



## Your weekly guide to careers information, advice and news from Parklands High School

Hello and welcome to another edition of Career News, packed full of useful articles and information.



- Have a look at the InvestIN summer STEM experiences for ages 12-18.
- Download the latest Amazing Apprenticeships Parent and Carer pack .
- Take part in the BioArt Attack competition.
- Find out what skills and qualities employers are looking for in the Indeed report
- Lots of events from Young Professionals - all free so don't miss out on a chance to add something really special to your CV.
- Virtual work experience opportunities from Medic Mentor and Allied Health Mentor - these are incredible offers for any aspiring medic or healthcare professional.
- BAE Systems apprenticeships are now live - don't miss the chance to apply.
- Earlier this week, a team of students from Parklands won the Science Challenge Cup at Runshaw College - well done on a fantastic performance.
- Our Year 9 Quadcopter Challenge finalists will represent the school in a couple of weeks at RAF Cranwell, having made it successfully through a number of stages so far. Fingers crossed for a win at the Grand Final!

College applications should be completed before Christmas if possible. Remember you can change your mind about the course or subjects you put on the application form, so don't let that hold you up. Until the day of enrolment, next August, you can change anything on the application - at this stage, you are simply reserving a place at a couple of colleges: one is your first choice, the second is the back up option, just in case. See Miss Berry (top office) if you have any questions.



4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

# INVESTIN

## STEM & Medicine Summer Experiences: For Ages 12-18



We have partnered with world-class professionals across 10 STEM industries to create the **most immersive and exclusive career experience opportunities** that your students can find this summer.

**How can an InvestIN Summer Experience help students to pursue a career in STEM?**

*Students will experience first-hand the work professionals typically carry out in STEM industries, through a range of immersive career simulations and site visits.*

*Every programme is designed and delivered by top professionals, enabling students to work alongside experts in the field and expand their network.*

*Students will receive a personalised industry reference letter outlining what they have achieved over the course of the programme.*

*InvestIN is an approved activity on UCAS applications allowing students to stand out from the crowd in university applications.*

**[View & Register: Ages 15-18](#)**

**[View & Register: Ages 12-14](#)**



# Highlights from our STEM Summer Experiences



Shadow doctors in a London teaching hospital

**MEDICINE**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Explore a Boeing jet with aerospace engineers

**ENGINEERING**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Create your own app from start to finish

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Carry out patient consultations in a simulated clinic

**PSYCHOLOGY**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**Explore ALL STEM Careers**

**INVESTIN**



If you're a parent, guardian or carer, you can help inspire the apprentices of tomorrow.

Apprenticeships are designed by employers so the training reflects the skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need for a particular occupation.

Apprenticeship training is of a high standard and only training providers who are on the register of apprenticeship training providers can deliver the training.

Working as an apprentice means they earn as they learn. An apprentice works in a real job and spends 20% of their working hours training. So they gain the skills needed for their chosen occupation.

Some apprenticeships include a qualification, including a degree. All of the training is free, so the apprentice has no student debt to worry about.

A school or college leaver can apply for university and an apprenticeship at the same time. They can make their final decision after they've had time to consider their options.

To support someone with apprenticeships you can:

- [browse our useful resources](#) which can help you support a young person in making career decisions
- [find an apprenticeship](#) in your area
- learn about apprentices' [real stories](#) and experiences
- visit our inspirational resources for more information and support for parents and carers
- use the [National Careers Service](#) for impartial and free advice
- Read the Which? guide to [higher and degree apprenticeships](#)



[Download the latest Parents and Carers' Pack here](#)





## **The Ultimate Career Planning Guide for High School Students**

Career planning is important for high school students.

It's never too early to start planning your career! Having an idea of your personal career goals can be a huge advantage for thriving at high school and university, helping you to stay motivated and make the most of the available opportunities.

Imagine you're lost in a forest. If you see four or five different paths, all leading in different directions, it might be difficult to decide on which path to take. If there's only one path - one which is clearly signposted! - you're able to follow it confident in the knowledge that you'll reach your destination in the best way possible.

Planning your career is much the same. Having a clear, defined path will get you to your desired destination far quicker and with far more confidence. Plus, it's much easier to enjoy the journey when you know you're on the right path!

We've put together an eight-step guide for career planning as a student to help you in forging your own path.



**Click here for the  
Ultimate Career  
Planning Guide**



## BioArtAttack Competition

### The BioArtAttack 3D competition is now open

The closing date for entries will be **16<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and we will announce the winners in March 2024. Please read the [terms and conditions](#) for BioArtAttack 3D 2023 before entering photographs of your 3D competition entry via our competition entry pages.

**Single submissions:** one piece of artwork, created by either a person or a group of people.

**Multiple submissions:** for multiple pieces of artwork, suitable for teachers, youth group leaders or anyone who has a large selection of pieces to submit from one large group of people.

### Inspiration

**From the very big to the very small:** BioArtAttack 3D entries can take inspiration from the smallest parts of the natural world that only a microscope can see: think cell structures, bacterial colonies and microscopic organisms.

Entries could instead feature environments or ecosystems. Art could be based around great savannahs, wide-open plains, the deep oceans or immense rainforests and the huge range of diversity contained within them.

**Hands-on science:** Lab or field equipment could be the focus of your artwork, with fascinating tools and apparatus being used by scientists to provide ways to make wonderful discoveries.

**Scientific concepts:** Your BioArtAttack could help explain a biological concept, theory or area of biology that particularly interests you.

Art can be a great way to visualise something that may seem complex or difficult to understand.

### How to enter BioArtAttack 3D

Please read the terms and conditions for BioArtAttack 3D 2023 before entering photographs of your 3D competition entry via our competition entry pages.

We accept entries on all aspects of the biosciences as usual. However we would like to encourage entries on the theme of climate and nature this year. And would like to ask people to consider using recycled materials where possible in their artworks.

The closing date for entries will be **16<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and we will announce the winners in March 2024.



**Single submissions:** one piece of artwork, created by either a person or a group of people.

**Multiple submissions:** for multiple pieces of artwork, suitable for teachers, youth group leaders or anyone who has a large selection of pieces to submit from one large group of people.

Only photos of creations can be submitted, and up to ten photos of the piece can be included in your submission.

We will not be accepting video entries.

You also need to tell us in writing a bit about your piece, including:

- The title of your piece
- Equipment and material used
- What your piece depicts
- The science behind your piece

For single submissions, you will be prompted to include this information in the submission form.

For multiple submissions, each submission should include annotations within the piece detailing the title, what exactly the BioArtAttack depicts, what materials were used and the science behind the piece.

**Entries will be judged on:**

- the variety of materials used
- the variety of creative skills used
- the aesthetic quality of the piece
- the originality of the piece
- how well the piece captures the biological basis of the subject matter

## Choosing our winners

A judging panel of RSB staff will decide on a winner and runner up for both the individual category and group entry category.

The BioArtAttack winners in each category will receive a prize for their creation.





*Pathways  
Work  
Experience*

## **Cisco Pathways Work Experience - February 2024**

The applications for our February Pathways Work Experience programme for Years 11 & 12 are now open.

We have three options to attend. For students who live close enough to travel to our offices in West London or Manchester there is an option of a hybrid week with the Monday and Friday in the office at Bedfont Lakes, Feltham or Didsbury, Manchester. The third option is fully virtual option. We've decided on this approach to ensure we can continue to include students from right across the UK and Ireland. This programme is for Years 11 & 12 (or equivalent) and runs 12-16 February 2024.

This is a weeklong programme with the aim of showing students the range of jobs within a global IT company. Cisco is not a one size fits all organisation and we welcome applications from any year 11 & 12 students from anywhere in the UK & Ireland. We will also be developing presentation, teamwork and employability skills, and building confidence through online modules and interactive sessions.

The programme doesn't require students to choose between technical or business as in addition to the mandatory parts of the programme they will be allowed to select the sessions that are of interest to them.

**Here is the information you need to apply for the February Pathways hybrid & virtual work experience.**

**Applications for Cisco's February Pathways Work Experience, for young people in Years 11 & 12, are now open. You can find more information and apply on the [Cisco website](#) - click on apply now or apply using the links below.**

### **Programme dates: 12-16 February**

**We have three options to attend. For students who live close enough to travel to our offices in West London or Manchester there is an option of a hybrid week with the Monday and Friday in the office at Bedfont Lakes, Feltham or Didsbury, Manchester. The third option is fully virtual option.**

Please note, the deadline for the applications is Thursday 04 January.

### **How to apply:**

- Apply for [hybrid programme](#): Hybrid in Bedfont Lakes, West London office or Didsbury near Manchester office (2 days in office & 3 days virtual)
- Apply for [virtual programme](#) - Fully Virtual

Please be careful and make sure you apply for the programme you want to attend. If you intend to attend the hybrid programme you should research where the offices are and make sure that you can get there.

Last year we had over 200 applications so may close early this year if we exceed that number. So please apply early and don't leave it to the last minute.

The programme will provide opportunities to learn about Cisco and the IT industry. You'll hear from technical teams and business teams. There'll be a challenge that you work on as a group and then present to our Cisco judges and we'll be learning about and practising employability skills such as interviewing and CVs. Plus learn about routes into Cisco straight from school via the apprenticeships, as an intern once at university or as a graduate after university. This is a full five days of learning opportunities. You will need a device, preferably with a camera, to join the virtual meetings. A laptop is best, with a tablet and then a phone in the order of how to get the best experience.





# BOLTON COLLEGE YOUNG PEOPLE'S

Part of the University of Bolton Group



## OPEN EVENTS

2023 / 24



We can't wait to tell you about the amazing opportunities here at Bolton College so visit us in person to discover what we're all about!

**Tuesday 17th October 2023**

**5pm-8pm**

**Thursday 14th December 2023**

**5pm-8pm**

**Wednesday 15th November 2023**

**5pm-8pm**

**Tuesday 6th February 2024**

**5pm-8pm**

**Deane Road Campus, Bolton, BL3 5BG**

Register via:  
**[www.boltoncollege.ac.uk](http://www.boltoncollege.ac.uk)**



# SCHOOL OF **EXPRESSIVE ARTS**

## AT THE SIXTH FORM BOLTON



### Take part in our fun and creative after-school club.

The Sixth Form Bolton is proud to offer an exciting after-school club for pupils with a passion for Art and Design, and for those interested in pursuing a career within the creative industries.

These sessions will support you to learn and develop a wide range of expressive art skills. In the final week there will be an opportunity to showcase the new skills you have learnt.

**Venue:** The Sixth Form Bolton

**Course cost:** £20 per course to be paid in full in advance

**Duration:** 6-week course

**Dates:** 11th January 2024 - 15th February 2024

**Day:** Thursday, 4.30pm-6.00pm

**Age group:** Year 10 - Year 11 pupils

To book your place please contact us on:

**[afterschoolclubs@bolton-sfc.ac.uk](mailto:afterschoolclubs@bolton-sfc.ac.uk)**





# SCHOOL OF **EXPRESSIVE ARTS**

## AT THE SIXTH FORM BOLTON

### WEEKS 1 AND 2: FINE ART

Giant, expressive, colourful, painting workshop: An introduction into working ambitiously. Learn how to enlarge images quickly and then have fun creating a very large-scale painting using expressive mark making and brush strokes.

### WEEKS 3 AND 4: GRAPHIC DESIGN

From sketch to vector: An introduction to Adobe Illustrator's image making tools you will get to know the pen tool, shape, colour and gradient tools, as well as shape builder and pathfinder tools to create a vector illustration.

### WEEKS 5 AND 6: ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Create your own sculptural needle felted artwork: Using one simple needle, learn how to sculpt life-like or abstract, soft-sculptural pieces of work, from pieces of food, to animals or a vibrant patterned piece of art!



# RADIOTHERAPY STUDENT OPEN DAY

Saturday 6th Jan  
2024



Are you in year 10 or above? or a mature student? Have you thought about a career in Radiotherapy? Would you like to know more about radiotherapy and this fantastic profession?

We are inviting prospective students to visit our radiotherapy open day on Sat 6th of Jan. Situated in the radiotherapy department at Royal Preston Hospital

If you would like to attend please book a 1 hour slot by contacting the email below .



To book please email-  
[education.radiotherapy@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:education.radiotherapy@lthtr.nhs.uk)





University of Central Lancashire

# Training 2000

## What happens next... for year 11 students

**Apply to  
Training 2000**



From Nov 23  
onwards

**Come to our  
open evenings**



Wednesday 31st January  
& Thursday 1st February

**Interviews with  
companies**

**Confirm your  
GCSE results**



August 2024

**Prepare your CV**



From Nov 23  
onwards

**We'll get in touch**



Initial contact in  
**March 2024** to  
book an interview  
during the Easter  
holidays. If you  
apply after Easter  
we will be in touch  
within a week  
to arrange an  
interview

**Start your Apprenticeship**

# **GIFTED & TALENTED SCHOLARSHIPS**

A limited number of scholarships are available to Year 11 applicants on eligible T-Level/Level 3 courses.

## **BENEFITS:**

**£1,000**

Over 2 years

**FREE**

Travel Pass

**FREE**

College Gym  
Membership

Ambassador  
**HOODIE**



Support from our  
extensive range  
of employer  
links



Evidence to  
support your  
UCAS application



# WHAT COURSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GIFTED & TALENTED SCHOLARSHIP?

- > Accountancy
- > Aeronautical Engineering
- > Applied Science
- > Business Studies
- > Digital (IT) / Media (Film & Photography)
- > Early Years
- > Engineering
- > Health & Social Care
- > Performing Arts - Acting
- > Performing Arts - Musical Theatre
- > Professional Construction
- > Professional Dance
- > Public Services
- > Sport
- > Travel & Tourism with Event Management

## CAN I APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

You should apply for a scholarship if:

- > You are currently in Year 11
- > You are applying for one of the T-Level/Level 3 courses listed
- > You meet the entry requirements
- > You have a skill or talent in your course choice

(For example, if you are applying for a sport course, you may volunteer at a local sports club or represent your school/county/country.)

Note: each subject may have additional entry requirements – see the online Scholarship Application Form for more details.

## HOW CAN I APPLY?

You can apply for a Scholarship online at [www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships)

- > All sections of the form must be completed in **FULL**
- > A **Personal Statement** section is included within the form. It is essential that you clearly justify why you are suitable for a Preston College Scholarship - make sure you reach the 300 word count
- > Applications must be submitted before Friday 26 April 2024.

## WHAT DO COLLEGE EXPECT IN RETURN?

If your application is successful, Preston College expects:

- > Excellent attendance and punctuality
- > Performance at or above your target grade
- > Support to promote your course to potential learners
- > Any additional requirements as outlined in your scholarship agreement

## IF I DO NOT RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP, WILL THIS AFFECT MY APPLICATION TO STUDY AT PRESTON COLLEGE?

No. If you are unsuccessful in securing a scholarship, this will not affect your application to study on a full-time course.

**APPLY NOW**  
[www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships)

**PRESTON**  
COLLEGE

# 15 good work qualities to help impress employers

As you apply for jobs and go through the recruitment and interview process, you may look to highlight personal qualities that can make you more attractive to employers. You may have [technical skills](#) and experience specific to the job you want that you can use to help you secure the role. There are also transferable skills and qualities that most employers across all industries find favourable, which can be helpful for you to highlight. In this article, we discuss some good characteristics for most jobs that employers look for in prospective candidates.

Here are 15 examples of good work qualities you may wish to highlight on your CV or discuss in a [job interview](#):

## 1. Communication skills

Excellent communications skills are an advantage in virtually any work environment. You're likely to communicate with customers or colleagues in some way as part of your duties. Having the ability to communicate information concisely and effectively can help you show your value as a candidate. This includes strong verbal, written and physical communication skills. Your ability to demonstrate flexibility as a communicator is another strength that potential employers may value. For example, you may tailor your writing style to various different target audiences.

Related: [What are communication skills?](#)

## 2. Professionalism

Approaching your work in a professional manner is key to making a good impression with an employer. Being able to approach situations and handle them respectfully and tactfully is important in ensuring a workplace runs smoothly. Professionalism is also important in working effectively in a team environment. Being viewed as a calm, approachable, polite, well-presented person can make you stand out as a desirable candidate for a potential employer.

## 3. Problem-solving skills

Most jobs require you to tackle and resolve problems as you face them during your workday. Even if the job you're applying for is administrative or process-driven with set procedures to follow, it's still important that an employer has confidence in your ability to apply these procedures effectively to solve problems. In many jobs, you may face new problems that don't have a set, defined solution. To help with these situations, employers look for an ability to approach problems objectively and work logically to find a solution.

Related: [What are critical thinking skills and how are they used?](#)

## 4. Persistence

You may be able to stand out to potential employers by showing that you have the drive to finish all the tasks you start and work through problems until you find solutions. Not only does this allow for the smooth running of an organisation, but it can also have a positive effect on morale and motivation. Showing that you're persistent and driven in your work can inspire your colleagues to apply the same drive to their roles.

## 5. Initiative

While managers are ultimately responsible for the work of the employees they manage, they typically value candidates who don't always wait to be told what to do. Showing initiative involves being proactive with how you operate and solving potential problems before they become an issue. You may also show initiative by devising new, more efficient ways to approach tasks that other employees can use. This increases the overall effectiveness and productivity of the team.



## 6. Creativity

Many organisations have set procedures and ways of working to achieve their objectives, but most still value creative candidates who can offer new ideas. These procedures may have become stagnant and ineffective and an organisation may not notice this until you propose new ideas for more effective processes. For this reason, creative employees are a driving force for innovation and progress in a workplace. As a creative employee, you may also have a tendency to motivate those around you with your fresh approach, which can improve the overall morale of the workforce.

## 7. Leadership

Having leadership qualities doesn't necessarily mean that you wish to become a manager or an executive. Some degree of leadership potential can be valuable to potential employers for any role, as it means you're able to be a helpful point of contact in the workplace. If you possess adequate leadership qualities, you may have a natural ability to motivate and support your coworkers. You may also take the lead during group projects or in crisis situations by guiding the work of those around you to a successful outcome.

Strong [leadership skills](#) are crucial if you do wish to become a manager or leader of any kind. Some employers may look internally to recruit managers or leaders, particularly if their industry is bespoke and managers would benefit from having industry knowledge. In such instances, being an employee with leadership qualities can make you a desirable candidate for a promotion.

Related: [Top 9 leadership skills to develop](#)

## 8. Accountability

Employers value the ability to handle accountability, which includes taking full responsibility for any failures you cause or experience. They tend not to favour candidates who look for excuses or find ways to pass the blame to co-workers, as this can cause disruption in the workplace. Being able to recognise your mistakes means you're able to learn from them to avoid similar situations in the future. It's also equally important to take pride in your successes.

## 9. Confidence

Confidence is one of the most important qualities to have in any role, which means potential employers almost always look for this quality in successful candidates. Being justifiably confident in your abilities allows you to work effectively and efficiently. As a confident person, you may be able to approach new situations with ease and take calculated risks to accomplish goals. Confidence also makes it easier for your coworkers and employers to trust you.

## 10. Willingness to learn

Consistent growth and development paired with the ability to contribute to the organisation in new ways are valuable factors that employers look for in candidates. Having a mindset that focuses on growth and learning makes you less likely to be arrogant. This is because it allows you to accept input from others and recognise any shortcomings you may have or any mistakes you make and use them as opportunities for growth.

Many modern workplaces are constantly changing, with the consistent introduction of new technologies and procedures. Being able and willing to learn helps you keep pace with these changes while remaining effective in your job. This shows an employer that you're a strong candidate with the potential for longevity in the role.

## 11. Teamwork

Though not every job requires collaboration, the ability to work as part of a team is still a quality most employers look for. It's highly likely that during the course of your working life you may work

with others in some way. Being a valuable player who can help the team towards achieving set goals is an attribute many employers may find beneficial regarding a potential candidate and current employees.

Related: [How to demonstrate you're a team player on your CV](#)

## 12. Adaptability

The ability to adapt quickly and be flexible in how you approach your work can help you face new challenges with ease and work effectively regardless of the situation. This makes it a desirable skill that can help you stand out from other candidates. Being an adaptable employee means you may not require much direct input from your manager and can complete your tasks in any circumstances. Adaptability is also a trait that can give an employer confidence in providing you with more responsibilities at work.

## 13. Conflict resolution

Conflicts are likely to occur during your working life. Employers value candidates who are able to handle these conflicts maturely and respectfully to prevent them from escalating. Having skills in conflict resolution typically means you're able to calmly and objectively discuss the issues people have and determine the most effective solution for all parties. This also helps reduce the risk of further conflicts in the future.

## 14. Reliability

The ability to deliver consistently on what you promise and complete the tasks your employers assign you is vital to an efficient workplace. This makes it a crucial skill for securing a role in any industry. If you're consistently reliable, you may earn the trust and respect of your employer and be in a position to take on greater autonomy in your work. You may also receive more responsibilities or capitalise on opportunities for career advancement.

## 15. Honesty

Honesty is a key quality in any member of a workforce and can make you a highly desirable candidate. Being honest helps you gain the trust of the people you work with. If your employer trusts you, you may receive opportunities for advancement. Being dishonest can lead employers to be reluctant to invest in you as an employee with prospects for progression. Honesty in your work can also be of benefit to you. If you're open about the struggles you experience with workload or work-life balance, your employer may be able to help and support you.



Video: [Essential skills for years to come](#)

*Adapt your skills and prepare for the changing world of work. In this video, we're reviewing the top skills that compliment emerging tech. Future-proof your resume and yourself.*



## **Breaking Down Disability Barriers & Embracing Inclusive Recruitment Virtual Event via Zoom - Tuesday 5th December, from 5pm - 7pm!**

In celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we have an incredible upcoming Disability Awareness Virtual Event with some of the biggest companies in the world, including Amazon, KPMG, Direct Line Group and many more. This event will be held virtually via Zoom on **Tuesday 5th December** from 5pm - 7pm.

Dear Students,

Young Professionals are proud and excited to be celebrating **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** by hosting a **Breaking Down Disability Barriers & Embracing Inclusive Recruitment Virtual Event via Zoom** on **Tuesday 5th December 5.00pm - 7.00pm!**

### **Event Purpose:**

- Embracing Disability and Raising Positive Awareness.
- Breaking Down Barriers: Embracing Inclusive Recruitment for Individuals with Disabilities, including physical, mental, and neurodivergent conditions.
- To give attendees confidence in the actions that employers are undertaking to support this diverse talent pool.

Disability does not define a person's value or limit their potential. Instead, it should be celebrated as an integral part of human diversity. We all have different abilities, strengths, and weaknesses. By openly discussing this topic we hope to take a step towards a more accessible environment for everyone that promotes the benefits of inclusivity.

Several global corporations including **KPMG, WTW, Amazon, AICPA & CIMA, Direct Line Group** and **Experian** will be joining us to share where they are on their journey of being a confident disability employer and what employers are doing to create the best environment during the recruitment process for everyone to succeed.

### **What to expect:**

- Understand what employers are focussing on to ensure their attraction and recruitment process is inclusive and creates the best environment for every individual to be the best version of themselves throughout the recruitment experience.
- To understand how senior individuals have navigated the world of work through their own disability lens.
- We have employers joining us to share how they are navigating and evolving their approach to ensure they are inclusive employers for those with any form of disability and why every individual should feel comfortable sharing themselves, so adjustments can be made that enable individuals to be the best version of themselves when applying for a role.

Use the registration link below to sign up:

Registration Link:

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WYTQPPR>**



SIGN UP NOW!

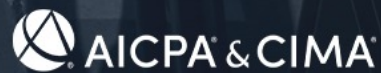


# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT

## BREAKING DOWN DISABILITY BARRIERS

📍 ZOOM, VIRTUAL



5TH DECEMBER | 5PM - 7PM

Registration Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WYTQPPR>

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



## **NHS National Work Experience applications open now!**

Applications for the free National NHS Virtual Work experience programme have now opened for 2023-2024! This programme has supported over 30,000 secondary school students obtain free work experiences last year. Virtual work experiences have been accepted by the Medical Schools and Dental Schools Council as valuable alternatives to in-person shadowing, backed by the Health Education England Discovery report on the impact of virtual work placements. This programme is brought to you by Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust in collaboration with Medic Mentor, and it is completely free. Not only is this a reliable alternative to in-person shadowing, but it also plays a significant role in preparing students for their in-person work placements with structured teaching and opportunities to speak directly with healthcare professionals. The opportunity is open to any student across the UK from 14 years old and above.

**Students can apply for a placement, for free at this link:**

**<https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>**

Developed in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this carefully curated 6-month medical and 4-month dental programme offers a unique insight into the medical and dental profession. The E-learning format allows students to complete their placements in their own time, whilst being able to book 15 minute 1-2-1 appointments with a doctor or medical student to discuss what they have learnt on their virtual placement (also free). Covering ethics, procedures, wider team roles, and facilitating direct conversations with doctors and dentists, this virtual experience serves as an excellent foundation for your students' future careers. Not only does it enrich their UCAS applications, but it also strategically prepares them for in-person work experience placements.

### **Taking part in the Virtual Work Experience will provide:**

- **Comprehensive Insights:** The programme covers a range of specialities, providing a holistic understanding of medical and dental practices. Each month, a new focus area is introduced, allowing participants to delve into different aspects of the field.
- **Flexible Participation:** Tailored for students from years 10-11, the programme accommodates various schedules by being virtual. Participants have one month to complete each specialty, ensuring flexibility and ease of participation.
- **Recognised Certification:** Upon successful completion of all specialities, students will receive a certificate from Medic Mentor and UHB, validating their active participation to include in their UCAS and apprenticeships applications.

This month's focus is on Surgery or Oral Surgery, offering a firsthand look into the life of a surgeon and the intricacies of procedures such as keyhole surgery in medicine or paediatric dentistry and oral surgery for those interested in dentistry.

Registering for these programmes is simple - students just need to complete the free online application form:

**<https://airtable.com/appuQX2ouadvjQUSU/shrroljLczgdg9uLw>**

We are eager to welcome your students to our exceptional free work experience programmes and support them in their journey toward a fulfilling career in medicine or dentistry.



## **NHS National Work Experience**

If you haven't yet signed up for the NHS National Work Experience programme and you are in Year 10 or 11:

<https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

- This month, we're diving into the fascinating world of Surgery, providing your students with the opportunity to witness key-hole surgery, oral surgery, and the unique privilege of shadowing Mr. Challocome, a urology surgeon at Guy's and Thomas' NHS Trust.
- This virtual experience opens doors for your students to gain valuable insights and opportunities that may be otherwise difficult to access. Working hand in hand with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, our Virtual Work Experience has been a game-changer for thousands of secondary school students in the past year. It's not just an alternative to in-person shadowing; it's a crucial step in preparing students for their upcoming physical placements.
- We've crafted a 6-month medical and 4-month dental e-learning work experience programme that lets students set their own pace. From structured teaching to direct interaction with healthcare professionals, our programme ensures students don't just watch procedures but also understand the broader roles in the medical and dental fields.
- What makes our programme unique is the chance for students to schedule 15-minute one-on-one appointments with a doctor or medical student at no extra cost. This personal touch lets them dive deeper into their virtual experiences, ask questions, and really enhance their understanding.
- Covering everything from ethics to procedures and broader team roles, our virtual work experience gives a crucial overview of their desired career paths and the skills that medical and dental schools are looking for, enhancing their UCAS applications.

Signing up is easy - students just need to fill out the free online application form:

<https://airtable.com/appuQX2ouadvjQUSU/shrroljLczgdg9uLw>





Health Education England has recently completed a discovery report on virtual work experience programmes, which have concluded that these programmes are a valuable adjunct to in-person work experience, especially by preparing students for in-person placements and where in-person experiences are extremely limited. The NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience successfully invited 12,000 students to participate in the last academic year, making it the largest programme for students who are specifically interested in the following careers:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Radiography
- Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Speech and language therapy
- and Pharmacy!

Applications for this programme are now open, and they will be open throughout this academic year. It is suitable for students in year groups 10-11.

During the work experience day, students will follow 2 patients from their initial presentation to recovery. Students will observe the healthcare professionals as they interact with the patients and each other. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions and gain knowledge through teaching.

This will help students to make an informed career decision as well as learn about how healthcare professionals work together as part of a multidisciplinary team. Each work experience day is completely different, and students will be able to build on their knowledge of NHS careers as they see different patient cases and healthcare professionals work in a variety of settings, such as hospital and community.

Students will also receive certificates as evidence of having participated in the work experience programme. Those that complete the entire 6-month programme will be awarded with Highly Commended References too. Students can register individually through the website link below. Places are £10 a day to cover administrative costs and run the tech on the day.

Students can register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Kind regards,

Work Experience Team

Allied Healthcare Mentor



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## VIRTUAL NHS HEALTHCARE CAREERS **WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME**

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Radiography
- Podiatry
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Osteopath
- Prosthetics and Orthotics

[WWW.ALLIEDHEALTHMENTOR.ORG](http://WWW.ALLIEDHEALTHMENTOR.ORG)



ALLIED  
HEALTHCARE  
MENTOR

# the apprenticeship guide



## Are they looking for a head-start?

University isn't the only way for young people to get ahead. An apprenticeship at BAE Systems means they can further their curiosity in a field that excites them and earn qualifications ranging up to a degree, while receiving a competitive salary.

They'll gain real-world experience learning from the brightest minds in the business, working on meaningful projects that span the depths of the ocean, to the edges of space.

Whether they want to become technical experts in welding, painting or scaffolding, or kickstart their career whilst earning a degree in finance, engineering or business- there's something for everyone at BAE Systems.

**[Explore Apprenticeships](#)**

## What can they expect?

In return for their hard work, apprentices can expect all the benefits, training and development opportunities they need to launch their career and achieve their potential:

- A competitive reward and benefits including access to share schemes, discounts and a pension; and generous annual leave
- An environment where they can bring their authentic self to work, in an inclusive and supportive culture
- Hands-on experience on real-life projects
- Fully funded and industry recognised qualifications, all the way up to a degree if they choose, setting them up for a lifetime of success
- Job security in a thriving sector, with endless career opportunities

**[Learn More](#)**

BAE Systems are committed to recruiting in the most inclusive way possible so we can welcome top talent from all kinds of backgrounds to our team. However, some roles with us are subject to security and export control restrictions and your nationality or place of birth may limit the roles you can undertake. BAE Systems Recruitment Team





# CAREER *of the* WEEK

## Retail merchandiser

**Retail merchandisers work closely with buyers to predict up-and-coming sales trends to ensure maximum profitability.**

Your role as a retail merchandiser is to ensure that products appear in the right store or website, at the right time and in the right quantities. This involves working closely with buying teams to accurately forecast trends, plan stock levels and monitor performance.

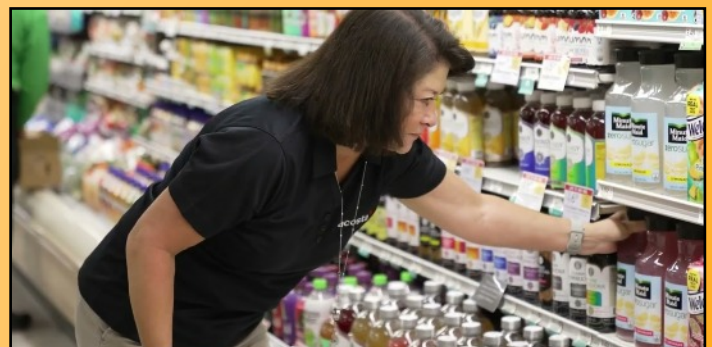
You'll play a key role in maximising profits by setting prices, managing the performance of ranges and planning promotions and markdowns. Other responsibilities will include overseeing the delivery and distribution of stock and deal with suppliers.

While the buyer selects the lines, the merchandiser decides how much money should be spent, how many lines should be bought, and in what quantities. In smaller companies, both roles may be carried out by the same person.

### Responsibilities

*As a retail merchandiser, you'll typically need to:*

- plan product ranges and prepare sales and stock plans in conjunction with buyers
- liaise with buyers, analysts, stores, suppliers and distributors
- maintain a comprehensive library of appropriate data
- work closely with visual display staff and department heads to decide how goods should be displayed to maximise sales
- produce layout plans for stores, sometimes called 'statements'
- forecast profits and sales, and optimise the sales volume and profitability of designated product areas
- plan budgets and present sales forecasts and figures for new ranges
- control stock levels based on forecasts for the season
- use specialist computer software, for example to handle sales statistics, produce sales projections and present spreadsheets and graphs
- analyse every aspect of bestsellers (for example, the bestselling price points, colours or styles), ensuring that they reach their full potential
- maintain awareness of competitors' performance
- monitor slow sellers and take action to reduce prices or set promotions as necessary
- gather information on customers' reactions to products
- analyse the previous season's sales and report on the current season's lines
- make financial presentations to senior managers
- accompany buyers on visits to manufacturers to appreciate production processes
- meet with suppliers and manage the distribution of stock, by negotiating cost prices, ordering stock, agreeing timescales and delivery dates and completing the necessary paperwork
- identify production and supply difficulties and deal with any problems or delays as they arise
- manage, train and supervise junior staff



[Find out more here](#)