAGirl Programme



In 2017 Vodafone launched their **#CodeLikeAGirl** programme in partnership with Code First:Girls to provide a free, 4 day coding workshop to girls aged 14-18 from 26 countries across the world. This is in recognition of the fact that despite the important role **girls and women** have played throughout the history of science and technology they are still hugely underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and maths (**STEM**) fields.

The programme aims to teach participants the technical skills necessary to build their own websites, including Html, CSS, GitHub and JQuery to provide them with the **skills, confidence and encouragement** to one day thrive in a STEM focused career. This programme forms part of Vodafone's wider ambition to be the **best employer for women**, by 2025.

The next workshop will be running April 6th to April 9th 2020 in Vodafone's London Paddington Offices.

<https://careers.vodafone.co.uk/work-experience>

Applications open NOW!



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

The Skills Builder Partnership has partnered with global cosmetics and beauty retailer, **L'Occitane**, to offer **top quality internships** for students in Year 12 or 13, in Summer 2020.

Over the internship, you will have the opportunity to develop these eight essential skills...



This is a brilliant opportunity for students to experience life and work at one of the Sunday Times' Top 100 employers in a 'grad scheme' style. With the support of a mentor, students will spend one week in one of the brand's boutiques and another in their central London UK HQ. Previous interns have had opportunities to work in marketing, PR, finance, operations and HR and some interns have been made offers of permanent employment with L'Occitane. The theme of the internship is 'Develop Your Potential', and previous retail experience is not necessary. **Application is by CV and covering letter.** If successful at this stage, students are invited to an Assessment morning in central London.

For more information including; a student handout (detailing what the company are looking for & what to include in your covering letter), a sample cover letter and CV writing guidance, go to:-

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/loccitane-internships>

To find out more about the company go to:-

www.loccitane.com

Email your application to internships@skillsbuilder.org

Applications due: Friday 3rd April 2020

Assessment day: Tuesday 21st April

Internships: Monday 27th July - Friday 7th August

WORK EXPERIENCE

Tips for attending a work experience day

Throughout a work experience day you are being watched. Imagine it being a day-long chance to stand out and make a great impression on the company who is hosting you. Unexpected opportunities can arise from work experience opportunities so here are a few tips to help you prepare and be confident on the day.

Non-Verbal communication

Think about what you are portraying by your non-verbal actions. This is your chance to convince the employers that you could potentially be a great candidate for a role they have.

- Smile
- Give direct eye contact
- Sit up
- Nod in agreement with points being made

Prepare questions

Spend a few minutes putting together questions for the professionals - you will have a lot of chances to ask questions.

Asking questions shows the employers that you are engaged in the session and you are genuinely interested in what they are saying.

It will also help you build your knowledge, gain a person's attention and direct the conversation.

- Prepare at least 3 questions that you can ask throughout the day
- Share your knowledge in your questions
- Don't be afraid to ask questions to help you understand if you are confused
- Ask questions about the company or industry you are at (do not mention a competitor)

Do your research

During a networking event or work experience day you have the chance to show off your knowledge and skills. Employers will see that you have gone above and beyond by taking time to do your research.

- Research the company you are attending - look at their values and mission statement
- Research the roles they have
- Research any news or articles related to the company or industry

These days work both ways and you also need to know if you are aligned with the values and culture of a company. Therefore, be the best version of yourself and be proud of what you have to offer.



Apprenticeships

Why an apprenticeship could be your Plan A - hear from some real apprentices...

“The best thing about working here is the range of opportunities and continuous development on offer. During my apprenticeship I was able to continue my accounting studies while I worked. Plus, there’s flexible working and a casual dress policy.”

Hollie, Finance Apprentice, Nestle



“Joining AstraZeneca as a research and development supply chain apprentice has been a fantastic experience. I have been involved in global projects, working with others from across the world to help deliver clinical trial medicines to patients on time, which is incredible rewarding.”

Jason, R&D Supply Chain Apprentice, AstraZeneca

“The Renishaw apprenticeship meant I could use the skills I gained in my physics, maths and D&T GCSEs. I now get to learn the practicalities of engineering and be hands-on, while studying at the same time.”

Rose, Production Technician (Former Manufacturing Apprentice), Renishaw



“Before I applied to Hovis, I had an unconditional offer at university, but I have no regrets choosing an apprenticeship over going to university. We are all very well looked after while we are at and away from site, and help is always there when you need it. This opportunity is fantastic and it is something you do not want to miss out on.”

Declen, Engineering Apprentice, Hovis

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my journey completing the apprenticeship. It has given me the drive to excel in my career, helped build my confidence and improve my life skills.”

Craig, Universal Banker, HSBC



Find out more

To find out lots more about the apprentice experience at a large variety of different firms, visit ‘Vacancy Snapshot’ on the Amazing Apprenticeships website: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies>



HOME VACANCIES SUPPORT FACTFILES  Apprenticeships

VACANCY SNAPSHOT

Past student Profile

Callan Deradour (left Sandringham 2019)
Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6)
AECOM



What A'Levels did you study?

Maths, Physics and Physical Education

How did you find and apply for your apprenticeship?

I went to the open evening and looked around each department and got talking to my now line manager who took in my CV. After this, I was invited to an interview and as a result I was offered a place in the Water Team undertaking a Degree Apprenticeship.

Why did you choose this apprenticeship/company?

AECOM have a very well structured route for apprentices where they support you with all the learning and coursework and provide opportunities for extra learning and development. They have also had many apprentices undertake the same apprenticeship who are all now doing very well. When I graduate in 5 years time I will complete an assessment day and will become IEng, an Incorporated Engineer, which was another reason why this apprenticeship stood out to me. Similarly to most other companies they also provide funding for the degree providing you meet the requirements to be levy funded.

How does your apprenticeship work?

I spend one day (8 hours) at London South Bank University on a Monday, 9am-5pm, studying towards a BEng in Civil Engineering. I have various lectures throughout the day covering a variety of topics. The rest of the week, I am working in the office. It is great because I am not treated like an apprentice as they allow me to work on projects and take on responsibility. Throughout the apprenticeship I also need to highlight and tick off various competencies to show I am eligible to become IEng in association with ICE, the Institution of Civil Engineers.

What have you been involved in so far?

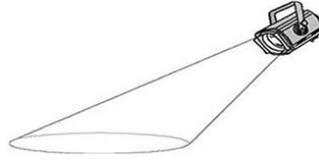
So far, as expected, I have had a lot of time training and understanding the standards and legislation that I need to abide by, but now I am becoming more involved in various projects, working a lot on CAD, producing drawings and modelling catchment areas for surface water flooding and drainage systems. I also spend lots of time reviewing and approving other company's drainage systems.

What would you advise other individuals who are currently looking for an apprenticeship?

When looking for an apprenticeship do not be narrow minded, look at lots of companies and what different apprenticeships they provide. At the beginning I did not look at University and spent my time attending apprenticeship events and company open days to get a good idea of what the most common apprenticeships are and the general way in which they are programmed. After applying to various companies you also become aware of the skill sets most employers look for, ways to conduct yourself in interviews and how to portray your strengths. Also, do not be put off by the stigma around apprenticeships, they are hard work and require lots of time but most of all are just as valuable, (if not more than), a stand-alone degree as most employers value experience very highly.

We look forward to welcoming Callan back to talk to students on our next Extended Learning Day on 4th March.

Spotlight on Cyber Security



What is it?

Cyber security analysts help to protect an organisation by employing a range of technologies and processes to prevent, detect and manage cyber threats. This can include protection of computers, data, networks and programmes.

Broadly, you can work in one of the following areas:

- consulting, offering advisory services to clients
- working to protect the security of the organisation you work for.

What skills do you need?

- excellent IT skills, including knowledge of computer networks, operating systems, software, hardware and security
- a good working knowledge of various security technologies such as network and application firewalls, host intrusion prevention and anti-virus
- the ability to work as part of a team and to build strong relationships with staff and other relevant individuals
- verbal communication skills, including presentation skills, with an ability to communicate with a range of individuals
- written communication skills, for example to write technical reports
- time-management and organisational skills to manage a variety of tasks, prioritise workload and meet deadlines
- excellent attention to detail, analytical skills and an ability to analyse complex technical information
- an ability to work under pressure, particularly when dealing with threats and at times of high demand.

What careers exist in Cyber Security?

- Cyber Technologists
- Cyber Risk Analysts
- Cyber Intrusion Analysts
- Information Security Analyst or Consultant
- Security Operations Centre Analyst
- Cyber Intelligence Analyst



How to get into Cyber Security

Apprenticeship: Level 4 Cyber Security Technologist (which covers Cyber Technology and Cyber Risk Analyst), Level 4 Intrusion Analyst, Level 6 Cyber Security Technical Professional (Integrated Degree)

University: the National Cyber Security Centre has certified a number of degrees which they hope will help prospective students make better-informed choices (the list of accredited degrees at both undergraduate and postgraduate level are on the NCSC website). It is also possible to enter the profession with a non-technical/unrelated degree.

Work experience

Making connections with those in the industry and attending relevant cyber and information security events could help you to access opportunities. You can join [BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT](#) as a student member for a small fee to access networking opportunities, mentoring and industry information. Other organisations you can join as a student include the [Institute of Information Security Professionals \(IISP\)](#).

Upcoming events for this term

- Introduction to Apprenticeships presentation for year 12
- During our next Extended Learning Day on 4th March we will be welcoming talks from Jerry Toner, University of Cambridge about Oxbridge application preparation, a representative from Leicester Uni, Claire McParland from Stowe Family Law, Digital Marketing company owner Beth Helloway as well as ex-students Samuel Habib and Callan Deradour, now employed at PwC and Aecom.

Additional subject and industry talks and advice about university and apprenticeship applications are being planned for the summer term, which you will hear about in our next newsletter.

Keep a look out for events and opportunities that we advertise in our monthly careers bulletins and if you see any that you are interested in, apply early!