

# CAREER News



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

Welcome to another edition of Career News. There are lots of really great virtual work experience opportunities on offer, so don't miss out. Although never quite the same as in-person work experience, nevertheless, it's well worth getting involved - any experience looks great on a CV and gives students something to talk about in interviews for college, university, apprenticeships or jobs.



Speaking of apprenticeships - check out the range of vacancies this week. There's an additional list from Bolton College (with far more available on their website - see inside for details).

Hopefully, Year 11s have got their college or apprenticeship places sorted out - all places accepted, interviews done and dusted (or at least booked!) and everything organised for enrolment day. Everyone should have a Plan B - just in case. It's not too late to apply to most colleges, but don't leave it till the very last minute - or the popular courses will be full.

Lots of exciting events coming up for Year 10 students, including their live virtual sampling day with Wigan & Leigh College, and an actual visit to Runshaw College (fingers crossed!) There's also a World of Work Day being organised with Inspira (Careers & Enterprise Company) and the local EBP - more details to follow as we get them.

Year 7, 8 and 9 are not forgotten - there'll be lots for them to get involved with soon. Keep an eye on the Google Classroom Careers areas for news, competitions and so on. In particular - the Parklands Safety Group will be launching soon. Our previous team won the National Safety Groups UK award and were presented with their trophy at a prestigious location in London. Now we have to defend that title - so if anyone in Year 8 or 9 would like to get involved, let me know! After the half term holiday, there will be a Safety Groups assembly when you can officially sign up for a position on the team.

## **PARKLANDS SAFETY GROUP**



We are currently testing a new careers site for students, which will allow them to record all their career-related lessons, interventions, meetings with employers and so on - so writing a CV in Year 11 will be a piece of cake! More details to follow in future newsletters.

If you would like your industry or business to feature in a future issue, please get in touch (pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk). Have a great half term and see you soon!

Half term - 31 May - 4 June 2021

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

7TH, 8TH & 9TH JUNE



This is a fantastic chance for Year 11 leavers to undertake virtual work experience if you are looking to meet a variety of global employers and learn some new skills over the summer.

This opportunity is **FREE** and we are accepting places on a first come first served basis. The Young Professionals Virtual Work Experience is running across 7th, 8th & 9th June. We have PwC, Sky, HSBC, GSK, RAF and many others joining us during the three days. We will be running skills based sessions (looking at CV's, Interviews, Assessment Centres, LinkedIn / Networking etc...) along with employer insight / workshop sessions. There will be 2 individual based projects students will be set to work on in their own time which will form part of their Virtual Work Experience interactive tasks.

**7th, 8th & 9th June, 9am - 3pm each day**

**An opportunity to take part in skills based workshops as well as interaction with multiple global employers**

**2 project based activities to be completed whilst on program**

**To explore lots of different employment sectors as well as gaining a better understanding of the job market, world of work and key skills employers look for**

**Certificate and reference on completion**

Application Link: [Click here](#)



We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate our 150th anniversary than to share the wonders of engineers and technology with the rest of the world.

We hope you were able to catch each episode of The 150 Show live, but in case you missed any - they're all available on-demand.

[Find out more](#)

Each episode featured inspiring interviews with some amazing guests, including astronaut Tim Peake CMG, inventor and YouTube sensation Mark Rober, and maths whizz and TV personality Carol Vorderman

MBE, to name a few, and the series was hosted by our phenomenal President, Professor Danielle George MBE, alongside maths teacher and presenter, Bobby Seagull.



We were also joined daily by engineer and Great British Bake Off finalist, Andrew Smyth, for a spot of bakineering - with electric birthday cakes and edible boats illustrating key engineering principles; and our Youth STEM Personality of the Year winner, Callum Daniel, who shared some fun experiments you could try at home.



## The Green Edition

From combating climate change and sustainable fashion, to packet-less food and electric motorsport - there was something for every eco-friendly engineer in this episode.

Guests included Chris Jackson - Professor of sustainable geoscience at the University of Manchester; Ivan Ling - engineer and former winner of the IET Global Challenge Award, and a trio of fashion sustainability champions: Helen Lax - London Fashion District, Rory Hugill - Fashion For Good, and Nick Ryan - Worn Again.

[Watch now](#)

## The Youth Edition

During our final episode of the week, we showed young people that if they want to change the world, they can do it through STEM.

It was a star-studded affair, featuring our newest Honorary Fellow and astronaut - Tim Peake CMG, founders of YouTube channel 'Kids Invent Stuff' - Ruth Amos and Shawn Brown, Nanogirl - Michelle Dickinson, science presenters Greg Foot and Maddie Moate, and our STEM Personality of the Year winner, former NASA engineer and YouTube sensation - Mark Rober.

[Watch now](#)



# Work Experience

Taking the first step into the world of work.

**Springpod** 

**Jun 28 - Jul 9**

**Virtual Work Experience  
- Applications Open!**

Our second round of virtual work experience will be running from Monday 28th June till Friday 9th July.

On this two-week virtual work experience programme, you'll be introduced to the world of engineering and technology and learn about how Siemens is helping to build a more sustainable future.

During this programme, you will meet with Siemens experts to explore the core focusses of the business, such as digitalisation, climate action, smart infrastructure and diversity and inclusion. You'll also be able to discover the variety of roles across the company and learn how to kick-start your career with a Siemens apprenticeship, internship or graduate scheme. You'll also have opportunities to ask questions so you can get a clear picture of what a career at Siemens could look like for you.

To learn more and apply to the programme, click the 'Apply Now' link.



[Apply Now](#)



# Sabrina Cohen-Hatton: From homeless teenager to chief fire officer

## Learn how Sabrina Cohen-Hatton turned her life around to forge a senior firefighting career.

Today, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton is one of only six women fire chiefs in the country and a doctor of behavioural neuroscience; at 15, she was living rough on the streets of Newport.

In this write-up from an exclusive video interview with BecomingX, she explains how she turned her life around to forge an exceptional career.

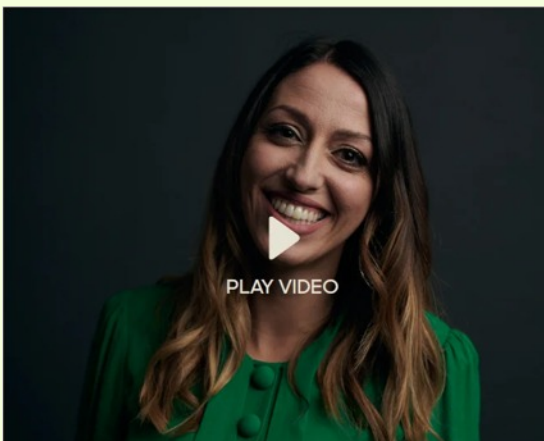
“Your circumstances don’t define you; they don’t determine where you end up, only where you start from,” asserts Sabrina Cohen-Hatton.

## “I’ve gone from living in abject poverty and sleeping rough at 15 to achieving the most senior rank in the fire service at 36.”

Cohen-Hatton’s father died of a brain tumour when she was nine years old, bringing her childhood to a swift end.

“He and my mum were blissfully in love; they were great parents,” she explains. “And then when my dad got sick, his business failed, and what we saw over a period of time was the cognitive degeneration that was associated with it.

“Things got really difficult; my mum had a breakdown. We were constantly cold; we were constantly hungry. It was a struggle day to day just to survive. We broke down as a family completely, and I ended up sleeping rough.”



[Sabrina's story - video](#)

As a 15- and 16-year-old, Cohen-Hatton would often spend the night in shop doorways or in subway tunnels on the streets of Newport, Wales. “I’ve been beaten up more

times than I care to remember,” she recalls. “I’ve woken up with drunk people urinating on my sleeping bag. I was attacked once for being Jewish.

“There were times in my life that I was forced to eat out of bins in order to survive. You feel so humiliated; it’s the most dehumanising experience. When you’re sitting at the side of the street, people walk past you like a ghost, like you’re not even there. One teacher crossed the street to avoid me. It was at that point that I knew that nobody cared.”

Determining to change her circumstances herself, Cohen-Hatton continued to pursue her education.

“My choice was to work as hard as I could for as long as it took to be able to change that situation,” she explains. “I’d stuff my uniform in a bag... and get changed in the bus station toilets. So I still went to school and I still did my GCSEs.”

Becoming a Big Issue seller helped her to work her way out of poverty, giving her some much-needed “stability and control”; but she describes it as an uphill battle.

“Getting off the streets isn’t as easy as getting a roof over your head and that’s it. It took me three attempts to escape that life, where I could start afresh, just as me, without baggage or history.”

## Becoming a fire fighter

“I never had a childhood dream of being a firefighter,” admits Cohen-Hatton. “It wasn’t something that occurred to me when I was growing up. But when I was experiencing homelessness, it really felt as if every day was the worst day of my life. I know how it feels to be at rock bottom.

“The amazing thing about the fire service is that people trust us to know what to do when they are experiencing the worst day of their lives. I think in a funny kind of way I wanted to rescue people in a way that nobody had been able to rescue me.”

Her first job was as a part-time, on-call firefighter in the South Wales Valleys, where there were 1,700 men to seven women; she suffered sexual harassment and stereotyping.

“I was the first woman at my station and in my division and, initially, not everyone knew how to respond to that,” she says. “People would regularly say things like ‘no offence to you, Sab, we just don’t agree with women in the job. Women will get firefighters killed’. That kind of idea that the package you come in somehow defines what you’re capable of and how good you’ll be is very frustrating.”

However, this was balanced by “some amazing experiences. I’ve been able to push myself to do things I never thought I was capable of and that’s the most important thing,” she says.

## Applying behavioural neuroscience to firefighting

Cohen-Hatton's defining career moment came when she was called to an incident in which a firefighter at a neighbouring station had been severely burned; there was a one-in-four chance that the victim was her own husband.

Finding him safe and well, she experienced an "overwhelming sense of relief" combined with "an overwhelming sense of guilt; I felt that, by so badly wishing it not to be Mike, I was wishing it on someone else," she explains.

"To find a way of coping with it, I started to look at what we could do about firefighter injuries. What I found really shocked me: 80% of accidents across all industries happen because of human error."

She began studying psychology, doing a degree followed by a PhD in behavioural neuroscience, "looking at the mechanisms that might bias the decisions that we make, to learn more about how we can try to reduce human

error"; people laughed at her plans to apply her learning to the fire service, but she "carried on anyway".

"As I've progressed in my career — through to a command role — I think the ability to get there takes the ability to fail repeatedly and still get back up and carry on and try again and again," she says. "There are going to be people who tell you you're never going to achieve it. But if you know you can, and if you have a passion to do something, do it anyway.

"I don't think I would be who I am, doing what I'm doing, if it hadn't been for those experiences. It's my history, regardless of how palatable it is. Being open about that, being honest about being vulnerable and owning those vulnerabilities has been incredibly powerful. So although I don't want anyone else to go through it, I don't think I'd change a thing now."

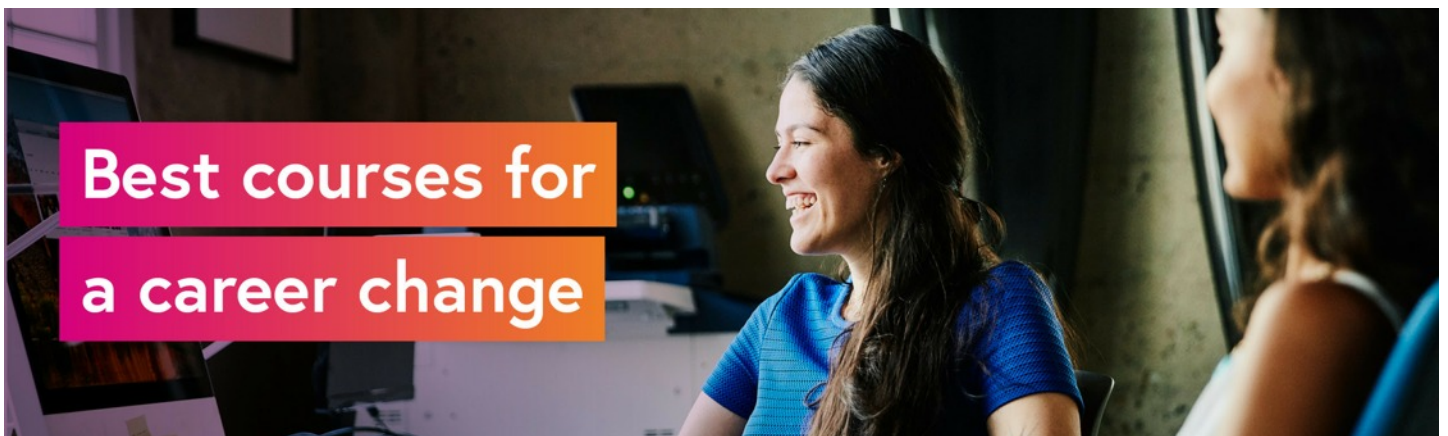
By Future TalentEd

# FUTURE TALENTED

Bringing the world of work to life

In partnership with

LifeSkills  
Created with  BARCLAYS



Got a career change on your mind? In our post, 'The Best Courses for a Career Change', we dive into the top courses you can take to jazz-up your skillset, stand out to employers and boost your chances of bagging that dream job.

Read the full post for plenty of tips on the key hard and soft skills to start developing now, the best industries to get into to future-proof your career and the courses to get you there.

We've highlighted some of the courses below, too - like Becoming Career Smart. This one supports you in identifying your key strengths and learning how to use them to your best advantage.

[Discover Career-Changing Courses](#)

 **Future  
Learn**

# VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES: JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup>

BOOK NOW

## FREE Virtual Work Experience event!

Your students are invited to our exciting, new, two-day Virtual Work Experience. This event will be the perfect opportunity to help students stand out from the crowd and gain invaluable knowledge and skills about the creative industry.

Our programme is designed to boost their employability and start to expand their professional network, meeting industry professionals from the likes of Animator Vine FX, Industrial Light & Magic and One of Us. They will share their own experiences of breaking into the world of work and let the students in on the skills they needed to excel in their careers.

Check out the programme...

### Programme Details

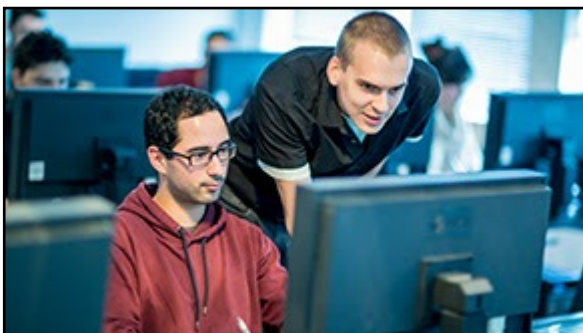
Dates: 13th - 14th July

Location: Online

Time: 12pm - 4pm

Cost: Free

[BOOK NOW](#)



#### Tuesday 13th July

Gain valuable insights into the world of VFX, Animation and Games.

Hear first-hand from industry professionals including Animator Vine FX and Industrial Light & Magic on how they secured and excel in their creative roles.

Learn the top tips to getting the students foot into the industry and starting a job.



#### Wednesday 14th July

Explore the different career routes into the screen industries.

Hear first-hand from industry professionals including One of Us and Escape Studios on how they secured their roles.

Learn top tips to succeed in the industry and the importance of developing their soft skills including teamwork, communication and problem solving.



# Industrial Cadets

## INSIGHT INTO UNIVERSITY

[Insight into University](#) (previously known as Headstart & Inspire) is a comprehensive on-line course allowing students to experience STEM studies at university and the career opportunities that these subjects lead to. It will provide access to information on university and student life, STEM projects and activities set by leading UK universities and global STEM companies, first year undergraduate lectures, live interactive sessions with academics, admissions tutors, employers and current students.

Whether you are interested in life sciences, chemistry, engineering, physics, computer science, sustainability, aerospace, built environment or maths we have something for you.

With specially developed content and live sessions from universities including University of Cambridge, Sheffield, Lancaster, Abertay, Manchester, Coventry, Kent, Oxford, Loughborough, Liverpool, Bolton, Edinburgh, Birmingham ... and more!

Final reminder - the [applications are still open](#) but you need to be quick, the course is starting next month. Don't miss out!

Here is a selection of what will be available to you on the course:

- **50+ live sessions to choose from - speak to university students, lecturers, admissions tutors and employers**
- **Projects, lectures and activities on a wide variety of STEM subjects set by top UK Universities.**
- **Virtual university tours and taster sessions**
- **Industry workshops**
- **Students study at their own pace over the summer**
- **On completion of the course students gain a Silver Industrial Cadets award**

Fully funded places are still available. Take a look at the Insight into University leaflet [here](#).

To watch a video and find out more about EDT and Industrial Cadets, follow the link - [Watch the video here](#)



**FINAL REMINDER**



## SCHOOL LEAVERS

### HOW COULD AN APPRENTICESHIP BENEFIT YOU?



EARN A REAL WAGE



GET A RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION



SET YOURSELF UP FOR THE FUTURE

### WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

An apprenticeship is a genuine job and under all circumstances an apprentice will be employed from day one. Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. Once you have identified the apprenticeship programme right for you, we will match you to one of our trusted main providers and work with them to deliver your apprenticeship training.

An apprentice will:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- be given time for study related to their role (the equivalent of one day a week)

### APPRENTICESHIPS WE OFFER:

- Hair Professional Level 2
- Advanced and Creative Hair Professional Level 3
- Business Administrator Level 3
- HR Support Level 3
- HR Consultant and Partner Level 5
- Customer Service Practitioner Level 2
- Customer Service Specialist Level 3
- Adult Care Worker Level 2
- Lead Adult Care Worker Level 3
- Leader in Adult Care Level 5
- Learning Mentor Level 3
- Assessor or Coach Level 4
- Team Leader and Supervisor Level 3
- Operations and Departmental Manager Level 5
- Don't see anything you like? Send us an email with your suggestion and we'll see what we can do!

Still not answered your question?

Visit our website [www.nemaltd.org](http://www.nemaltd.org) and read our FAQs or contact us today!

[www.nemaltd.org](http://www.nemaltd.org)

01257 449181

[info@nemaltd.org](mailto:info@nemaltd.org)

Unit 15 Chorley Central Business Park, Stump Lane, PR6 0BL

### WHAT CAN YOU EARN?

The national minimum wage (NMW) for apprentices is £4.15 per hour from April 2020. The apprentice NMW applies to apprentices aged under 19 or aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship. Apprentices aged 25 and over, and not in the first year of their apprenticeship, will be entitled to the National Minimum Wage.

This is the legal minimum pay per hour, most receive more. The Apprenticeship Pay Survey 2016 estimated the average gross hourly pay received by apprentices in Great Britain was £6.70 an hour for level 2 and 3 apprentices which is equivalent to nearly £14,000 per year. More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be found on GOV.UK and search 'apprenticeships'.

### REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:



Choose a course that interests you



Email us: [info@nemaltd.org](mailto:info@nemaltd.org) with your details and course of interest



Sit back and we'll find you an employer!

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A TRAINEESHIP?

FOR ANYONE UNEMPLOYED AGED 16-24

### Specialising in

- Rail
  - Construction
  - Beauty
  - Business Administration
  - Care
- Other courses available

Any part time work up to 16 hours per week can be counted towards your placement

### Virtual Traineeship with NEMA

Duration:  
Minimum - 6 weeks  
Maximum - 6 months  
Work experience of 100 hours to be completed in a block or set number of days. The rest of your training is online and delivered by us.

Benefits/Universal Credit unaffected by Traineeships.

### ASK US ABOUT THEM

Tel: 01257 449181  
Email: [info@nemaltd.org](mailto:info@nemaltd.org)  
Web: [www.nemaltd.org](http://www.nemaltd.org)



We are a small training provider based in Chorley, offering apprenticeships and traineeships.

We offer a high quality work placement (min 100 hours) with virtual employability training and Maths/English for those who need it.

Whilst Traineeships are unpaid they can help you land a job or apprenticeship afterwards.

We currently have traineeships in:

Rail, Construction, Beauty, Business Administration, Care and Graphic design.

**Tel: 01257 449181**



As promised, the Wigan & Leigh College transition resources will be available for your Year 11 to access via our Year 11 portal on our website after May half term (they will go live on Tuesday 8th June).

Here is the web link:

<https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/16-18-full-time-courses/year-11-applicants>

- Click on the above link
- Scroll down and select the relevant subject area
- Within each subject area, you will see the 11 steps to success (we encourage students to explore as many of the steps as they wish)
- To access the transition resources specifically, click on STEP 8



The curriculum documents will help Year 11 students prepare for College and their post 16 study.

Just as a reminder to any Year 11s, if you have applied, had your interview and accepted the offer of a place, your place is safe and secure for September.

Any students who have applied and not had an interview as yet, please don't worry, we will be carrying out additional Teams and/or telephone interviews over the coming weeks. If there are any students have not yet applied, there is still time and we are accepting applications. We would advise online applications at this time, but if you have any issues with accessing the internet from home - we can carry out an application over the phone.

If you have any questions along the way, please contact our School Liaison team by email at [year11applicants@wigan-leigh.ac.uk](mailto:year11applicants@wigan-leigh.ac.uk)



Here's a great opportunity for you: a virtual Insight Event with accountancy firm, BDO during half-term. The event is to support any students who might be interested in applying for work experience this summer. Their work experience is a great opportunity for anyone looking at applying for an apprenticeship with BDO in the future as students will be fast-tracked and supported onto their Apprenticeship.

**Virtual Insight Event with BDO for Year 10-11 Students and their parents/carers**

**Looking for work experience over the summer? Make sure you attend this event!**

**Virtual Insight Event - Explore BDO**

**Thursday 3rd June 6pm – 7pm**

Come along and network with the BDO team and get your foot in the door!

[Sign up here](#)

Come along to our FREE virtual insight event to find out what it's like to work for BDO and about different career opportunities!

#### **About this event**

Come along and find out more about Explore BDO - their Work Experience week in your summer holidays! Hear more about what to expect on the programme. It's a great opportunity if you are looking to do an apprenticeship in the accountancy sector and it will help to fast track your application!

BDO offers a wide range of programmes for students in years 10, 11, and 12. These are exciting opportunities for students from different backgrounds to help advance their careers, as well as network with professionals from a fantastic organisation!

We look forward to seeing you there on Thursday, 3rd June!

#### **About BDO:**

"As one of the UK's largest accountancy and business advisory firms, we're proud to work with a wide range of clients, from entrepreneurial enterprises to multinational groups, and we take the same pride in growing your career. With us, you'll get plenty of opportunities to develop your skills in areas that include auditing, tax advice, risk management, forensic accounting, business restructuring and corporate finance. But it's the people you'll meet who will really help you succeed.

At BDO, you can be yourself, sharing ideas and opinions with your team, and knowing you'll be respected and valued for your contribution. You can have confidence that you are part of an organisation with purpose, where you'll have variety and opportunity to build your career path alongside people who will help you succeed."

PEARSON  
BUSINESS  
SCHOOL

# VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**DATES:** July 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

**BOOK NOW**

If you are considering a career in business - have a look at this ....

You're invited to our Virtual Work Experience! We all know about the Catch 22 surrounding work experience. To get experience you need a job but you need a job to get experience.

Pearson Business School have the answer to break you out of this loop - our brand new, FREE, Virtual Work Experience event.

**Don't miss out!**

**Dates: 7th - 8th July**

**Location: Live online**

**Time: 12pm - 4pm**

**Cost: Free**

**Book my place**



## How will it benefit me?

This 2-day virtual work experience is the perfect opportunity for you to boost your employability and start to expand your professional network.

Meet industry professionals from the likes of IBM, L'Oréal, Bloomberg and the BBC. They will share their own experiences of breaking into the world of work and let you in on the skills they needed to succeed in their careers.

[Check out the programme and book your place now ...](#)

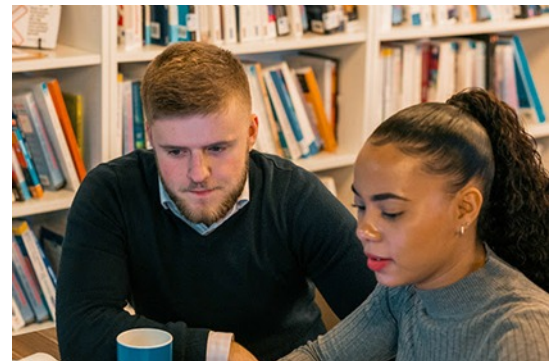


## Wednesday 7th July

Get to know industry experts from Bloomberg, IBM, L'Oréal and Pearson College London, as they discuss their roles and offer an insight into some different industries.

Discover the world of LinkedIn.

Find out about our new work experience platform 'Bubl'.



## Thursday 8th July

Further industry insights from the BBC and IBM providing different perspectives from various roles and types of companies.

A discussion surrounding what employers look for, the skills required and so much more...

# Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships currently available at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) 

- Level 3 **Apprentice Business Administrator** at Total Physio - VAC001715100  
(Available through Runshaw College)
- Level 3 **Junior Content Producer Apprentice** (Social Media) at Churchill Security Ltd - VAC001714103  
(Available through Wigan & Leigh College)
- Level 3 **Health & Fitness Coach Apprentice** at David Lloyd - VAC001716874 (x2 vacancies)  
(Available through Lifetime Training Group Ltd)
- Level 2 **Childcare Apprentice** at Teddy Towers Nursery - VAC001716899 (x2 vacancies)  
(Available through Runshaw College)
- Level 2 **Apprentice Hospitality Team Member** at Real Honest Foods - VAC001716301 (x2 vacancies)  
(Available through Runshaw College)
- Level 2 **Apprentice Hairdresser** at Mirror Image Hair - VAC001715170  
(Available through Bolton College)
- Level 2 **Apprentice Childcare Assistant** at Meerkats - VAC001715067  
(Available through Runshaw College)
- *Don't forget you will need a CV - if you need any support with this - email Miss Berry*

**Apprentice Hairdresser, Artisan** - Bolton

**Digital Marketer Apprentice, Autoconsult Ltd** - Bolton

**Administration & Accounts Team Assistant Apprentice, Autoconsult Ltd** - Bolton

**Customer Service Apprenticeship, Bailey Sports Therapy Ltd** - Bolton

**Digital Marketer Apprenticeship, Bailey Sports Therapy Ltd** - Bolton

**Apprentice Hairdresser, Cabello For Hair** - Bolton

**Digital Marketer Apprentice, Danielle Marsden** - Bolton

**Salon and Academy - Customer Service Apprentice, Danielle Marsden** - Bolton

**Hair Professional Apprenticeship, Eden Hair** - Bolton

**Apprentice Early Years Practitioner, Enchanted Childminding** - Bolton

**Paralegal Apprentice, Envision Solicitors Ltd** - Bolton

**Digital Marketer Apprentice, Ex-Scan UK** - Bolton

**Apprentice Digital Marketer, Fairmont Legal Ltd** - Bolton

**Apprentice Hairdresser, H2O Hair To Order** - Bolton

**Apprentice Hairdresser, Hair At The Loft** - Bolton

**Apprentice Hairdresser, Hollie Carson** - Bolton

**IT Solutions Technician Apprenticeship, Linkup Telecoms & IT Ltd** - Bolton

**Digital Marketer Apprentice, Linkup Telecoms & IT Ltd** - Bolton

**Customer Service Apprentice, Oxy-Plants Ltd** - Bolton

**Apprentice Digital Marketer, Parkside Direct Ltd** - Bolton

**Apprentice Accounts Administrator (L2 AAT), Russell & Russell** - Bolton

**Apprentice Hairdresser, Studio One** - Bolton

**Digital Marketer Apprenticeship, Total Publications Ltd** - Bolton

**Business Support, Customer Service Apprentice, Total Publications Ltd** - Bolton

**Apprentice Early Years Practitioner, Heaton House Nursery Ltd** - Bolton

All the apprenticeships featured here are available through Bolton College

For more details on any of these vacancies (and many more) please [click here](#)





Each year group has a Careers section within Google Classroom, with various resources available.

It is never too soon to start thinking about your future - and the more effort you put in now, the more confident you will feel when it comes to leaving school and moving on to the next stage.

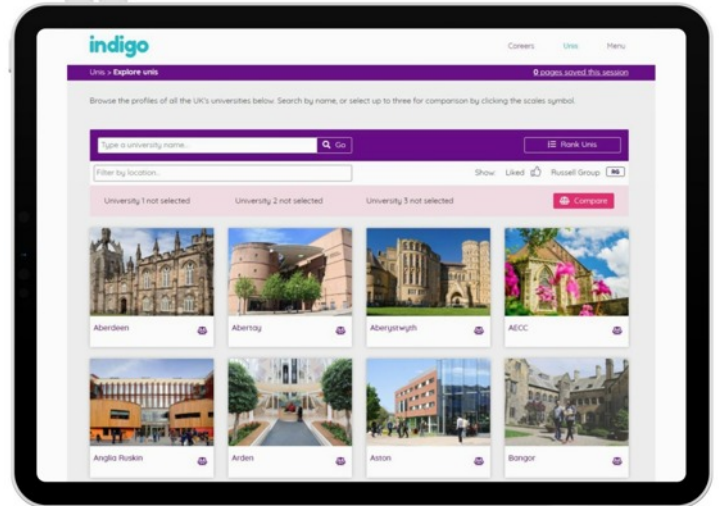
Make sure you have a regular look at Indigo and the LearnLive page on the website, as these are updated constantly.



If you haven't yet logged into Indigo, then why not do so this weekend?


It's an easy to navigate website that showcases hundreds of different careers, with videos and case studies, as well as showing the top employers, whether a job is in high demand, what sort of salary you could expect and much much more.

There is the option to explore universities all over the country: what kinds of courses they offer, what students think of them and the qualifications you might need to take a certain degree.



*If you have lost or forgotten your Indigo username or you'd like to log in for the first time, email Miss Berry for a reminder. You can use Indigo on a PC, tablet or phone, at school or at home. Check it out!*

<https://indigo.trotman.co.uk/default/>




# CAREER

of the

# WEEK

## Firefighter







Dealing with the public and remaining calm under extreme levels of pressure are just some of the many aspects of a successful firefighter.

As a firefighter, you'll respond to emergency situations and protect people, the environment and property from all types of accident and emergencies.

You'll work closely with the local community to increase their level of fire safety awareness, in order to help prevent fires and accidents happening in the first place.

Promoting fire safety and enforcing fire safety standards in public and commercial premises, you'll act and advise on all matters relating to the protection of life and property from fire and other risks.

<https://careeroftheweek.wordpress.com/>

## Free Virtual Healthcare Society

The Only Free Virtual Healthcare Society focusing on Allied Healthcare Careers for Applying Students

We have another exciting opportunity for your Allied Healthcare Students to get involved in. Allied Healthcare Mentor have now launched [The Only Free Virtual Healthcare Society](#) Focusing On Allied Healthcare Careers For Applying Students

Students can use the above link to register for FREE.

### What is a Virtual Healthcare Society?

The Virtual Healthcare Society is a free programme that runs alongside our virtual work experience to provide additional teaching for students. It gives your students a chance to speak directly with our Healthcare Professional Mentors.

### Where do the meetings take place?

The meetings take place on the zoom webinars platform with a trained safeguarding team so that the meetings are conducted as safely as possible. We will meet every Wednesday evening from 7pm-8pm and the zoom webinar link will only be emailed to students who have registered using the application form.

### How will students benefit?

The benefits of joining are far reaching. For example, being a member of this amazing student-network has enabled friendships to form, ideas to flow and aspiration and confidence to grow. This is all a result of being linked to like-minded students who are in a similar position and with the support of our experienced and encouraging mentors.

It provides students with an ongoing level of support and a safe environment to ask questions, share useful recourses as they journey through the application processes for allied healthcare careers. In addition, we ensure that students are well informed of the latest opportunities to debate, lead, present, work on projects and volunteer. Students will be guided through a series of teaching sessions that cover several aspects and themes from the incredible live work experience days.

## Allied Healthcare Mentor Work Experience Days

A number of students are already participating in our [Live Virtual NHS Work Experience](#) for Allied Health Careers which includes:

**Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Radiography, Prosthetics and orthotics, Speech and language therapy, Osteopathy, Pharmacy and Podiatry too!**

We wanted to remind you the next work experience session date is on Sunday 6th June, so for anyone taking part please register for the next session before Wednesday 3rd June.

This programme is available to support all aspiring healthcare students as an alternative to in-person NHS work experience during the pandemic.

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 and also 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 their 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. Students can register individually through the website link below. Places are just £10 a day to cover administrative costs and run the tech on the day.

Students can register for the programme here: [Allied Healthcare Mentor WEX](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to our new virtual healthcare society meetings.



# PATHWAY CTM



Upcoming  
events



## NHS Virtual Taster Session - Non Clinical Roles

**Tuesday, 8 June from 5pm - 6pm**

Gain insight into the various roles available at the NHS that are Non-Clinical! The many non-clinical roles in the NHS cover the functions needed to keep the buildings clean and efficient and the organisation running smoothly. Roles such as receptionists, accountants, IT specialists, caterers, engineers, architects and plumbers. With over 350 different career opportunities, there is a role to suit all interests and qualifications. Come along to find out more!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



## Job Ready: GCHQ - Turning Life Experiences into Employability Skills!

**Wednesday, 9 June from 6pm - 7pm**

Join us in an exciting webinar with secret service GCHQ, to learn about turning your hobbies and life experiences into employability skills! Perhaps you are really social at school and love people? But how can you use this soft skill/strength in your CV and future workplace? Join this session to find out!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



## RWE Work Experience Day - Career Insights in Engineering & More!

**Wednesday, 23 June  
between 10am - 3:15pm**

Learn more about landing an engineering role at one of the largest companies in renewable energy! During the session we will have a series of breakout rooms where you will have the chance to stand out and participate in group activities, while speaking directly with employers!

**The day will also include a live tour around  
one of their sites**

**AND**

**you will receive a certificate for your CV  
for attending the day!**

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

*We look forward to seeing you there!*





# The perfect interview answer formula

If I had £1 for every time I was asked about the perfect way to answer interview questions the HMRC would be tracking me down about now for an undeclared income!

I get asked it daily, weekly, monthly, randomly. At work, out with friends... So rather than answering it again to another eager candidate looking to get inside my head, I thought I'd type it out here.

The perfect interview answer formula

You may have heard of the STAR (Situation, Task, Action & Result) format for answering questions. You outline the situation you were in. Then you describe the task you needed or were asked to complete. The action is what you did and then you state the result(s) achieved, ideally something tangible and/or measurable. Sometimes you can add another R at the end for reflection; what you learned that will help you in future, similar situations.

However, the problem with this is the answer is often too long and disengages the interviewer. Or too short and doesn't fully answer the question. Or it's too generic and therefore unmemorable or indistinguishable from other candidates' answers. Sometimes the answer may be good but not relevant to the role. I mean, why would selling your first piece of hand drawn art prove you're the ideal candidate for an IT consultant role?

So how do you address this? Simple. If you want to give the perfect answer to every interview question you need get these three things right:

## Length

You need to get the length of your answer right. Too much detail and you lose the interviewer's attention. Not enough and you've not fully answered the question.

If you're going to talk about how you fixed your friend's computer, analysed some data or rallied the team to meet a tight deadline, you don't need to mention the weather or what colour shoes you were wearing that day. Stick to the required details only.

Equally, don't launch into a familiar story forgetting to explain the context to the interview. Was it a regular meeting, your first one or an emergency one to fix a problem?

Remember to end it well, "That's how I managed to increase sales by 11% that quarter!"

## Personalisation

You need to give a personal answer, not just your version of a standard story. A unique answer will make you stand out and memorable as a candidate (ideally in a good way!)

Talk about why it was important to you to achieve or complete the task, how it aligned to your values or how it made you feel. For example, going from frustrated due to a setback, to how happy it made you feel to finally achieve a goal.



You want the interviewer to remember you as the candidate that made that massive sale, averted that disaster, or solved that problem in an ingenious way. Not the girl in the blue shirt who said something about a presentation.

(If completing a strengths-based interview, you will also appear more enthusiastic and passionate about your example, which will also help you.)

## Relevance

Make sure your answer/story is relevant to the employer. Everything you say should make the employer want to hire you even more. So pick examples that highlight the skills the employer is looking for.

You should know what the employer is looking for in an ideal candidate (from their website or any interview guidance they sent you) and use relevant examples. Ones that demonstrate skills you know they are looking for, or at least the more commonly used ones like communication, teamwork, leadership, analysis, (technical) innovation, customer service or client focus.

Leave the exciting examples of the new beer you just brewed at home or the baking competition you just won to conversations with your friends.

Yes, you need to build rapport but not make friends. You're there to get the job!

## In conclusion

Yes, you should still use the STAR model when structuring your answer. Yes, you should have 5-6 prepared examples of achievements in your life/career to date you are most proud of as these will help you answer most interview questions. Yes, you will still need to do your research on the company you are applying to.

And, no, you will not get every job you apply to. However, I do believe if you are right for the job you will get it and if not, you won't. Simple.

Leave out the unnecessary details, don't use stock/generic answers that allegedly fit 'all' interviews and leverage your relevant skills to increase your potential to pass the interview and get the job!

You still owe me £1.

**Brian Sinclair**

*Brian Sinclair is a Recruitment Manager with over 15 years' experience of designing and implementing recruitment processes across a range of industries.*