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Sixth Form Careers newsletter



Edition 6

Spring Term 2021

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

What has been happening?

- We celebrated National Apprenticeship Week with key events highlighted to students followed by an Apprenticeship Awareness Assembly to Year 12
- 1-2-1 guidance and support on applying for apprenticeships from Sandringham alumni
- Year 12 have started their 'Futures' unit in Personal Development to start looking at options beyond school
- Applications for Student Finance are now open for Year 13 students hoping to start university in Sept 2021, all info here: studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk

Careers Events/Insights

Careers in Health

More and more students are applying for careers in health. According to UCAS, numbers are up by a third this year - with 60,000 applying to study nursing alone. If you're interested in a career in health the **WOW Show** website www.thewowshow.org has a wealth of information you can access.



The Health Careers Special <https://www.thewowshow.org/health-careers-special/> looks in detail at 14 careers as Allied Health Professionals. You can also find specialist Careers Guides on Therapeutic Radiography and Podiatry.

Aspiring Medics

Miss Clark posted this information in the Year 12 Google Classroom last term but we thought it was worth sharing with you again in case you missed it...



If you are interested in following a medical career there is a fantastic new website that has been put together by a group of medical students from the University of Manchester, called Scrubbed-Up (scrubbed-up.com).

The website is designed to provide clarity to the medical school application process, and provide the tips and advice to prospective students that they wish they knew themselves, all in one place. They also aim to provide an insight into what life at medical school is really like.

Careers in Cyber Security

The free **#CyberLaunchPad: Futures in Cyber Security 30-day programme** offers the essential, upfront knowledge and skills that employers in this rapidly-expanding industry are looking for and introduces you to possible career paths within the cyber security and computing sector. Through exploring how digital devices, networks and data systems are used in a business context, you'll gain valuable insight into how to implement effective security measures in real-life scenarios.

For more info and to sign up go to:

https://www.qa.com/campaigns/futures-in-cyber-security/?utm_source=All%20about%20group&utm_medium=e-shot&utm_campaign=CyberLaunchPad:Futures%20in%20Cyber

Careers that tackle climate change

As climate change becomes an increasingly pressing issue, the demand for workers with the skills and passion to protect the environment is growing. If you want to be one of them, use this guide from the **Unifrog 'Know-how' library** to explore five rewarding career options.

[Read the guide on our blog](#)



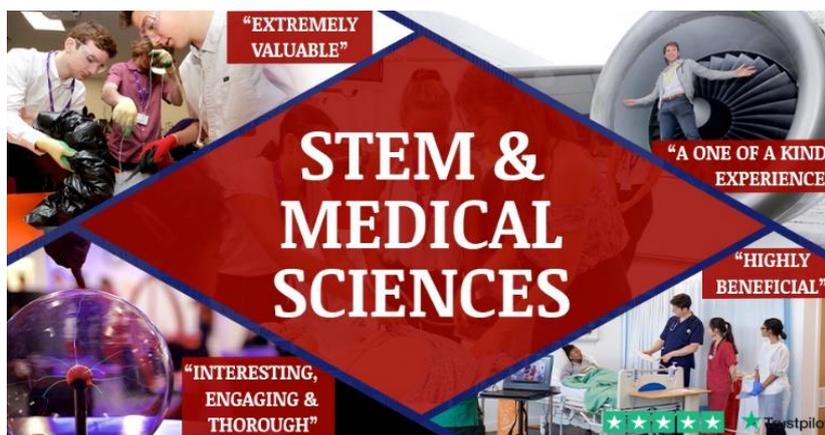
Work Experience & Volunteering

Register on **'Speakers for Schools'** to access free virtual work experience in a whole range of industries, including the NHS, communications, finance, management, engineering and many more.

<https://www.s4snextgen.org/>



STEM & Medical Sciences Work Experience



Career experiences available in 8 STEM-related industries – architecture, computer science, dentistry, engineering, investment banking, medicine, psychology, veterinary medicine. You can choose to attend 'Live On-Line' before Easter or in person in April.

https://investin.org/pages/stem?mc_cid=07eafa7e0a&mc_eid=bd25616634

University Info

Which subject should you study?

Times Higher Education has created a comprehensive article to help students decide on a university course.

It looks at many subjects and offers information, such as: what you can do with different degrees, guidance on international study, or what degrees can lead you to specific careers.



<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/which-subject-should-you-study-university>

Taster Lectures

Many universities offer links to subject resources on their websites including taster lectures and recommended reading that you can use to further your knowledge and ultimately assist you in your application. Have a look at the Resources Hub on offer from Lancaster Uni as a starting point.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/working-with-schools/schools-resource-hub/subject-resources/>

Unifrog

These free **after-school webinars** running from 1st -11th March are perfect if you're in year 12 and starting to consider where you may want to go to university. Each one will focus on a different region of the UK. You will hear from leading institutions including the Universities of Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Birmingham and will have the opportunity to ask them any burning questions during **Q&A** sessions. Sign up on the Unifrog webinars tool or follow this link:

<https://unifrog.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5bc796202b9e578598d0097e1&id=8381f7d81b&e=60457a28b6>



UK University webinar series

Hear from leading institutions across the UK to find the right university for you

With 13 sessions from 1 to 11 March

Sign up for free on the Unifrog Webinars tool

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Spotlight on: *Business & Management*

(Taken from: a Unifrog 'Know How' guide)

Roles in the business sector generally fall into two main categories: business management and business consultancy.

Who works in business management?

Business managers can work in general management (overseeing the work of other employees) or hold specific responsibilities for a particular area of an organisation. Business management roles include:

- Human resources manager
- Marketing manager
- Network manager
- Credit manager
- Business development manager

Who works in business consultancy?

Consultants offer advice to organisations to help them solve problems and enhance performance. They either work in large companies or consultancy firms. Here are a few consultancy roles to start with:

- Business analyst
- Economist
- Environmental consultant
- Ergonomist
- Management consultant

It's worth keeping in mind that you don't necessarily need to work in the business sector to have one of these roles - many organisations across all industries require managers and consultants. Because of this, you should have plenty of opportunities to choose from if you have the right skills and experience.

What skills will you need to demonstrate?

- **Problem solving.** No matter which area of business you go into, you will encounter problems. This means you'll need to be able to think creatively in order to overcome issues, sometimes under pressure.
- **Analysis.** With the rapid increase of technology, the need for analytical thinking in businesses is also increasing. You'll need to be able to objectively assess the present state of a business, where it should be in the future, and what to do in order to make that happen.
- **Communication.** You will need to communicate and negotiate with suppliers, customers, potential investors and employees. Having effective verbal and aural communication skills will help you to understand other people's priorities and build good working relationships.

How can you get experience?

- Young Enterprise



- Pursue work experience and work placement opportunities.
- Once you're at uni, get involved with **student societies**. There are usually plenty to choose from, specialising in areas such as management, entrepreneurial projects, international business and finance. These societies will give you the opportunity to network with likeminded students and professionals in the industry, gain valuable careers advice, meet alumni and enter competitions.

Finding experience elsewhere

- **Start a business.** You don't have to be an adult to start your business, and there's really no better way to get your head around key business concepts such as profit, loss and turnover. It will also give you the opportunity to plan a budget, create branding, advertise and brainstorm ideas for business growth. Not sure where to start? Here are a few ideas:
- **Grow a network of contacts.** Search for networking events on social media and reach out to people on LinkedIn. If you're lucky, they might allow you to shadow them at work. Use our 'Curating a LinkedIn profile' guide to build up your LinkedIn profile first.
- **Get MOOCing.** Use Unifrog's MOOC tool to search for 'Business and development' or 'Management and leadership' courses. There are courses covering topics such as 'Marketing management', 'Global business strategy' and 'Leadership theory: the basics'.
- **Read.** See if your local library holds a copy of 'Business insider' and get reading! It's also worth using Feedly to subscribe to business-related blogs. Knowing what's happening in the industry will help you both during job interviews and throughout your career.

Workplace experience

- **Work experience.** Nearly all offices have someone who works in business, and nearly all of us know someone who works in an office. If you do, ask them to pass on your CV/resume and cover letter to someone who can arrange a work experience placement for you, and then chase this up with a phone call a week later.
- **Apprenticeships.** If you live in the UK, there are many apprenticeships within the business sector that you can get in to straight from school or college. You don't have to go to university and, often, on-the-job learning can be more relevant. Use Unifrog's Apprenticeships tool to start your search.

Other useful links

- [Business Dictionary](#)
- [Investopedia](#)
- [Ted Talks: The surprising ingredient that makes businesses work better](#)
- [Mashable Business](#)
- [Forbes: Entrepreneurs](#)

Past student Profile

Max Bull (left Sandringham 2016)
Diary Secretary, House of Lords (Civil Service)

What A'Levels did you study?

I studied Government and Politics, History and Sociology at A-Level - three subjects I thoroughly enjoyed, and all have proved useful since leaving Sandringham.

What made you decide to do the degree you chose?

I think out of everything I was studying at school, politics seemed the most interesting to take onto higher education; it offered a great opportunity to explore what I had enjoyed at A-Level a bit further but also begin to research other areas of politics I was interested in.



How relevant was your degree to what you are doing now?

Incredibly so! From studying Politics at A-Level and at university, there really is nothing more fitting than working in the House of Lords. That said, I can hardly pretend I use my degree on a daily basis. I certainly don't need to understand Marxism or Plato's Republic in what I do day-to-day; the theory of politics is much different to the practicalities of it and that is something nobody taught me!

At the end of the day, university is about developing a variety of skills that will be applicable in whatever you choose to do after your degree. My degree allowed me to keep my options open and I recommend doing the same.

Tell us what you are doing now and how you got to be where you are today.

Coming out of University, I knew I wanted to join the Civil Service, but like so many, really struggled to get my foot in the door without any real experience.

As a result, I took up a voluntary role working for a Political Party in the 2019 General Election. Voluntary roles are a really great way to add to your CV and people are always happy to take on volunteers; it gave me something to talk about in my interviews and I gained a really good understanding of local politics.

From this, I joined the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport working on the delivery of one of the Government's key targets. I quickly realised it wasn't what I wanted to do long-term but it was a foot in the door and an opportunity to see what else the Civil Service had to offer.

I then moved onto my current role within the House of Lords, which I love.

What are your plans for the future?

My plans are to stay in the Civil Service for as long as possible. With so many different departments, there is plenty of scope to try completely different things that other careers potentially can't offer.

From being a Private Secretary (working for a Government Minister), to being a Policy Advisor, a Bill Manager (managing legislation through the Houses of Parliament) or working abroad for the diplomatic services, the opportunities to change your career are endless.

I love what I do at the moment and the immediate plan is to progress up the ladder in my current role. Long term, I'd love to work abroad, somewhere hot...

What advice would you give yourself as a sixth former?

I would tell myself two things. First, there is really no substitute for hard work (something my teachers may laugh about me writing now!) Exams, essays, interviews etc., all reward those who work hard and put in the effort, it is very obvious when someone is trying to wing it.

Second, I would tell myself to get as much experience as possible whilst at university. I was very lazy during my summers and was reluctant to give up my free time, but with hindsight I paid the price when I was job hunting. Good grades and a top university are only 50% of what employers are after, experience and good people skills go a long way!



Apprenticeships

Higher & Degree Apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships are funded by both the employer and the government. You will gain a debt-free qualification whilst earning a salary.

80% of your time will be spent on-the-job, whilst 20% is spent studying or training and you could:

- Attend Uni in block weeks across the year
- Attend Uni once a week
- Receive training on site at work
- Receive online & face to face training
- Have a mixture of the above



There are over 260 different Higher and Degree apprenticeships available, with roles such as:

Aerospace Engineer
Architect
Chartered & Legal Executive

First Officer Pilot
Paramedic
Social Worker

Senior Journalist
Solicitor
Storyboard Artist

As an apprentice is studying alongside doing a full-time job it can take a bit longer to complete than a full-time University course. A Higher or Degree apprenticeship will typically last for 3 -5 years, although some, such as the Solicitor apprenticeship, can take up to 6 years.

Higher and Degree apprenticeships become available throughout the year and you will have to follow the company's recruitment policy when submitting your application. There are many places to search for an apprenticeship including:

The 'Find an apprenticeship' website – www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Vacancy Snapshot – www.amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies

UCAS – www.careerfinder.ucas.com/searchjobs

It's also important to visit employer websites as many will advertise via their own recruitment platforms.

The brand-new [Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Vacancy Listing](#) is now available to download, showcasing current vacancies across a wide range of sectors. Even if you're not ready to apply yet have a look to get an idea of what sort of jobs are around.

SUPER-CURRICULAR and EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

For those of you in Year 12 considering University in the not too distant future it's good to remember that an application that highlights an array of super-curricular interests in the subject you choose as well as providing experience of extracurricular activities is always well received.

Super-curricular activities take you beyond the A Level curriculum in the subject you're planning to study and demonstrate a passion for your chosen subject. **Extra-curricular activities** are those out of school activities that show you have a range of soft skills – these are about you as a person and how you might work with others and get a job done – such as being able to work in a team, time management and leadership skills. So, extra-curricular activities count but it's the super-curricular activities that makes for a successful university application.

The best thing about super-curricular activities is that there are no exams or deadlines to worry about – you're free to follow your own lines of enquiry into the areas that interest you the most. Rather than seeing this as a 'tick box exercise' to give you something to write about in your personal statement, you should take time to explore things that you genuinely find interesting and see where your investigations lead you.

Here are some ideas of things you can do:

- **Sandringham's Super-Curricular subject booklets**

These booklets have a range of activities to develop your learning including what to read, listen to, visit and research and are accessible on the school website, or by following this link:

<https://sandringham.herts.sch.uk/super-curriculum/>



- **MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**

The range of online courses available is huge. Here are some suggestions:



Alison (<https://alison.com/courses>) offers a range of courses, from art to humanities.

Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org/>) has a range of courses, and works in partnership with top universities and organisations to offer courses online. Courses range from an Introduction to Engineering Mechanics to Introduction to Mathematical Thinking, and more.

EdX (<https://www.edx.org>) has a wide selection of courses, ranging from science to languages and law. EdX was founded by Harvard University and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Futurelearn (<https://www.futurelearn.com>) has partnered with leading universities to provide a wide range of MOOCs. See their website and go to individual university pages to explore the range of MOOCs available.

Udacity (<https://eu.udacity.com/>) is focused on courses related to computing.

Udemy (<https://www.udemy.com/>) has a wide range of online courses, from design and photography to IT and software.

Many universities have free on-line courses you can access:

<https://www.classcentral.com/report/new-courses-october-2018>

- **TED talks**

A great source of inspiring talks from leading experts. A good place to start are Ted talks recommended by students for students.

<https://blog.ed.ted.com/2017/03/16/9-ted-talks-recommended-by-students-for-students/>
<https://www.weareteachers.com/ted-talks-students/>

- **Podcasts**

There are a vast number of really interesting podcasts available on **Unifrog**. Click on 'Read, Watch, Listen' on your home page or follow this link:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/read-watch-listen/type-podcast>

The Clever Podcast is all about design and inspiring interviews with top designers.

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

- **Webinars**

Log onto **Unifrog** to access past webinars and to see upcoming ones.

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/webinars>

- **MY HE Plus**

Hosted by Cambridge University this website aims to give students the opportunity to explore different subjects beyond the school curriculum. As well as guided activities, there are questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.

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

- **Explore**

Created by Oxford University this aims to engage young people in debates and ideas that go beyond the classroom. A wide range of subjects are covered, from archeology to zoology, and linked to the latest research being carried out at Oxford.

<https://explore.org/>

- **Staircase 12**

Hosted by Oxford University and has a wealth of an online resources and information with lots of ideas to help students extend their knowledge beyond the school syllabus.

<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/staircase12/>

- **Isaac Physics**

A Department of Education project at the University of Cambridge. It aims to give students transitioning from GCSEs to Sixth Form, to university, insight into and understanding of physics by problem solving. A Level resources range from problem solving, mentoring schemes to extension resources (includes a section on maths questions to help prepare for a STEM course interview).

<https://isaacphysics.org/alevel>

- **Edge Magazine**

An online resource that brings together leading thinkers in their fields and within broad subject areas– mind, life, culture, universe and technology. Expert conversations range from Alzheimer's prevention to How to be a systems thinkers.

<https://www.edge.org/>

- **Why Not Chem Eng**

This has everything you need to know about chemical engineering.

<https://www.icheme.org/education/whynotchemeng/>

- **Volunteering**

Volunteering is a great way to get experience and do something good while also gaining a range of transferable skills to help with your university or job applications. Volunteering can also provide the opportunity to develop soft skills.



Vinspired is the UK's main volunteering charity for 14 to 25 year olds. The charity helps young people to make a mark on causes they care about while learning new skills at the same time. It is possible to search by area and a specific interest or activity and find something to suit the student's interests.

www.vinspired.com

Do-it lists volunteering opportunities for all ages so with a little persistence, you may find volunteering opportunities locally, searching by activity and area or postcode.

<http://www.do-it.org.uk>

- **Work Experience**

Work experience in your chosen field of study not only gives you an insight into your preferred subject/career, but enables you to make an informed choice and shows a level of commitment to the degree subject you are planning to study. However, any work experience is good!



Family members and friends can be a good source to finding a placement, google companies in the sector you are interested in, make a speculative application to an employer and keep a look out on the Careers Bulletins as well as Google Classroom for any opportunities we hear about.

Upcoming events for this term

- 15th March 4.00pm – Oxbridge talk with Professor Michael McMahon
- 17th March 4.00pm – Law talk with Kathryn Knight
- 24th March 4.00pm – Medicine & London Ambulance Service talk with Benji Watkins