



# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

13.11.2020

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE....



**THIS WEEKS BULLETIN FOCUSES ON OPPORTUNITIES YOU CAN USE TO IMPROVE YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT OR CV.**

**MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP TO AT LEAST 2 EVENTS..... THEY'RE FREE!!**

**OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE....**

**SUTTON TRUST US PROGRAMME, UNIFEST, ASPIRING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME, HSBC, RAF, GRESHAM COLLEGE ONLINE LECTURES, COLUMBAN COMPETITION, AIM HIGHER WEST MIDLANDS ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES.**



**As always just pop in and see us  
if you have any questions..  
(We're next door to PA3)**

*The Sixth Form Team*



# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

**CLOSING DATE COMING SOON...CLOSING DATE COMING SOON...CLOSING DATE**

**Apply now for the  
Sutton Trust US Programme**



## What is it?

The **Sutton Trust US Programme** is designed to support students from state schools across the UK to explore US study and access leading universities. It includes two virtual residentials before all students spend a week in the US staying on campus at a leading US university and visiting a variety of other American universities. Please note that the health and safety of our young people and our staff takes top priority. This may mean we need to adjust our plans, and possibly deliver US weeks in a virtual format. If you are accepted onto the programme we will provide further details regarding US weeks.

An optional second year of the programme supports students to apply to US universities alongside their UCAS options.

For interested applicants, parents, and teachers we are holding an informational webinar on **Wednesday, 19 November** at 4:00pm. If you would like to attend you can register here: <https://bit.ly/3mZs700>

In the past nine years, we have helped more than 400 British students get places and funding at top US universities.

## How much does it cost for students?

The programme is free for students. All costs are covered by the programme – including travel, food, accommodation, admissions test preparation and more.

## Who are we looking for?

To be eligible to apply, students must:

- Currently be in Year 12 in England and Wales, S5 in Scotland or Year 13 in Northern Ireland
- Attend, and have always attended, a state-funded school or college i.e. non-fee paying
- Not hold US citizenship
- Be from a low or middle income family (generally, this will mean a household earning £45,000 or less)
- Be interested in US culture and higher education

In addition, we are looking for students who:

- Would be the first generation of their family to attend university
- Have been eligible for Free School Meals
- Attend a school or college with a below-average A Level or Higher point score and/or a low rate of progression into higher education
- Have attended schools with a lower than average progression to higher education, or a higher than average proportion of students who qualify for Free School Meals
- Live in a neighbourhood with a low rate of progression into higher education and/or a high level of socio-economic deprivation
- Have excellent GCSEs or S4 qualifications. This means you have achieved at or close to the following: In England and Northern Ireland: at least eight GCSEs at grade A or 7 or above, or near this level. In Wales: at least eight GCSEs at grade A or above, or near this level. In Scotland: at least six B passes at National 5 or above, or near this level.

The more of these you meet, the more likely you are to get a place on the programme.

## When is the deadline for students to apply?

Students must submit their application by **17 January 2021**.

However, we strongly advise they get started earlier, as the application form requires some thinking!

## When is the deadline for school references?

Students must nominate someone at their school to fill out a reference alongside their application.

School references are due by **21 January 2021**.

## Where can I find out more and apply?

There's lots more information on our website: <https://us.suttontrust.com> and the application form can also be found there.



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# UNIFEST

## FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Live Online Q&A  
17th November  
18:00 - 19:00

## UNIFEST FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Following on from the success of UniFest Online last summer, we are delighted to announce that we will be hosting some additional virtual UniFest events this term.

The virtual event will include evening webinar and live Q&A on **Tuesday 17th November 18:00 – 19:00**. This will provide a great opportunity for the parents and carers of young people across the West Midlands to find out more about higher education and ask those burning questions to our team of representatives from our region's universities. There will be short presentations covering choosing options, student finance and student support followed by an interactive Q&A session.

**Parents and carers can register for the event here:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/unifest-parents-carers>**







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## University of Reading

### VIRTUAL EVENTS

Other ways to visit the University >

## Experience student life from the comfort of your own home

Our webinars, virtual taster sessions and online courses give you the chance to explore studying your chosen subject at university-level from the comfort of your own home.

To find out more information or to sign up visit: <https://bit.ly/2TdoDLP>

### ARE YOU READY?



#### GREAT COURSE OPTIONS

Learn more about the subject you're passionate about from world-class experts.

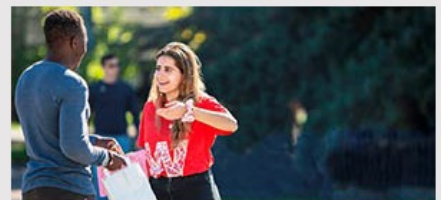
Find your subject



#### EXPLORE STUDENT LIFE

Experience life on a beautiful, green campus in the heart of a lively town.

See what Reading can offer



#### CHAT TO OUR STUDENTS

Find out what it's like to study at Reading.

Find out more



### AT A GLANCE



# 94%

of graduates in work or study within six months of graduating<sup>3</sup>



# 150+

taught postgraduate courses



Over

# £500<sub>m</sub>

capital investment in top-class teaching, research and student facilities over the last decade

<sup>3</sup> Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE), 2016





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## THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**18:00-19:30**  
**20:00-21:30**

Explore the roles of the RAF within an immersive, never-before seen virtual hangar with an opportunity to discover information on key roles, as well as chat live with a specialist RAF recruiter. All from the comfort of your own home.

- **Find out more about life in the RAF**
- **An immersive, interactive 360° experience**
- **Find your force – discover a role for you**
- **Download role specific information**
- **Chat live with an RAF recruiter – have your questions answered**

**BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET NOW!**

 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**  
REGULAR & RESERVE

**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**



# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

**CLOSING DATE COMING SOON...CLOSING DATE COMING SOON...CLOSING DATE**

## **HSBC OPPORTUNITIES**



### **Investing in Futures:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a real sense of confusion and uncertainty for students, with question marks raised over the state of the employment market and future career prospects.

To counter this, the Early Careers team at HSBC have created a series of bite-sized virtual events and material all with the aim of developing your soft skills. This is designed to give confidence on employment prospects, mythbust common recruitment misconceptions and target key employability skills to give you an advantage when looking for a career.

### **Find Out More**

The webinars will all be free to attend, and will be hosted via Zoom. Please register in advance through the following links. Spaces are limited, and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

#### **December - 12 Days of Winter Work Skills**

Distribution of soft skills material to follow in November

#### **14th January – Who am I?**

An exploration of Personal Branding including: what is a Personal Brand, how to discover and build your own and why changing your mentality is key for success.

Register for this webinar:

[https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uJLUtO6NOc2VYaD17yoP9Q](https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uJLUtO6NOc2VYaD17yoP9Q)



# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

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## **HSBC OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED....**

### **December - 12 Days of Winter Work Skills**

Distribution of soft skills material to follow in November

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An exploration of Personal Branding including: what is a Personal Brand, how to discover and build your own and why changing your mentality is key for success.

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### **4th February – Do I need a degree to enhance my career?**

An exploration of various career routes that are available to students, with an emphasis on what you need to consider when trying to choose the correct one for you.

Register for this webinar:

[https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_D3x-B7VPSLyECYocbLL5Og](https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D3x-B7VPSLyECYocbLL5Og)

### **11th March – How to stand out?**

A session dedicated to applications. This will include a breakdown of CVs in general and also aim to demystify online applications. We will also include application hints & tips from an employer's perspective to give you an insight into what is looked for.

Register for this webinar:

[https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_g5LOlWAYs\\_-O78W4DoSv1A](https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g5LOlWAYs_-O78W4DoSv1A)

### **22nd April – How to be the best you?**

An exploration of the different type of interviews alongside their purposes. This will cover what signs to look for, and also how you can maximise your chances at success. We will also include different tips and tricks from an employer's perspective to give you an insight into what is looked for.

Register for this webinar:

[https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cbg82vsMSkwt2ztOtAKLUO](https://hsbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cbg82vsMSkwt2ztOtAKLUO)

**More details to follow:**

**May – Wellbeing**

**June - Classroom to boardroom, A day in a life?**

**July – Progression stories....**

**August – Resilience 'so what now & moving forward'**

**TO FIND OUT MORE:: <https://www.hsbc.com/earlycareers>**





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UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## PATHWAYS TO BIRMINGHAM



Inspired@Birmingham

Our **Inspired@Birmingham** programme supports Year 12 students who are interested in applying to Russell Group universities. It aims to encourage and motivate students to achieve their full potential, and enable them to make a successful transition from KS4 to KS5.

Applications for the 2020/2021 programme will open in October 2020.

**For more details: <https://bit.ly/3c8ukTJ>**

### Routes to the Professions



The **Routes to Professions** programme offers a unique opportunity for Year 12 students to gain a real insight into university study. It focuses on specific vocational courses and provides students with tailored support through the university application process.

Applications for the 2020/21 programme will open in October 2020 (date to be announced nearer the time).

**For more details: <https://bit.ly/2Ft6INZ>**



Access to Birmingham (A2B)

The **Access to Birmingham (A2B)** programme supports applicants to the University of Birmingham, who have little or no experience of higher education, discover what studying at university involves.

The University of Birmingham has a long history of welcoming students from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. We were one of the first universities to set up a fair access scheme for local students in 2,000 and are proud to be able to offer prospective applicants the support of our A2B scheme if they are studying at one of our partner institutions.

Applications for A2B 2020/21 are now open.

**For more details: <https://bit.ly/302p1Rd>**

## PATHWAYS TO BIRMINGHAM FAQs

Find the answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about Pathways to Birmingham (PTB), including how the benefits work, successful completion, applications and IT support. If you cannot find the answer to your question please email the team at [a2b@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:a2b@contacts.bham.ac.uk) who will be happy to assist you with your query. Students should include their home postcode and their current school/college in the subject line of their email enquiry.

**For more details: <https://bit.ly/33CT0QI>**



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**STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN....STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN**

## 2021 ASPIRING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME

Run by the Social Mobility Foundation, the Aspiring Professionals Programme supports ambitious, high achieving young people from low-income backgrounds to access top universities and professional careers. The programme is **free of charge** and features **university application support** including free visits (when possible), **mentoring and internships** with leading companies, and professional development and **skills workshops**.

Providing support in **11 professional sectors**, including Accountancy, Architecture, Banking and Finance, Biology and Chemistry, Business, Digital, Engineering and Physics, Law, Media and Communications, Medicine and Politics, students can apply to join the programmes in Year 12 (England and Wales).

**The deadline for applications is 16th December 2020.**

**For more information and to apply: <https://bit.ly/2U8Z0fp>**

**Parents and carers can register for the event here:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/unifest-parents-carers>**



S\_CIAL  
M\_OBILITY  
F\_UNDATION®

## Aspiring Professionals Programme



APP City



APP Residential



APP Reach

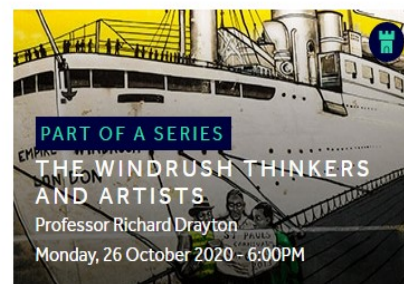
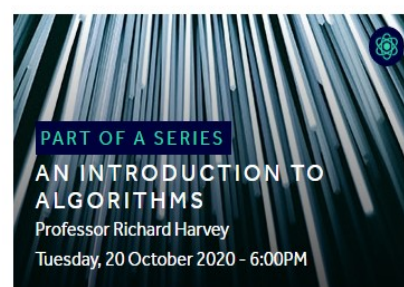
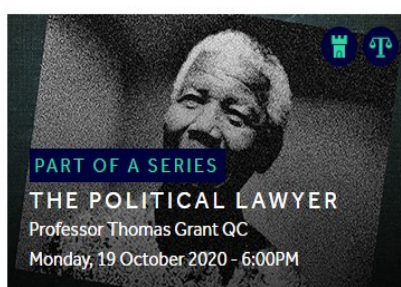


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## ATTEND LECTURES



[SEE ALL FUTURE LECTURES](#)

## ONLINE LECTURES

**REGISTER ONLINE FOR EACH EVENT YOU WANT TO WATCH OR ATTEND:**

**<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/attend/#>**

The College's 130 annual lectures and events are free and open to all. The College has been recording its lectures since the 1980s and we live stream all lectures for those unable to attend in person. There are now over 2,000 lectures freely available online on this website and on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/GreshamCollege) - <https://www.youtube.com/user/GreshamCollege>

Gresham College is an independent institution funded from the estate of our founder, Sir Thomas Gresham. After his death in 1579, Sir Thomas' estate and control of his benefaction were left to the City of London Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers, which operate through the Joint Grand Gresham Committee to support the College.





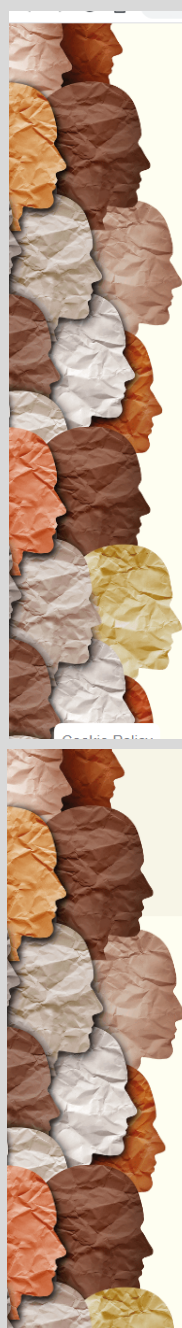
# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

**STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN....STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN...STILL OPEN**

## Columban Competition

Don't miss this chance to make your mark! Two separate competitions will be held, one for students in Ireland and one in Britain (England, Scotland, Wales); each has two categories: Writing and Image.. Winners will be announced in Columban media on 15 March 2021.. The winning entries will be published in the Far East magazine and online on Columban websites in Ireland and Britain and shared ...

[www.columbancompetition.com](http://www.columbancompetition.com)





### SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION 2021

THE COMPETITION WAS LAUNCHED ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020

We are looking for students (aged 14-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:

## 'LET'S CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM'



PRINT PRIZES	IMAGE PRIZES
<b>1ST €300/£300</b>	<b>1ST €300/£300</b>
2ND €150/£150   3RD €100/£100	2ND €150/£150   3RD €100/£100

### DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR MARK!

Two separate competitions will be held, one for students in **Ireland** and one in **Britain** (England, Scotland, Wales); each has two categories: Writing and Image.

Winners will be announced in Columban media on **15 March 2021**.

The winning entries will be published in the Far East magazine, online on Columban websites in Ireland and Britain, shared on Columban social media, and published in other Catholic media.

This is a chance to engage with an issue that addresses equality, justice, inclusion and also draws on faith and personal experience.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 20 FEBRUARY 2021**

For more details and how to enter: <https://www.columbancompetition.com/>



# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

**SOMETHING DIFFERENT...SOMETHING DIFFERENT...SOMETHING DIFFERENT...**



## ARMY OFFICER SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

### WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

If you have your heart set on becoming an officer, but are still at school the good news is that the Army has a scheme to help support you through school and university. The Army Officer Scholarship Scheme (AOSS) which is offered to high quality students who have the potential to make excellent Army officers.

**For more details: <https://bit.ly/36jn7zf>**



## OPTIONS: SCHOLARSHIPS

The Army Officer Scholarship Scheme offers financial support to future Army Officers studying for A-Levels, Scottish Highers or equivalent qualifications.

**You should be between 16 and 18 years of age**

WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

WHO CAN APPLY?

ARMY RECRUITING PROCESS

ARMY SCHOLARSHIPS

HOW TO APPLY?

WHAT'S ARMY TRAINING LIKE?



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**SOMETHING DIFFERENT...SOMETHING DIFFERENT...SOMETHING DIFFERENT...**



## SPRINGPOD®

### WHAT IS SPRINGPOD?

**Springpod** is an early careers network for students to explore career paths like apprenticeships & connect with leading employers. Once you have signed up you will have access to a wide range of virtual work experience opportunities, live and interactive careers talk as well as the option to join an employers **Talent Pool**.

**To find out more and to register for free :**  
**<https://app.springpod.co.uk/sign-up-simple>**

#### Consider your options



Research career pathways >

Research career pathways  
Explore our extensive career library packed with useful information



Browse universities & courses >

Browse universities & courses  
Find the course that's right for you at top universities across the UK



Explore employers >

Explore employers  
Discover your dream employer from our stellar list of companies across every industry

#### Build connections

Get on the radar of top companies  
Stand out by joining relevant employer talent pools



Get on the radar of top companies >

Ask questions to industry ambassadors  
Get the inside scoop about roles directly from people who are doing it



Ask questions to industry ambassadors >

#### Get hired



Create your profile >

Create your profile  
Unlock a treasure chest of opportunities with your digital Springpod profile



Find work experience >

Find work experience  
Get a head start in your career by finding suitable work experience opportunities.



Find apprenticeships >

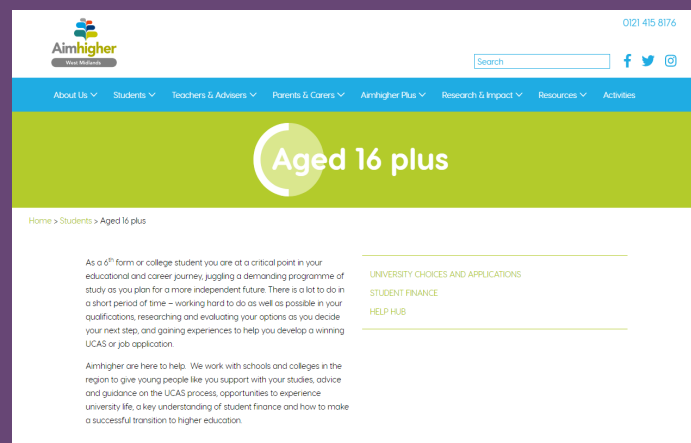
Find apprenticeships  
Discover great alternatives to kickstart your career include leading degree apprenticeship opportunities





# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

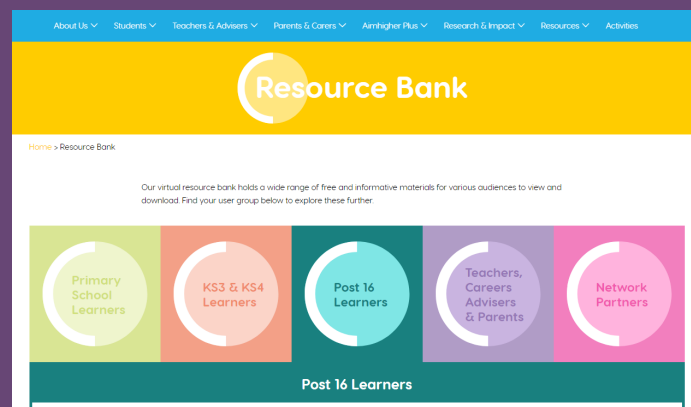
**SOMETHING DIFFERENT...SOMETHING DIFFERENT...SOMETHING DIFFERENT...**



## AIM HIGHER WEST MIDLANDS

Aimhigher West Midlands is a partnership of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), schools, academies and colleges. Check out their 16plus page for information on University Choices & Applications, Student Finance and the Aim Higher Help Hub.

For more details: <https://bit.ly/33oEHA9>

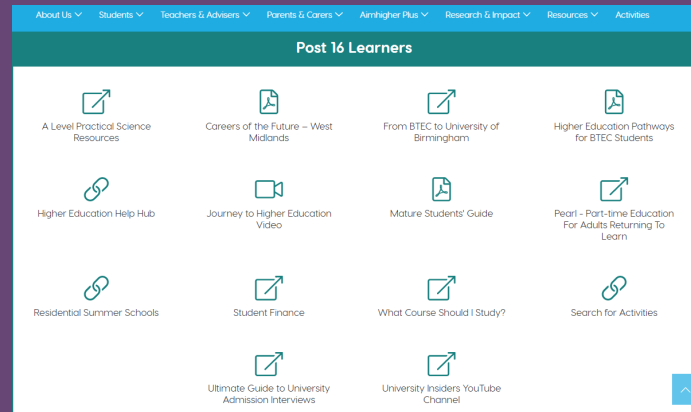


## RESOURCE BANK

Check out the Resource Bank for a wide range of links to free and informative materials including...

Careers, Higher Education Help Hub, BTEC's, subject resources, Virtual Open Days and events.

For more details: <https://bit.ly/312dP7t>

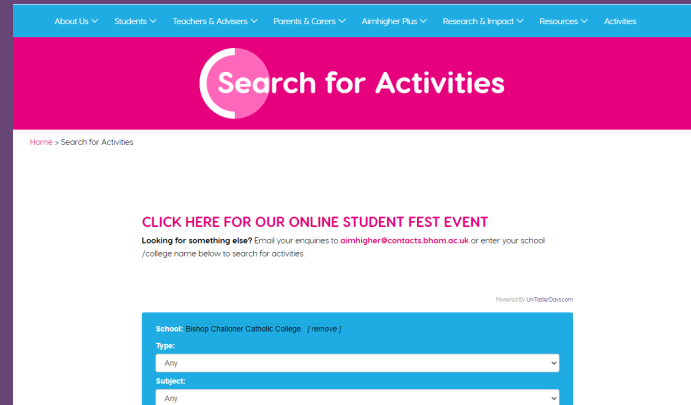


## ACTIVITIES DIRECTORY

Use the Search for Activities directory to find events due to take place such as open days, webinars, and taster sessions.

There are currently 168 events listed that students at Bishop Challoner can access.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3im56mf>





# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

THINKING OF UNI?..THINKING OF UNI?..THINKING OF UNI?..THINKING OF UNI?

## opendays.com

university + college open days

**Opendays.com is a web site providing students with university and college open day information.**

**The most comprehensive open days web site in the UK.**

**Easily accessible listings of all university and college open days throughout the UK.**

### DETAILS PROVIDED

Open day dates, booking information, travel details, monthly calendars and mini prospectuses for over 300 universities and colleges in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### EASY TO USE

It is easy to find the information you seek either through a comprehensive search facility or browsing the open day calendar.

### ONLINE BOOKING

You can also save details of open days/ institutions that interest you and use our 'Online Booking System' to book your place at an open day!

### ADVICE SECTION

Higher Education opportunities, What To Do At Open Days, UCAS Forms and Gap Years.

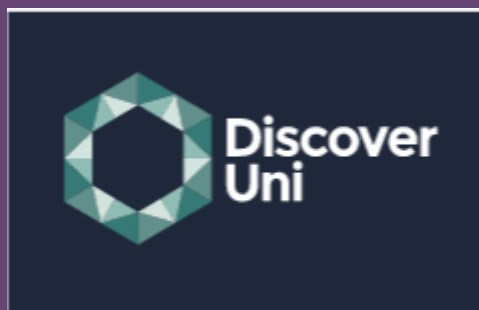
Remember our website [opendays.com](http://opendays.com) and tell your friends about the service.





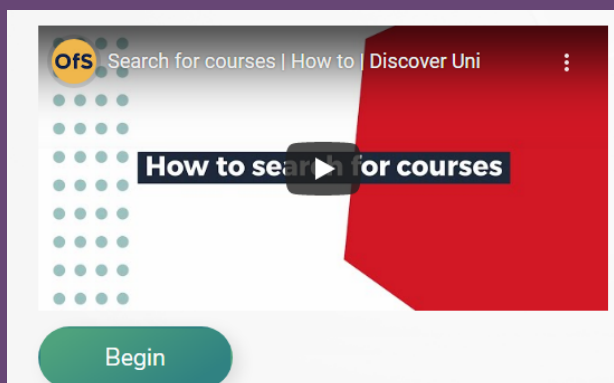
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**THINKING OF UNI?..THINKING OF UNI?..THINKING OF UNI?..THINKING OF UNI?**



## Thinking about your uni choices?

Discover Uni is here to help you search and find the right courses for you. There's lots to choose from, so it's important you do your research. Use our course search to find and compare information and data for individual undergraduate courses across the UK.



**To begin your search....**

**<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/what-would-you-do/>**

Discover Uni Is an official source of information about higher education.

It is owned and operated by the UK higher education funding and regulatory bodies. These are:

**The Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland**

**The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales**

**The Office for Students in England**

**The Scottish Funding Council.**

It includes official statistics about higher education courses taken from national surveys and data collected from universities and colleges about all their students.





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## LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Register with **NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE** to receive regular updates on current opportunities: [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) Create an account and you can specify the types of apprenticeships you are interested in.



Unifrog is the complete destinations platform and it is the only place where students can compare every university course, apprenticeship and FE course in the UK as well as university in 30 other countries across the world.



You can also search [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk) and have access to over 2000 new opportunities including apprenticeships, employment, training and much more.



[www.wmjobs.co.uk/](https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/) updates regularly with apprenticeships and training opportunities with the Midlands area.



[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentice/find-an-apprenticeship](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentice/find-an-apprenticeship)



[www.amazingapprenticeships.com/](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/) Apprenticeships explained.



[www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/](https://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/) Links to blogs, vacancies and how to guides



[www.careerpilot.org.uk](https://www.careerpilot.org.uk) - Careers information and tools for 11 - 19 year olds, all in one place.

Many employers also have a dedicated section on their websites related to recruitment where they post apprenticeships information. These are sometimes posted before they are on the National Apprenticeships site so it's worth looking around.

**For more information or general careers advice please email Ms Darby or Ms McGowan.**

**[e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)**

**[e.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)**



# SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

## A MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE TO COPING WITH LOCKDOWN IN THE WINTER



### LIGHTING

On dark mornings wake up gradually with increasing light. Try out a SAD light or lumie bodyclock



### STAY CONNECTED

Even though it might be difficult to see friends and family it is important that you stay connected to them on a regular basis



### HELP OTHERS

Whether it is helping around the house or supporting your brother or sister, helping others can help provide you with positive emotions



### LIMIT NEWS

Limit the amount of time you spend on social media and checking news



### COPING STRATEGIES

Identify some positive strategies you can engage in that help you to deal with stress, worry or anxiety



### CONNECT TO YOUR VALUES

Re connect with things that are important to you and try to engage with them on a regular basis



### TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

Plan time into your week where you can engage in activities that are relaxing. It is important to have time for yourself where you engage in some self care



### PLAN YOUR WEEK

Organise your week and plan in activities that provide you with a sense of pleasure and achievement



### STAY ACTIVE

Throughout the day try and be active. Take a break from your work and walk around. Regular exercise can also be great for reducing stress and boosting mood



### POSITIVE HABITS

Write down a list of 5 - 10 positive mental health habits you can engage with on a regular basis to maintain your mental fitness



### ASK FOR HELP

If you notice yourself struggling reach out to family, friends, your doctor or a local mental health charity for help

