SOUTHCHURCH HIGH CAREERS

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

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OPPORTUNITIES

International STEM Day is celebrated annually on November 8th to promote education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

An EDT placement will give you an opportunity to continue your STEM journey after leaving school or college and take a paid gap year to help inform and shape your future career choices. You will gain invaluable experience working in the industry, develop your skills and knowledge, and boost your future employability. EDT have vacancies with companies across many areas of STEM, from leading FTSE 100 companies to small innovative start-ups.

EDT are running a FREE Webinar for anyone who would like to find out more about their placement programme. The webinar will take place on 4th November from 4-5pm.

Women still make up just under 17% of the UK's engineering and technology workforce. That's up from around 10% in 2010, but progress is slow in a sector that's growing faster than almost any other. The employers Springpod work with tell them the same thing again and again: they want to hear from more girls and young women. They're actively looking to widen who takes part in their programmes.

Often it isn't a lack of ability that holds girls back. It's a lack of visibility. If a student has never seen what an engineer, a timetable planner or an operations controller actually does, it can be hard to picture themselves in that role. Virtual work experience is a simple, low-pressure way to change that. Students can explore real roles, hear from real professionals and try real tasks, all at their own pace. Here are some STEM-related work experience options:

Avanti West Coast Virtual Work Experience. This is an immersive look at life on the railway, from onboard crew and station teams to train controllers, safety teams and timetable planners. It also covers head office roles in finance, marketing and HR. Students can go further with shorter experiences as a Timetable Planner, On-Board Service Manager or Operations Controller. It's available on demand until 30 November 2026.

Siemens: Engineering. Students explore mechanical, electrical, software and systems engineering, learn about qualifications and progression routes, and finish with a hands-on engineering challenge. This programme closes on 4 November 2026, so it's worth sharing soon.

If you have any questions or need support, please email asmith@southchurchschool.com

JOB OF THE WEEK

Data Scientist

A data scientist is an analytical expert who combines computer programming, mathematics, statistics, and business knowledge to clean, process, and extract actionable insights from large datasets.

They spend a large portion of their time (often 70% to 90%) gathering, cleaning, and transforming raw data into usable formats using tools like SQL and Python

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Around 1 in 5 UK jobs (19%) are in engineering and technology, with approximately 6.3 million people working in these roles. The UK government projections indicate that STEM employment is expected to continue growing towards 2030, with digital, engineering and related occupations among the areas where additional workers will be needed.
Source + *Source*

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Engineering a Sustainable World with IChemE. This shows how chemical engineers help solve real problems in energy, clean technology, food and drink, water and pharmaceuticals. It's a great way in for students who care about sustainability and the planet. It's available until April 2027.

In this talk on 10th Nov at 6:30pm, revolutionary biologist Professor Anjali Goswami explores the evolutionary paths that have shaped life on Earth over hundreds of millions of years. With examples spanning single-celled organisms to dinosaurs, she explains how her lab's research uses new technologies, especially imaging and AI, to piece together the pace of evolutionary change across diverse species and to understand what determines which ones can keep up.

New research looked at thousands of job adverts and found the top skills employers actually ask for. The top 3… management, public speaking, and problem-solving. Interestingly, "AI tools" barely got a mention. The takeaway for students: soft skills like teamwork, speaking up in a group, and working through problems matter just as much as technical know-how, maybe more.

Join Lost Women of Science, the award-winning podcast that tells the stories of remarkable - and largely unheralded - female scientists throughout history, for an evening celebrating Royal Society Hughes Medal-winner Hertha Ayrton: inventor, engineer, suffragette, trailblazer and firefighter. The event takes place on 19th Nov at 7pm.

STEM Untapped was created to help young people discover STEM careers through conversations with people actually working in science, technology, engineering and maths. Secondary-school students interview professionals about their career journeys, including how they got into their field and what their work involves.

Meet the Future You is a free online careers quiz for students aged 11–14. Students answer short questions about their interests, skills and passions, and the quiz suggests engineering and technology careers that you might enjoy. The results connect you with diverse real-life engineers and careers ranging from environmental and space-related work to apps and healthcare.

Circuit is the UK's network for teens, built by teens. Circuit is a youth-led coding community for teenagers across the UK. "We're not a class or a bootcamp. We're a network of young people who love building things and want to do it together. Whether you've been coding for years or just wrote your first line of Python, there's a place for you here. Think hackathons, late-night Discord calls, shipped projects, and genuine friendships with people who understand why you stayed up until 2am debugging. That's Circuit."

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EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Barclays is a major UK bank providing financial services to individuals, businesses and organisations. Careers go far beyond working in a bank branch, with teams specialising in technology, cyber security, data, finance, operations and customer services. Early career routes can include apprenticeships, internships and graduate programmes. These provide opportunities to develop professional skills, gain qualifications and experience how a large international financial organisation operates.

UNI SPOTLIGHT

The University of Edinburgh is a large historic university in Scotland's capital city. It offers a huge range of subjects across arts, humanities, social sciences, science, engineering, medicine and veterinary medicine. Students can access research, societies, study abroad and career development opportunities. Edinburgh may particularly appeal to students who want to combine studying at a major research university with the cultural, social and professional opportunities of a capital city.