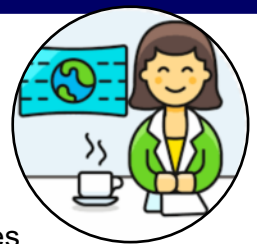




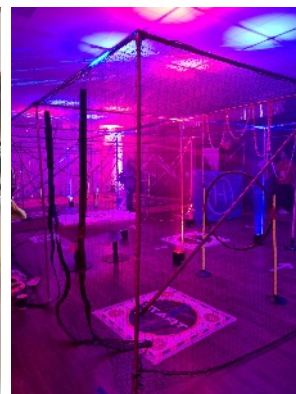
Your weekly guide to careers information, advice and news from Parklands High School

Well, here we are, almost at the end of term - and what a busy time it has been!

Students have been out and about in various locations, enjoying masterclasses and workshops and picking up trophies and accolades along the way, including winning the Science Trophy at Runshaw College.



Our Year 9 STEM team, having won the Regional Finals of the Raytheon Technologies Quadcopter Challenge travelled to RAF Cranwell this week, where they delivered a presentation to the Air Commodore of the station, Raytheon bosses and representatives from the emergency services, as well as teachers and students from all the other schools in the competition, and flew the Quadcopter through a fiendish series of obstacles. Finally, after touring the airbase and hearing all about STEM careers, we were delighted to be awarded the trophy for the Best Engineering Concept. What an achievement - a massive well done to the team for all their hard work and dedication.



Lots of useful and informative content in this issue of Career News, including open events, webinars, work experience opportunities and much more.

Year 10 will have an assembly next week to launch the Work Experience scheme - this will run during the week 15th - 19th July 2024. Much more information to follow after Christmas, but students can be having a think over the holidays about where they might want to work. Ask visiting relatives or neighbours if they could offer a placement or if they know of anywhere that takes students on work experience.

Have a great weekend



18th - 22nd December 2023

INVESTIN

Dear InvestIN: Your Career Questions Answered

Introducing our new careers podcast for students,
parents and teachers



**We are excited to launch our brand new podcast,
Dear InvestIN: Your Career Questions Answered.**

Navigating the career landscape can be daunting, whether you're a student thinking about the world of work, a teacher guiding future leaders, or a parent supporting your child's ambitions. 'Dear InvestIN' is our latest resource to demystify this journey, providing answers to the most pressing career questions from our community.

[View Our First Episode](#)

In this episode, our Programme Manager, Safia, and School Partnerships Manager, Lilly tackle students' submitted questions, shedding light on career exploration, employability skills and more.

As co-hosts, they bring you their personal insights on various industries, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the career landscape.

Drawing from their own experiences, they offer guidance that's both practical and inspiring.

To compliment this episode, we have also created a worksheet which includes a reflection and goal setting activity. Please encourage your students to complete this worksheet, and submit their questions for our next episode!

[Submit Your Questions](#)

[View Activity Worksheet](#)



Hello! We're WTW. We work with the world's leading organisations in the areas of people, risk and capital to help them solve problems such as:

- How can we invest better, in a way that builds a more sustainable planet?
- How can we properly insure a building in a country with natural disasters?
- How can we help employees plan for their retirement?
- How much should a footballer's legs be insured for?

We are a global company of over 46,000 people, and employ apprentices in our UK offices in Ipswich, Reigate, Redhill, Manchester, Leeds, London, and Welwyn Garden City

We are hiring apprentices in the following areas:

- Level 4 Insurance Professional
- Level 3 Pensions Administrator
- Level 4 Actuarial Technician
- Level 4 Data Analyst

Applications are open now for our 2024 apprenticeship programmes. Please apply before 12th January 2024

[Apply here!](#)

Rate My Apprenticeship top 5 apprentice employer, Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards winner, and National Apprenticeship Awards highly commended, BPP Large Employer of the year

Why our apprentices like working at WTW:

"Option of hybrid working – working from the office and from home. An opportunity to earn and learn on the job and gain a professional qualification." **Salaman - Insurance Professional Apprentice**

"At WTW we have a supportive culture - committed to diversity making sure that everyone has equal opportunities they need to succeed in your chosen role." **Yusuf - Project Management Apprentice**

"All of us apprentices are from a very diverse set of backgrounds, and we are all really well supported." **Chris - Workplace Pensions Administrator Apprentice**

"Gives me an opportunity to develop my professional and technical skills." **Pia - Technical Support Apprentice**

Routes into STEM Virtual Experience

2023/24

Routes into STEM virtual experience provides an exciting opportunity to explore the various routes you can take towards your STEM career. This course is designed to enable young people to work through activities and projects at their own pace, tour a variety of institutions virtually and also have access to live career sessions and mentor panels with STEM employers.

Who is it for?

- Students in **Year 9 or 10 / S3 or S4 / equivalent** who are interested in exploring a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- All you need is an interest in STEM and curiosity about the future. The course is open to all academic abilities

What's involved?

- Approximately 20 hours of study virtually at a pace that suits you
- Exploring different Routes into a STEM career including College Courses, University Courses, and Apprenticeships and learning from industry what is involved in a STEM career as well as enhancing your skills
- Live interactive sessions over the half-term breaks, school holidays and after school, allowing you to listen and ask questions to STEM students and professionals
- Getting to work on a project set by a STEM company to look further at a career area that interests you

What do you get out of it?

- Find out about different Routes into a STEM career from industry experts, college and university leaders, as well as young people who are currently on that path
- Engage in projects and activities that will enhance your problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and innovation skills and inspire you to find career motivation. Projects include a Biopharm challenge from GSK, a Design challenge from Balfour Beatty, an RSC Chemistry challenge and many more exciting challenges in all areas of STEM.
- Create your own personalised action plan to see your own Route into STEM
- Learn about your career skills and how you could write about this in your CV/ Personal Statement or Application form
- Receive an Industrial Cadets Bronze Award showing all that you have achieved on the course



www.etrust.org.uk

When is it?

This experience runs from 2 October 2023 until 2 August 2024 **with live sessions running throughout the duration, over the half-term breaks, school holidays and after school**

Cost

£75

If cost is a barrier, fully funded places are available, please indicate your interest on the application form

How to apply?

To apply, please visit our website [here](#) or **scan the QR code!**



What previous students have said

"This experience has shown me just how varied STEM is. I know that I can have a career that suits me, no matter my academic merit or personal qualities. I've also heard a lot from people who study and work in STEM, and it has been inspiring and encouraging to hear about their positive experiences and ambitions for the future. Industrial Cadets has also taught me key skills such as problem-solving and communication, which I am eager to apply to my future education and career."

"I've always loved STEM things but I always worried about not being able to make it, but now getting a STEM career seems more achievable."

"Before, I was fixed on a regular plan to go into 6th form, go to you university, and move forward without looking for any non-linear pathway. Routes into STEM has shown me that many of those who end up in STEM careers have not pursued that linear pathway, and this has made me more open to options such as apprenticeships, which I had never considered previously"

94%

of students felt confident about making future career choices following their course

99%

of students felt they know more about the STEM careers opportunities available to them



www.etrust.org.uk



Insights from our new Careers Report: Students scored highest on having read about careers related to their subject.

Reading around the subject is a brilliant way for students to deepen their knowledge beyond the curriculum, and learn about different careers available in their subject. We found a positive correlation between reading score and how much clarity students had about their future, suggesting that those who have read more about career options have a clearer idea of what they want to do.

In the OxBright Career Test, 82.5% of students scored 3 or above for having read about careers related to their subject, with only 5.5% of students scoring reading as a 1. This shows that most students have done some reading about, and thus have some familiarity with, the careers related to their subject.

Overall, it seems that students have a generally strong understanding of possible career paths related to their subject. A 2022 review by The Careers and Enterprise Company found that over 90% of post-16 providers ensured that most (94%) learners experienced curriculum learning that highlighted the relevance of their subject for future career paths, mirroring the data found in our [OxBright Career Test](#).

However, whilst only 5.5% of our students scored a 1 for having read about careers related to their subject, only 23.3% scored a 5. This suggests that whilst nearly all students have some understanding of careers related to their subject, most students would benefit further from deeper understanding.

[Read the Report](#)

OxBright: Career Test for Students: Find Your Ideal Job

The [OxBright Career Test](#) is designed to guide students towards their ideal career path and boost their chances of success in their university applications. The test is completely free for students and analyses preferences, interests and skills to generate tailored career recommendations. Students will receive personalised options, with tailored resources and insights to empower them on their journey towards a fulfilling career.



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





Amazing Apprentices: This Is My Story

Brand-new film released today

Today, we launched '**Amazing Apprentices: This Is My Story**' at an exclusive event at BBC New Broadcasting House in London.

We were joined by the amazing apprentices who featured in the film, their family, employers and training providers, to celebrate the film's first screening.

This brand-new film (with British Sign Language interpretation) follows the inspirational stories of apprentices with learning and physical differences, disabilities and health conditions.

Watch Now

Watch the film to learn how these apprentices are progressing their careers through apprenticeships and the ways that their employers and training providers are supporting them.

[WATCH THE FILM!](#)

Individuality.
Curiosity.
Possibility.

IBM.

Why Work at IBM?

At IBM, work is more than a job - it's a calling. To build. To design. To code. To consult. To think along with clients and sell. To make markets. To invent. To collaborate. Not just to do something better, but to attempt things you've never thought possible. To lead in this new era of technology and solve some of the world's most challenging problems.

Let's put smart to work.

Register your interest in an IBM apprenticeship

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships at IBM are all about picking up skills for the workplace and embarking on a long and successful career. We have your professional development in mind from the day you join us as a permanent employee. Our apprenticeships range from **Level 3 to Level 6** and each pathway gives you everything you need to start your career in the industry!

You will get lots of exposure to set you up for a lifelong career. In addition to the day job there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in social activities and volunteering with other Apprentices, Students and Graduates.

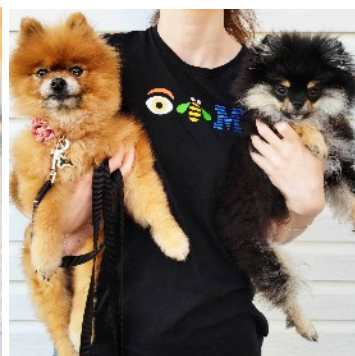
Degree Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships allow you to work and achieve a **Bachelors Honours degree** at the same time. You will be doing a real role at IBM and using what you learn in the workplace as part of your degree.

Apprentices on our **Digital & Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship** are currently studying at **University of Exeter** and **Manchester Metropolitan University**. Choice of University is made in response to the needs of our IBM businesses. Time at University is typically one day a week either on site or via online education and you will be required to work during University vacations.

It's time to define your career.

Register your interest in an IBM apprenticeship



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



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

- > 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

PRESTON
COLLEGE

We are getting in touch to let you know about an exciting opportunity for your students interested in studying medicine and dentistry. Applications for our free, online, and national [King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2024](#) are now open!

This programme is for students across the UK in Year 11, 12, and 13, who have only attended non-selective state schools since age 11 and are interested in becoming a doctor or dentist.

For over three years this online programme has supported students in accessing the hyper-competitive medical and dental degrees by acting as a hub of support for their questions and queries. Over the course of the lecture programme students will hear from a variety of speakers to help them make the best application to medicine or dentistry possible! Last year's lectures included the following:

- Medical and dental specialities: paediatrics, prosthodontics, renal transplant, maxillofacial and many more!
- Q&A's each week with current medical and dental students.
- Support for the application process: UCAT, personal statements, and interviews.
- September Q&A with key admissions colleagues in the school of medicine at KCL, UCL, St George's, Queen Mary, and Imperial.
- A session on other careers in healthcare with six professionals currently working and teaching in the sector (nursing, dietetics, clinical science, etc.)

**Lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6.00 - 7.15pm.
Our first lecture will be on Wednesday 14th February.**

For more information and to apply, [students should follow this link](#).
The deadline to apply is Monday 15th January 2023.

Finally, here is what some students had to say from last year's programme:

- *Student from Tower Hamlets: This lecture series has established the pros and cons to medicine and dentistry, but it has also communicated how to overcome these cons in an articulate manner. I feel much more educated in the fields of medicine and dentistry as before watching this series, I was always presented the sugar-coated perspective of these fields, which can create a false interpretation of what medicine and dentistry actually entails. I now know exactly what I want to study (and what to avoid) which is super helpful as it has eliminated all the feeling of indecision and hesitation that I had!*
- *Student from Leicester: It has really been effective into giving me an insight into dentistry and medicine, what they entail and also allowed me to really dig deeper and gain more information about different topics within the jobs and allowed me to learn a range of new information much of which I could also include in my personal statement.*
- *Student from Bexley: Through hearing about the experiences of various students and professionals, this lecture series has confirmed that I truly want to study medicine. Although the application process can be quite daunting, the lecture series has helped me gain a better understanding of how to write a good personal statement, do well in the UCAT, and be prepared for interviews. As well as this, moderators were always more than willing to provide us with advice and information on various topics and parts of the application process.*
- *Student from Milton Keynes: Attending the lecture series was instrumental in confirming my decision to pursue dentistry. The talks given by dental students shed light on their academic achievements in secondary school, their perspective on dentistry as a fulfilling profession, and they emphasized how the importance of patient satisfaction is a valuable aspect of the dental field.*
- *Student from Bedfordshire: I've always wanted to work in the medical field to help people but did not know what it involved or required. The lecture series has taught me how huge the medical field really is and how different yet important all fields are. It has also opened a door for me to also go and study dentistry in the future also. The lecture series has cemented my aspirations to go and work in the medical field as it is so interesting and rewarding.*

I hope to see lots of your students there! Our [application form](#) can be found here.

INVESTIN

Summer Career Experiences

Ages 12-18 | London | 15 Careers

Last Chance: Students can use the code SUMMER15A at checkout for 15% off all Summer Experiences.



Our 15% early-bird discount on our immersive summer career experiences will end on 31st December.

Through immersive simulations and iconic site visits, students will be able to fully experience their dream career whilst gaining key skills and insider knowledge along the way. Even better, they will be giving their university application a serious boost while diving into this incredible experience!

InvestIN is listed as an official activity provider on the UCAS application form. Did you know, an impressive 78% of our alumni who featured their InvestIN programme experience on their UCAS applications were accepted into their first-choice university?

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

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

Hear from the expert team behind our Summer Experiences



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

ARMY OFFICER BURSARIES

PAY YOUR WAY THROUGH UNIVERSITY

The Army offers a variety of bursaries depending on what you study, how you expect to perform and which Corps you wish to join

© Crown Copyright



Fund your child's education

The Army offers a range of bursaries to selected officer candidates during further and higher education.

Undergraduate Bursaries:

Your child can apply as a student to be an **Army Officer**, and we could give them up to **£7,000** on a **standard bursary** and up to **£24,000** on the **enhanced bursary**.

STEM Bursary:

Your child can earn up to **£42,750** (5k yearly bursary + tuition fees) when they join the **Defence Stem Undergraduate Sponsorship (DSUS)**. DSUS is designed for students on STEM degree courses commissioning into the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Logistics or Intelligence Corp's.

Music Bursary:

Is your child looking for an exciting and varied career with music performance at its heart? We could sponsor your student up to **£9,250** per year, if they are studying a Bachelor of Music (BMus) in performance at a university or conservatoire.

Medical Bursary:

If your child is studying one of the following professions, the Army can offer financial assistance and support while they complete their qualifications.

For full details on each of the awards and criteria, visit the role page:

[Medicine](#) (up to £75,000)

[Dentistry](#) (up to £75,000)

[Veterinary](#) (up to £60,000)

[Pharmacy](#) (up to £51,000)

[Nursing](#) (adult and mental health) (up to £42,000)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ARMY BURSARIES



Blackburn College Becomes First for Hydrogen-Powered Vehicle Training

The College is the first Further Education centre in England to be providing hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle training to meet the skills gap for motor industry professionals, future car mechanics and the wider network.

Blackburn College has unveiled a hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) training rig which will give its students – and the region's wider automotive industry – practical, hands-on experience to further prepare them for the mass roll-out of alternatively fuelled vehicles.

The fully-interactive Toyota Mirai training rig from Block Automotive is the latest addition to the College's state-of-the-art Hybrid Electric Automotive Training (HEAT) facility, which opened in November 2022 as a dedicated centre to develop and deliver training to bridge skills gaps and meet the demands of greener vehicle technologies, including hybrid, electric and now hydrogen.

Although the ban on new petrol and diesel car sales in the UK has been extended to 2035, the motor industry is increasing development of alternatively fuelled vehicles to support the need to reduce reliance in fossil fuel. Experts at the College say that this additional investment – funded by the Department for Education Skills Accelerator Development Fund Pilot – will support the motor industry to get ahead of the game in upskilling, while ensuring that the next generation of its workforce has exposure to cutting edge technologies that will equip them with the level of skills required to service the drivers and fleets of tomorrow.

In May 2023, the UK Government announced a £77 million investment in to new zero-emission vehicle projects, while major car brands, including Toyota, Hyundai, BMW, Land Rover and Vauxhall are developing FCEVs.

Karl Pilkington from West Riding Hyundai UK, Colne stated "West Riding are excited to join Hyundai UK at the forefront of innovative technologies such as Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles. We are extremely excited to see how the market will change and adapt as more unique & innovative cars such as the NEXO get developed and released."

In addition to providing hydrogen training as part of its post-16 existing Levels 1 to 4 course offering, the College will be working closely with the region's SME garages, mechanics, dealerships, vehicle recovery and emergency services to offer dedicated training on servicing, repairing and importantly, the safety aspects of working with hydrogen vehicles.

Dr Fazal Dad, Principal and Chief Executive said:

"This fantastic opportunity and investment further demonstrates the College's commitment to the automotive industry across Lancashire to develop new knowledge and skills for the next generation of motor vehicle professionals."

"There is agreement in the industry that hydrogen will play a major role in the decarbonisation of transport," said Michael Yerbury, Advanced Automotive Technical Trainer at HEAT. "It's likely that, in the not-so-distant future, drivers will have a choice of battery powered electric vehicles and FCEVs, depending on their needs."

"While some might think this is years away from realisation, we're seeing a huge push from car manufacturers on their NetZero investments. This also includes hydrogen fuelling stations being installed on some of the UK's major transport routes."

"But, there's a huge skills shortage in the industry at the moment, which is why we're so excited to be at the forefront of this cutting-edge technology as the first Further Education college in the country to offer FCEV training. This latest investment places the College at the forefront of automotive skills in East Lancashire and will not only enable us to give our students the skills they need to take on the jobs of tomorrow, but will help upskill the motor industry as a whole."

HEAT is part of the £1.3m Lancashire Automotive Skills Accelerator Project (LASA), a partnership project led by Blackburn College aiming to support businesses across Lancashire to respond to the growth of renewable energy sources, particularly focusing on low-emission vehicles and infrastructure within the light vehicle maintenance, service and repair, plant machinery and motorsport industries.



ESCAPE
STUDIOS

A GUIDE TO
**UNREAL
ENGINE**
**BUILDING BLOCKS
FOR WORLD-BUILDERS**

DOWNLOAD NOW



THE FUTURE IS UNREAL

Unreal Engine 5 (UE5) is fast becoming the tool of choice for many creative studios, so it's increasingly important to be able to engage with it to meet the high demand.

Start your creative future with our NEW Unreal Engine 5 guide. It's jam-packed with free tutorials by tutors and Q&As with industry friends, all demonstrating how UE5 is used across Animation, Games and Visual Effects.

FREE UE5 GUIDE

Discover Unreal Engine 5 with insights from our expert tutors and industry partners.

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)



ONLINE Q&A

On 13th January join our Principal, Dr Ian Palmer, for an online Q&A session.

[BOOK NOW](#)



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

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Apprentices get a 21% wage boost from April 2024



In a promising move for apprentices across the UK, the Treasury has revealed plans to increase the minimum hourly wage for apprentices to £6.40 starting from April 2024.

The announcement came from the autumn statement by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. It follows last year's commendable 9.7% rise in the apprentice national minimum wage.

The 21% pay rise means that apprentices will see their minimum hourly pay go from the current £5.28 to £6.40. This boost will help apprentices during the UK's current cost of living crisis.

However, there's still a gap between apprentices and other groups of working people. The national living wage and national minimum wage rates for 18 to 20-year-olds have also both risen.

For apprentices aged 16 to 18, and those aged 19 or over in their first year of apprenticeship, employers must pay at least the apprentice minimum wage. After their first year, apprentices aged over 19 should receive at least the national minimum wage or the national living wage, depending on their age.

Notably, the national living wage is set to increase of over a pound an hour – a jump from £10.42 to £11.44. This increment will also extend to 21-year-olds for the first time, resulting in a 2.4% pay rise from £10.18 to £11.44 next year. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt was keen to point out that this national living wage hike equates to an additional £1,800 annually.

More good news for 18 to 20-year-olds, as the national minimum wage rates for this group will see a substantial increase by £1.11, bringing it to £8.60 per hour.

The increased wages undoubtedly mark a positive step forward for apprentices, though critics still point out that the apprentice wage of £6.40 is only a little over half of the national living wage. Earlier this year, [a journalist in the New Statesman](#) called the wage “exploitative”.

Not every apprentice is paid the apprenticeship wage, however. Apprenticeship Guide Jobs list plenty of vacancies that pay well over £6.40 per hour. Some supporters of the apprenticeship wage also point out that apprentices can expect good wages upon completing their apprenticeship, often well ahead of their peers who go to university.

See [apprenticeships sorted by expected wage upon completion](#).



CAREER *of the* WEEK

Aerospace engineer

A career in aerospace engineering will see you working with cutting-edge technology and international companies.

As an aerospace engineer you'll research, design, develop, maintain and test the performance of:

- civil and military aircraft
- missiles
- satellites
- space vehicles
- weapons systems

Work is also carried out on the different components that make up the aircraft and systems. In some companies you may be known as an aeronautical engineer.

You'll be concerned with improving flight safety, fuel efficiency, speed and weight, as well as reducing system costs and using developing technologies to meet customer needs. The role increasingly addresses the environmental impact of air travel.

Types of aerospace engineer

You can specialise in a particular area such as:

- aerodynamics
- avionics
- materials and structures
- propulsion
- systems integration

Responsibilities

Tasks vary depending on your specialist area and employer, but you may be required to:

- apply the principles of science and technology to create aircraft, components and support equipment
- research and develop design specifications and use computer-aided design (CAD) software to create plans
- supervise the assembly of airframes and the installation of engines, instruments and other equipment
- take part in flight-test programmes to measure take-off distances, rate of climb, stall speeds, manoeuvrability and landing capacities
- resolve issues that arise during the design, development and testing processes
- maintain aircraft for full operation including making regular inspections, maintenance, repairs and servicing
- measure and improve the performance of aircraft, components and systems
- modify designs to improve safety features or minimise fuel consumption and pollution
- investigate aircraft accidents
- collate information, interpret data and publish the results of specific projects in technical report form
- communicate technical and regulatory advice to clients, teams, suppliers and other professionals within the aerospace industry



[Find out more here](#)