



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

Well, it's half term already - this term is flying by! We have had an assembly and a lunchtime drop-in from Wigan & Leigh College, with the same from Runshaw College once we return. Applications are now open for all the colleges, but don't panic, there's still lots of time to apply. College interviews start after Christmas, with Preston, Wigan & Leigh and Runshaw all interviewing here at school.



Inside this issue of Career News, you will find lots of useful advice and information on open events, work experience opportunities, conferences, apprenticeships and much more. Speaking of apprenticeships, MBDA in Bolton have opened their application window ([click here](#)) and I would expect BAE Systems to open theirs on November 1st.

I know a number of students and parents/carers visited the Chorley Careers event last week - don't forget our own Careers Fair is on Friday 1st March 2024, for all of Year 9, 10 and 11. If any parents/carers would like to be involved in the Careers Fair, or in mock interviews or classroom talks/assemblies, please let me know. Students need to see lots of different job roles in the world of work to allow them to make informed decisions about future pathways. If you can help, drop me an email: pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Our Year 9 Quadcopter Team have made it through to the Regional Finals in November - out of 213 teams, they are in the final 16, competing for a place in the Grand Final in London in December. Good luck to them, and thanks to the staff at Raytheon Technologies for their help and support.

If anyone has a keen interest in STEM, and is in Year 8 - there will be a competition launched after Christmas in conjunction with the Engineering Development Trust and local company NSG Environmental Ltd. We have won awards in this competition for the past couple of years - let's see if we can win the overall trophy with the next team - more details to follow after the half term.

Finally, have a great half term break and stay safe if going to bonfires or firework parties.



Linklaters

Don't Miss Out on an Unforgettable Virtual Insight Work Experience Event with Linklaters!
Wednesday 1st November, 5pm - 6:30pm.

Are you eager to broaden your horizons and experience the legal world first-hand within a Magic Circle Law Firm. If so, look no further!

We are thrilled to invite you to our exclusive Virtual Insight Work Experience Event with Linklaters, taking place on **Wednesday 1st November** from 5pm to 6:30pm.

Linklaters are one of the world's leading global law firms and form part of the Magic Circle group. Linklaters strongly believe in empowering the next generation of legal professionals and they want to give you an incredible insight to the workings of their global corporate law firm.

This insight event is designed to give you a taste of the exciting opportunities available in the dynamic realm of the Law industry as well as show you first hand what it's like working for a full service corporate law firm.

So why should you join us at the Linklaters Event?

During the event you will have the opportunity to gain valuable insights, network with industry professionals, engage in interactive sessions and uncover future opportunities Linklaters have on offer for you. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have to top senior legal professionals as well as questions to help you kickstart your legal career.

This will certainly be an unforgettable experience, brimming with insights and the opportunity to connect with industry leaders. Don't miss out on this opportunity and sign up now!

To secure your spot, please register via the link below:

[Application Link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Linklaters-Virtual-Insight-Event-November-2023](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Linklaters-Virtual-Insight-Event-November-2023)





Engineering: Wearable Technology

The demand for wearable technology has been rising exponentially. While this technology has the potential to transform the world as we see it today, it's important to fully explore the implications and supposed societal benefits.

This paper acts as a comprehensive source of information for people who are considering integrating wearables into their lives. It discusses the different aspects of wearable technology, evaluates their feasibility, comments on the trajectory of the technology's growth and discusses its utility in the metaverse.

If you'd like the chance to conduct your own research in the field, our [AI & Robotics Research Internship](#) and our [AI & Internet of Things Research Internship](#) explore the latest breakthroughs in engineering and computer science. Both programmes offer the unique opportunity to co-author an academic research paper for publication!

[Read here](#)



YOU'VE BEEN INVITED



We want to meet you!

Are you or your child finding the world of apprenticeships daunting?

Unsure of the next steps they could take after school or college?

Seeking further direction on how they can take the first step towards their career?

October half term drop in sessions!

If the above sounds familiar then we've got you covered! We're offering drop-in sessions throughout October half term at our central London head office or online, so you can speak directly to people who can help.

The Pathway team will be on hand all week, eager to speak to you and your young person so they can understand more about their interests and guide them through the options that will be best suited FOR THEM!

This opportunity is for students in years 11, 12's & 13's only and is on a first-come-first-served basis so make sure you book your space ASAP!

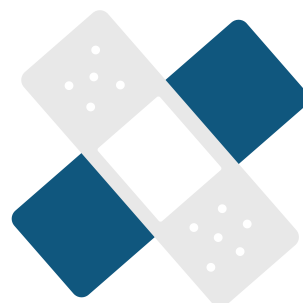
[Register here](#)





Lancashire and
South Cumbria

Careers
in health and social care



VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 14-16 AND LOOKING
FOR WORK EXPERIENCE?

JOIN OUR VIRTUAL PROGRAMME!

WE HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF
CLINICAL & NON-CLINICAL SESSIONS FOR YOU TO
TAKE PART IN!

23RD-27TH OCTOBER 2023

VISIT

WWW.NHSCAREERSNW.CO.UK

OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE INFORMATION AND TO
SIGN UP!





CAREERS CALENDAR

College Open Events 2023/24



Blackburn
College

Tuesday 26 September	4.30pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 4 October	4.30pm - 8.00pm
Saturday 18 November	10.00am - 1.00pm
Tuesday 6 February 2024	4.30pm - 8.00pm

www.blackburn.ac.uk



Tuesday 17 October	5.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 15 November	5.00pm - 8.00pm
Thursday 14 December	5.00pm - 8.00pm
Tuesday 6 February 2024	5.00pm - 8.00pm

www.boltoncollege.ac.uk/register-open-events



Saturday 7 October	10.30am - 1.30pm
Wednesday 22 November	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Tuesday 23 January 2024	5.30pm - 7.30pm

www.bolton-sfc.ac.uk

**CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE**

Saturday 14 October	10.00am - 1.00pm
Saturday 11 November	10.00am - 1.00pm
Saturday 3 February 2024	10.00am - 1.00pm

www.cardinalnewman.ac.uk/about-us/college-open-events



Myerscough
College
Opportunities for all to succeed

Saturday 7 October	10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 18 November	10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 3 February 2024	10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 16 March 2024	10.00am - 12.30pm

www.myerscough.ac.uk/



Wednesday 4 October 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 18 November 10.00am - 2.00pm

Thursday 7 March 2024 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Register for events and updates at: www.preston.ac.uk



Saturday 23 September 10.00am - 2.00pm
Thursday 12 October 4.00pm - 8.00pm
Tuesday 21 November 4.00pm - 8.00pm

Wednesday 6 March 2024 4.00pm - 8.00pm (Year 10)

Register at: www.runshaw.ac.uk/openevent



Saturday 7 October 10.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday 18 October 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 9 November 4.30pm - 7.30pm

* Application deadline: February 2024

sjr.ac.uk/about/open-evening/



Monday 9 October 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Monday 6 November 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Monday 29 January 2024 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Monday 22 April 2024 4.30pm - 7.30pm

www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk

- School for the Arts
- Centre of Excellence in Construction & Engineering
- Centre for Advanced Technical Studies



Thursday 5 October 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 18 October 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 1 November 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Plus January 2024 Date and time TBC

www.winstanley.ac.uk

You are advised to attend as many open events as possible in order to make an informed choice once you leave Parklands. Don't assume you will like a college just because your friend/cousin/neighbour did!

For those who are intending to take up an apprenticeship position, or a place in the armed forces - you must have a full-time college course in place as a back up option. As we have seen in the past few years, anything can happen! You do not want to be stuck at home when everyone else is at college because you didn't apply.

You can apply to as many colleges as you want - have your interviews and accept all your places. You only decide which one you are enrolling at on the day you receive your GCSE results in August 2024.

Navigating apprenticeship options

By Ben Rowland, September 2023

Slowly but surely apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly popular option for students looking at their post-school options. University is no longer taken for granted as the 'best' route.

But recognising that apprenticeships are a good option is just the first step: you have to find out whether an apprenticeship will really work for you, and then you have to go about finding and successfully applying for one. This blog post sets out some of the key things to consider and do in order to successfully navigate your way to a great apprenticeship.



Why are apprenticeships becoming such a popular option?

People now see that uni has its downsides:

- it does not guarantee a successful career
- it is expensive – both in terms of money, with the average debt at the end being £43,000, and in terms of time (3 years is a long old time!)
- you are not guaranteed to have a good time while you are there.

More and more high-prestige firms are embracing apprenticeships: from the 'big four' accounting firms (PwC, EY, Deloitte and KPMG) to other famous brands such as JP Morgan, Google, IBM, BAE and Jaguar Land, as well as the NHS, charities and fast-growth businesses, more and more employers are using apprenticeships.

While the 'earn while you learn' message has always been powerful and exciting for many, it has particular resonance in a cost-of-living crisis when everyone is questioning every area of spend in their lives.

So, having decided that you want to look at apprenticeships, what are the next steps? There are five things you need to do:

1. get buy-in from those around you
2. figure out if you are ready
3. understand three key things about the choice you are about to make
4. work out what apprenticeships you might want to do
5. prepare yourself for the application process.

Let's look at each of these in turn.

1. Buy-in from those around you

Even if an apprenticeship is right for you, there may well be many people close to you who are sceptical or even hostile about apprenticeships. They could be your parents, members of your community, your teachers or your friends. They may have other views about what you 'should' do. Take time to tell them more about

apprenticeships, explaining why they are such a good option and why they might be right for you. It will help to have their support as you embark on your journey.

2. Figure out if you are ready

In my upcoming guidebook, *Understanding Apprenticeships: A Student's Guide*, several of the apprentices featured in the case studies say how daunting it was to enter the world of work immediately after school. For them, that feeling soon turned to excitement and enjoyment as they settled into their working life as an apprentice. But it is worth asking yourself whether you are mature enough yet to manage the world of work, while also needing to undertake the study part of your apprenticeship, and all the pressures that come with it.

3. Understand these three things

There are three things you should know as you approach this decision about what to do.

- No decision is forever – whatever you choose to do now does not stop you from making other choices in the future. You are allowed to change your mind and it is totally acceptable to do so! If you choose to do an apprenticeship now, you can choose to go to university later. If you choose an apprenticeship in one occupation, you can change job afterwards (or even during it!) If you choose to work for one kind of organisation now, you are not somehow stuck with it forever. The 'zigzag' career is now way more common than the 'job for life'.
- There is no 'magical gateway' – often young people are given the impression that if only they succeed in their GCSEs/A levels/Uni (delete as appropriate!) then the whole world will open up before them; the converse is implied too as a way of getting you to do some work before those dreaded exams. It just isn't true! The good news, or bad news depending on your perspective, is that you need to keep on working, keep on learning and keep on trying your best throughout your working life (that is part of the fun!)
- Your decision-making process should, in the end, be yours and yours alone – only you will live with the consequences of whatever choice you make. And do not be fooled into thinking that it is a purely 'rational' decision. Yes, you absolutely need to do your research and systematically weigh up your options, but ultimately it is likely that your decision will be a 'gut feeling' – and that's okay: that's actually how most human beings make most decisions.

4. Work out what apprenticeships you might want to do

There are over 600 apprenticeships that you could do, with more being added all the time to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of the economy. How many of these are you aware of? Go to the Institute of Apprenticeships website and have a look at the [Occupational Maps](#) to see just how many there are and how they might fit together.

Then think about two things. First, think about (and write down) what your aspirations are for your life. (Do you want to earn tons of money? Do you want a settled family life? Do you want a job that allows you a routine or that is different every day?) Secondly, think about what you enjoy doing. (Do you like organising things? Do you like working with tools? Do you like communicating? Do you like to be creative?) The trick is then to evaluate the hundreds of options available by comparing them to your aspirations and what you enjoy doing.

Sadly, there is no magic formula or algorithm that can take your aspirations and preferences and point you directly to the 'right' apprenticeship path – but you are very unlikely to find the right apprenticeship path if you don't consider these two things.

5. Prepare yourself for the application process

Although UCAS now includes apprenticeship options alongside university applications, the truth is – because each and every employer wants to find the right person for them – that applying for apprenticeships is more complicated than applying for university (a lot more!) So you need to be prepared. You should have a system for finding those apprenticeships that you both want to do and can physically get to. You should have a system for tracking your applications. And you need to be ready for the application process itself: you will need a 'story' for each apprenticeship (why you want it, why you are a good candidate for it) and you will need to be ready for telephone interviews, face-to-face interviews and maybe even in-depth assessment centres (slightly scary but also slightly fun). And you need to be able to respond to whatever the outcome is in a way that is positive.

Good luck – not that you'll need any luck if you are fully prepared!



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



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

October Half Term Work Experience Events - All over the UK with Global Businesses!

There are events all over the UK, but here is the Manchester option, delivered in partnership with global firms. They are business, tech, STEM, and law focused.

The event will involve lots of networking, students will be at round tables to take part in workshops and business challenges as well as having the opportunity to hear from senior leaders from industry. As they are in person we do have limited capacity and will be allocating places on a first come first serve basis, they are free to attend as well.

October Half Term Events:

Manchester Business Work Experience Event:

- Thursday 26th October, 9:30pm – 1:30pm
- Hilton Deansgate Hotel, Manchester City Centre
- KPMG, PwC, CIMA, Grant Thornton, Amazon, Mott MacDonald + lots more!
- Round table event with business skills workshops and panel discussions plus lots of networking at the event

Application Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Manchester-WEX>



Parklands High School
production of



SHREK

THE MUSICAL JR.

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture
and the Book by William Steig

Book and Lyrics by
David Lindsay-Abaire

Music by
Jeanine Tesori

Performed on
Thursday 30th November
and Friday 1st December 2023
from 7pm

**Tickets £5 adult, £3 concession,
£10 family (up to 4 people)**

Available from the Main Office at break times

Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals
and Neal Street Productions

Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford.
"I'm a Believer" by Neil Diamond

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk



Myerscough
College & University Centre
INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

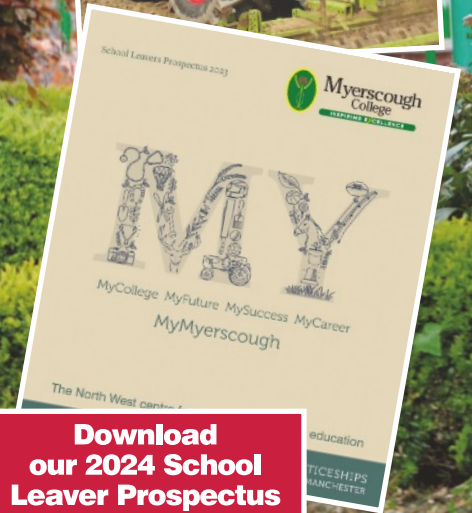
Course Advice Mornings

- ✓ School Leavers
- ✓ Apprenticeships
- ✓ University Degrees



The
North West
centre for
land-based,
sport, engineering
and science
education

**Download
our 2024 School
Leaver Prospectus**



Saturday 7th October 2023
Saturday 18th November 2023

CENTRES ACROSS
THE NORTH WEST

PRESTON • BLACKBURN
LIVERPOOL • WARRINGTON

www.myerscough.ac.uk

Your students who are participating in our free national mentoring programme that supports aspiring doctors and dentists in 10-11 all now have FREE access to:

- the UK's largest medical virtual work experience programme
- book 15 minute 1-2-1 appointments between 9am-9pm any day of the week to speak to medical students and doctors directly throughout their journey into medical school
- opportunities to apply for national essay competitions, awards and scholarships to study medicine at university
- medically relevant extra-curricular activities such as research, leadership and presentation opportunities.

Just to reiterate, there is no cost to the student or school for accessing any of these resources - it is funded by Medic Mentor, a national medical non-profit social enterprise.

It is highly likely that not all of your students have had a chance to get involved yet so here's a reminder to ensure that everyone gets access to the same opportunities!

Students can gain access to the national free mentoring programme by simply attending a free virtual (on zoom) Get into Medicine UCAS conference that will explain the entire application process and give them free access to all of the mentoring support above.

Students and parents can register for free at this link:

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Medicine conference dates:

- **Sunday 29th October**
- **Saturday 4th November**
- **Sunday 12th November**

All attendees will be awarded with a certificate and they can list this event on their UCAS applications under activities that have prepared them for higher education. Here's how the day will run:

9:30-10.00	Registration
10.00-11:00	Quick introduction to Medic Mentor, overview of the day, competition ratios, application timeline, Awards and Scholarships
11:00-11:15	Break
11.15-11.45	Introduction to the UCAS application form and entry requirements
11.45-12.15	Interactive CV building exercise and exclusive access to leadership, research, presentation, publication, prizes and scholarship opportunities
12.15-12.30	Top tips form a successful applicant (medical student)
12:30-12:45	Break
12.45-13.30	How to write an incredible personal statement
13.30-13.45	Break
13.45-14.10	Entrance exams - how to ace the UCAT
14.10-14.30	How to prepare for Medical School interviews
14.30-15.00	Top tips form a successful applicant (medical student) and next steps

This programme has helped 1000s of students secure medical school places over the last 10 years and you can learn more about successful students here: <https://medicmentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

Best wishes,

Nikki Abbott

Head of Education, Medic Mentor UK



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, with the **next virtual work experience day** taking place on the **5th November**. 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



ALLIED
HEALTHCARE
MENTOR



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



ALLIED
HEALTHCARE
MENTOR



UK government wants 1,300 digital apprentices

[The UK Cabinet Office has launched](#) an extensive plan to expand its digital capabilities and modernise the Civil Service.

The initiative calls for the recruitment of 2,500 tech and digital professionals through apprenticeships and talent programmes.

Ultimately, this will support the UK government's commitment to improve public services and save taxpayer money. Back in 2022, the UK government estimated potential savings of over £1 billion of taxpayer money through the digital transformation of services, by eliminating the unnecessary costs of paper-based services and processes.

Alex Burghart, parliamentary secretary for the Cabinet Office, said: "We want the next generation of tech talent to be able to learn their trade helping government to make services better for the public.

These apprenticeships are going to build great new digital careers and capabilities both in Whitehall and across the country."

Central to their recruitment strategy is the digital apprenticeship programme, which seeks to onboard 500 early career entrants into digital roles within the government this financial year. The number will eventually rise to 1,800 digital apprentices by June 2025.

This digital apprenticeship programme creates opportunities for both existing civil servants and newcomers to fill high-demand positions, such as cyber security technologists and software developers. The UK government want the best and brightest young minds to help them modernise the country and keep up with international competitors.

Minister for the Cabinet Office Jeremy Quin, said: "[This] announcement drives forward our plans for a modern Civil Service equipped with the skills and capabilities needed to harness the power of digital, data and technology. By attracting and retaining the best talent, we will keep pace with technological change and deliver more efficient services for the British public."

Megan Lee Devlin, chief executive of the CDDO, said: "We look forward to welcoming more purpose-minded technologists across government."

[See what kind of digital apprenticeships are available in England](#)



CAREER *of the* WEEK

Public relations officer

Public relations officers manage the reputation and image of their clients, working to gain public understanding and support through planned publicity campaigns.

A career in public relations (PR) involves using all forms of media and communication to build, maintain and manage the reputation of your clients. These range from public bodies or services, to businesses and voluntary organisations.

You'll communicate key messages, often using third-party endorsements, to defined target audiences in order to establish and maintain goodwill and understanding between an organisation and its public. This may be between organisations (business-to-business, or B2B) or individuals, and the general public.

As a PR officer or PR account executive, you'll monitor publicity and conduct research to find out the concerns and expectations of your client organisation's stakeholders. You'll then report and explain the findings to its management.

Responsibilities

As a public relations officer, you'll need to:

- work as part of an account team (in smaller organisations you may be the sole PR lead or work as an agency PR officer) where you'll plan, develop and implement PR strategies
- build strong relationships and networks with colleagues, clients and the media and answer enquiries from the media and other organisations
- monitor the media, including newspapers, magazines, journals, broadcasts, newswires, social media sites and blogs, for opportunities for clients
- research, write and distribute press releases to targeted media
- collate and analyse media coverage
- write and edit in-house magazines, case studies, speeches, articles and annual reports
- prepare and supervise the production of publicity brochures, handouts, direct mail leaflets, promotional videos, photographs, films and multimedia programmes
- devise photo opportunities and coordinate studio or location photography
- organise events (such as press conferences, exhibitions, open days and press tours), source speakers and seek out sponsorship opportunities
- maintain and update information on the organisation's website
- manage and update information and engage with users on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook
- prepare regular client reports and attend client meetings
- commission market research
- undertake research for new business proposals and present them to potential new clients
- foster good community relations through events such as open days and through involvement in community initiatives
- manage the PR aspect of a potential crisis situation



[Find out more here](#)