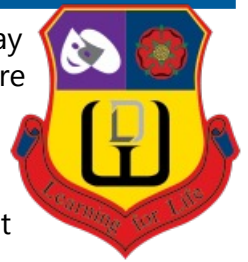




Your weekly guide to careers information, advice and news from Walton le Dale High School

Welcome back to the final half term of this academic year. GCSEs are more than half way through and Year 11 will soon be attending their New Student Days at college. Don't ignore the invitations - it's a great way to check if the subject or course you have chosen is the right one for you. You can also explore the college campuses and feel more confident when you go to enrol in August. Don't forget - you can change any of the subjects or courses you have chosen so far - until enrolment day, you have only reserved a place at college.



In this issue there are some brilliant opportunities for students of all ages, from competitions to conferences, webinars to work experience.

- Alliance Learning are holding a drop in session on GCSE results day.
- The Parents' Guide to University is now available to download, as is June's issue of the Choices magazine.
- There are some great apprenticeship vacancies from Tesco, Progress Housing and various local companies - an apprenticeship lets you earn while you learn. Check out the Apprenticeship page.
- Bolton College have launched a new Level 1 and 2 Electrical course due to massive demand.
- Why not sign up to be on the Youth Advisory Group, working with the CEC? It's the best way to get your voice heard and ensure that careers education works for young people.

Work Experience Week for Year 10 is creeping ever closer. Make the most of this opportunity to experience the world of work: ask questions, find out more about an industry, use your time wisely and remember that these employers could be interviewing you for a full time job in the next few years. Even if you don't enjoy your placement, it will still be a valuable experience, and show you what you definitely don't want to do in the future!

Have a great week



9th - 13th June 2025



Discover the world of construction – it's more than hard hats and hi-vis!

Hey there!

Ever thought about a career where you can shape communities, work on real projects, and make a lasting impact?

We've teamed up with **Untypical** – the new name shaking up the UK housebuilding scene – to bring you an exclusive virtual insight event that shows just how exciting this industry really is.

What's in store?

- Hear from real professionals working in construction, design, planning, customer care, sustainability & more
- Learn how you can start your journey in the industry – no matter your background
- Live Q&A – ask anything you want to know
- Get the inside scoop on one of the UK's most innovative homebuilders

Whether you're a student figuring out next steps, or a parent/teacher supporting young people, this is your chance to see what a future in housebuilding really looks like!

Event Details:

- **Think Untypical: Discover Careers in Home Building & Construction**
 - **Tuesday 10 June**
 - **6-7pm**

Sign up here!



GET



SWITCHED ON

STUDY ELECTRICAL AT BOLTON COLLEGE!

Level 1 & Level 2 Study Programmes for School Leavers Starting this September

Hands-on Learning

Train in real workshops
with real tools - just like
the pros.

Real-World Experience

Site visits, employer-led
projects and hands-on
work placements included

**Big Career Goals? Big
Earning Potential.**

- Electrician - earn up
to £45,000 per year!

With further study:

- Electrical Engineer -
earn up to £58,000
per year!
- Building Services
Engineer - earn up to
£51,000 per year!

Apply now at

[www.boltoncollege.
ac.uk/yp-construction/
electrical](http://www.boltoncollege.ac.uk/yp-construction/electrical)

or scan the QR code.





THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

"Being a member of the YAG has made me feel like I'm truly making a difference. I always feel heard, and my opinions are genuinely valued. It's given me a safe and supportive space to grow, learn, and build confidence. I would highly recommend it to anyone considering getting involved."

- Ava, YAG Member

The Careers & Enterprise Company

Exciting news! We are looking to recruit a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) that reflects the diversity of young people across England.

Whether they are still in education, embarking on their career journey, have left education and are still deciding what to do, or whether they are now in employment - young people's voices matter, and we want to hear them.

YAG members work alongside CEC to inspire change - bringing more young voices into the conversation and helping to improve careers education for everyone in the system.

- Here's the link to the application pack: <https://bit.ly/43SG1uf>

Closing date: Monday 7th July, 9:00am



THINK OF YOUR PATH TO **SUCCESS** IN
STAGES, YOU HAVE JUST STARTED
THE **FIRST STAGE.**

SAAHIRAH AHMED, APPRENTICE

#NCW2025

National Careers Week

NCW

Headline Partner



NatWest
Thrive



Rise Academy Summer School is Back!

After the great success of the last three years, The Rise Academy Summer School is back for 2025 and bookings are now open!

The Rise Academy Summer School will take place on **Monday 28 July & Tuesday 29 July** at **dock10 Studios in Salford** and on **Thursday 31 July & Friday 1 August** at **London Screen Academy, London**.

Availability for each of the days are limited so please don't delay in securing a place or places! Our summer school is completely FREE to attend however, as a registered charity we do rely on donations to make these experiences possible.

BOOK PLACE(S) NOW



The Rise Academy Summer School offers young people the chance to get hands-on experience of working in media technology, and learn about all of the different steps that are needed to get great content onto your TV, tablet or phone, including:

- Building a TV studio and creating a TV show;
- Exploring an Outside Broadcast (OB) Truck;
- Creating eye catching graphics;
- Learning more about post production and getting hands-on editing video content;
- Finding out more about what virtual production is;
- Exploring cloud technology.

FIND OUT MORE

Your new **POSSIBLE** starts here

Do you know Persimmon?

We're a leading UK housebuilder with our headquarters in York. We provide homes and serve local communities across the UK. You might recognise us as Persimmon Homes or through our other brand names, Charles Church and Westbury Partnerships.

What can you do with us?

Are you considering a career in construction? Consider Persimmon.

A career with us means you get to help build Britain's homes, supporting people as they move on to the housing ladder, whilst you progress in your role. It's up to you how high you go.

Here, the future is yours for the making.



Hear from our apprentice joiner, Jamie!



Is an apprenticeship for me?

What is an apprenticeship?

A paid job with holiday leave offering;

- On-the-job training and experience
- Off-the-job training usually in a classroom
- A nationally recognised qualification on successful completion

Why are they a good option?

- Experience and skills development
- A nationally recognised qualification (with no tuition fees)
- Employee benefits and a wage
- Exposure to industry professionals

Apprenticeships at Persimmon

We offer industry-leading training and development with a huge range of opportunities to suit your background, skills and experience.

Find out more

Why choose Persimmon?

A career in house building is so much more than just building them! We find suitable locations, collaborate with architects and planners to design great places. Then to actually build a home, we need everything from skilled trades to project managers and sales advisors so the opportunities are endless!

At Persimmon, our open culture encourages frank and honest discussion. We welcome creative individuals who want to express themselves! We foster an inclusive environment that celebrates the unique talents and perspectives of our team.

Rewards & benefits



Performance-linked bonus plan



Sharesave Scheme



Employee Assistance Programme



Fair Pay



Annual 'Excellence Always' Awards

[Find out more](#)

Don't just take our word for it



Rachel Fitzpatrick joined Persimmon as an administrator when she was 17. But with her passion for engineering, it wasn't long before we encouraged and supported her to sign up for an apprenticeship.

Now 21, Rachel's already been promoted, and is using the company's Sharesave scheme to save for a home of her own.



For me, the great thing about Persimmon, is the way they support and train so many young people – they really do care. They're introducing even more new stuff to help us all, and the opportunities for progression are fantastic.



THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS
GOOD CAREER GUIDANCE



Wildscreen
ARK

YOUTH NATURE PHOTO COMPETITION

Aged 13-18?

**Capture nature
with your phone**

Win fantastic prizes!

**Competition open
22nd April to 20th June**



Find out more at
wildscreen.org/ark

© Jacob Piper Finalist 2024



> Are you aged 16-18?
 > Are you curious to learn what Virgin Media O2 is all about?
 > Are you passionate about STEM?

Apply below!
 Virtual Work Experience Week
 28th – 31st July 2025

Our four-day programme will immerse you in the world of telecoms, help boost your potential and enhance your knowledge of Virgin Media O2 and our offerings.

You'll hear from business leaders what it's like to work in a dynamic industry, learn the latest from the world of broadband, TV, fixed line and mobile and gain insight into our purpose 'See What You Can Do!'

Explore our graduate, internship, and apprenticeship opportunities whilst working on a dynamic project that will help you earn your Bronze Industrial Cadets accreditation.

Hear first-hand testimony and tips from graduates, interns, apprentices and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) ambassadors! Engage in career activities, build on your personal brand, boost confidence and feel business-ready to support career planning. Delve into the importance of hands-on problem-solving and critical thinking skills, company and sector research.

Take control of your future and make a difference in the world around you.


How to apply:
 Click / Scan the QR code to apply!
 Work Experience Reference Code VM02C3


 Future Careers Work Experience

Virgin Media O2 are offering a limited number of spaces on a virtual work experience program early Summer 2025.

The program was so well received and completed by lots of students during 2024.

This is for young people aged 16 - 18.

CLICK HERE to apply now.

Considering university?



New On Demand Webinars

Explore university subjects with impartial video guides.
Featuring a huge range of subjects and universities

Find university events with UnitasterDays.com, including:

**Taster Days | Residential Events |
Workshops | Open Days**



info@unitasterdays.com



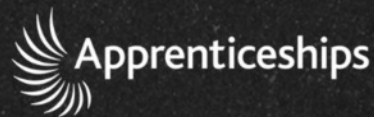
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COME SPEAK TO US AT OUR



RESULTS DAY DROP-IN SESSIONS

A LEVEL RESULTS DAY - THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST 2025

GCSE RESULTS DAY - THURSDAY 21ST AUGUST 2025

11AM - 2PM

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | ENGINEERING OPERATIVE | ENGINEERING FITTER
ENGINEERING DESIGN TECHNICIAN | MECHATRONICS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
MACHINING TECHNICIAN | METAL FABRICATOR
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

- ☒ FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS
- ☒ HAVE A TOUR OF OUR SPECIALIST FACILITIES
- ☒ CHECK OUT OUR CURRENT APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES
- ☒ DISCUSS YOUR CAREER OPTIONS WITH OUR TEAM



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

ALLIANCE LEARNING, HORWICH BUSINESS PARK, CHORLEY NEW ROAD, HORWICH, BOLTON. BL6 5UE
(BEHIND THE FIRE STATION)

 WWW.ALLIANCELEARNING.COM

 01204 677888

 INFO@ALLIANCELEARNING.COM



The UniTasterDays Parents' Guide to University 2025

- ✓ The key university facts for parents
- ✓ Featuring editorial from over 75 university experts
- ✓ Available for direct download!



Just released: The Parents' Guide to University 2025

The new UniTasterDays Parents' Guide to University 2025 is now available – packed with expert advice to help parents and carers support students with their university decisions.

Produced in collaboration with HELOA and supported by the CDI, Careers England and Action on Access, the guide includes insights from over 75 university experts, plus a must-read student finance section from Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis. It's completely free and requires no registration.

The guide covers every stage of the journey. From research and events, to applications, finance, and preparation. With new content this year focused on navigating university choices during the cost-of-living crisis.

"Written by experts from 75 universities, this year's UniTasterDays' Parents' Guide covers everything you need to know for your child to make their decisions about university - how to work out where and what courses they should apply to; how and when to apply; how to access any support - practical or financial; visiting university events in your area or at one of the chosen universities; and what will be the likely cost and the reasonable repayment terms. You will also find some invaluable information on specific courses and careers; as well as real-life information on what life at university is like.

Despite the messages we continually see in the news that university is too expensive, does not lead to jobs, is just not worth it - degrees do open all sorts of doors. The university experience leads to greater lifetime income, to rewarding careers, and to your child making lifelong friends and maturing into a rounded and informed adult. Studies show that parents are the key influence on their children making a successful transition into higher education. In this Parents' Guide, experts provide the facts and guidance that parents need in order to give the best advice to their children."

Andrew Rawson

Director, Action on Access; and Founder, Action on Access Information Hub and Email Briefing Service.

Download the Parents' Guide 2025





Launch your future with an apprenticeship at Progress Housing Group



Electricians



Joiners



Plasterers



Gas Engineers



Administration



Plumbers

Leaving school this year? Not sure college is right for you?

Choose an apprenticeship at Progress Housing Group and you'll:

- Learn on the job
- Gain industry-recognised qualifications
- Earn while you learn
- Get hands-on experience in real roles
- Receive supportive mentoring and ongoing career development.

You'll need:

passion,
a positive attitude,
and a
willingness to learn!

Applications open now:



www.progressgroup.org.uk/work-for-us



recruitment@progressgroup.org.uk

Your Future Starts Here. Let's Build It Together.





Summer Open Evening – Thursday, 26 June, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

This event is open to Year 10 students (and to any Year 11 students who may wish to visit the College one final time). The evening offers an excellent opportunity to explore our campus, meet our students and speak with teaching and support staff about our courses and enrichment opportunities. Visitors will also receive a welcome from the Principal. This event provides a valuable opportunity to experience the College in the summer and to end the academic year with a focus on the next steps ahead.

Saturday Open Day – Saturday, 27 September, 9:30am - 12:30pm

In response to feedback from schools and from parents and carers, we have introduced a new Saturday Open Day for the 2025/26 recruitment cycle. We hope this will allow more students and families to visit the College. As with the Summer Open Evening, there will be opportunities to tour our campus, meet our students and staff, and hear from the Principal about our curriculum and support provision.

To book a place at either event, please visit:

Winstanley College event tickets from [TicketSource: Winstanley College event tickets from TicketSource](#).

Winstanley College Summer Open Evening

Winstanley College, Winstanley Road, WN5 7XF

Thursday 26th June 2025 5:00pm

Visit our Open Evening and have the opportunity to speak to our fantastic students, see our amazing facilities and become part of the Winstanley College community.

Open Evenings feature representation from every subject offered at Winstanley College with teaching staff and students available to speak to attendees alongside a range of resources from the courses. Other areas of the College including enrichment, transport and student support are also represented. The Principal delivers a talk in our theatre at various times throughout the evenings to ensure all attendees are able to access it. We will email visitors a full itinerary of what to expect at the event a few days prior.

We look forward to welcoming you to Winstanley and if you have any questions please contact admissions@winstanley.ac.uk (01695 628610)



Winstanley College
EXCELLENCE SUPPORT INSPIRATION

Are you interested in working in healthcare or medicine?

Do you want to know more about careers in the NHS?
(spoiler alert - there are more than 350!!)

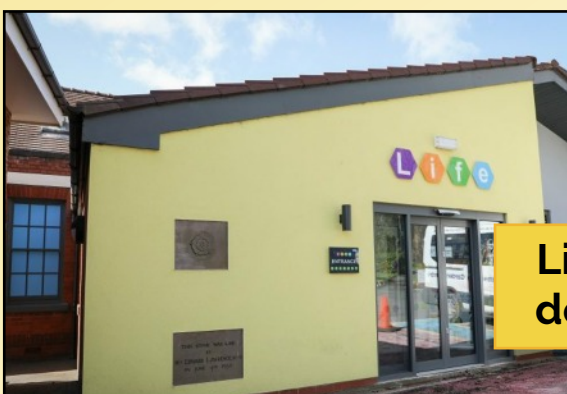
If so - why not sign up to the NHS 'School to Work' work experience programme, held at the LIFE Centre at Chorley Hospital.

It's an informal look at various careers, with talks and demos by health professionals from all different areas: eye specialists, radiographers, pathologists, pharmacists and much more. You will get a tour of the hospital and get to work in the simulated wards, plus take part in lots of interactive tasks and activities. You even get a certificate at the end!

You can't do clinical work experience in Year 10, so this is the next best thing if you are an aspiring medic.

See Miss Berry for more info

**Collect an application form
today from the Top Office**



**Limited to TEN places, so
don't delay - apply today!**



Free Webinar For Year 11 & 12

MAKE THIS SUMMER COUNT

How to Stand Out Before You Apply to Uni

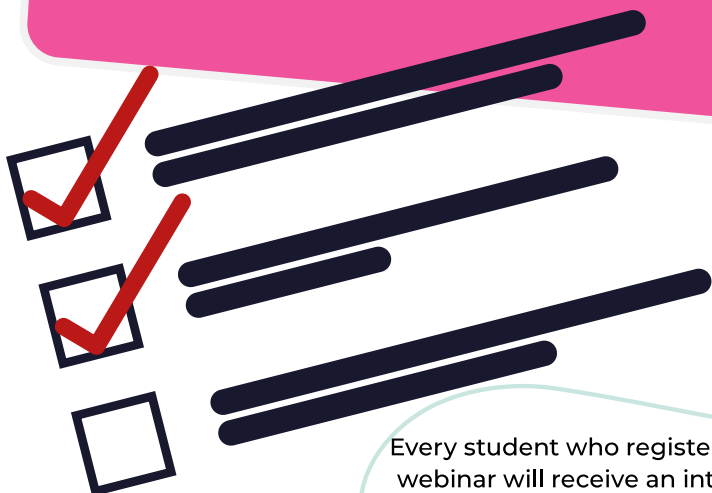
SIGN UP

Tuesday 17th June, 6-7pm

While summer provides a well-earned break, it's also a great time for students to get ahead before the busy school year begins.

We're running a free webinar for students in Years 11-12 (and their parents) on how to use the summer to strengthen future university applications. The session will offer practical ways to explore school subjects beyond the classroom and how to showcase activities that really stand out to admissions tutors.

If you can't join live, you can still register to receive the recording and resources by email.



Every student who registers for the webinar will receive an interactive checklist designed to help them make the most of their summer.



SIGN UP



Free Webinar For Year 11 & 12

MAKE THIS SUMMER COUNT **How to Stand Out** **Before You Apply to Uni**

SIGN UP

Free Webinar for Year 11 & Year 12

Make This Summer Count: How to Stand Out Before You Apply to Uni

While summer provides a well-earned break, it's also a great time for students to get ahead before the busy school year begins.

We're running a free webinar for students in Years 11-12 (and their parents) on how to use the summer to strengthen future university applications. The session will offer practical ways to explore their school subjects beyond the classroom and how to showcase activities that really stand out to admissions tutors.

It's completely free to attend! It's taking place on Tuesday 17th June, 6-7pm.

If students can't join live, they can still register to receive the recording and resources by email.

REGISTER NOW

Your Ultimate Summer Checklist

Every student who registers for the webinar will receive an interactive checklist designed to help them make the most of their summer.

It's packed with recommended resources, prompts and practical tips to help students plan ahead, stay motivated and take meaningful steps towards their future goals.

REGISTER NOW

INVESTIN

Still looking for work experience this summer?

FINAL PLACES REMAINING - DON'T MISS OUT

1 and 2-week programmes for students aged 15-18 in London



Work with top professionals and explore real workplaces



Experience university life on-campus at UCL



Gain a qualification in work experience to boost your university application

Choose from 15 different careers

Art • Architecture •
Computer Science •
Dentistry • Engineering •
Entrepreneurship • Fashion
Design • Filmmaking
• Forensic Science •
International Politics •
Investment Banking • Law
• Medicine • Psychology •
Veterinary Science

Get 15% off the last remaining places with code FINAL15. Ends midnight 1st June!

REGISTER NOW!

UCAS

Gain UCAS
points for Work
Experience



Work towards
your Gold
Residential
DofE Award

- **Considering a career in the Armed Forces or Police?**
- **Interested in working as part of a team to solve problems?**
- **Fancy an outdoor-based, hands-on challenge for Work Experience week?**
- **If so, why not take part in the MPCT WEX Challenge Week?**

You will learn new skills, find out about careers in the armed and uniformed services, be challenged - but ultimately, have a great time.



MPCT™



Step 1: Complete an application form (available from the Top Office)

Step 2: Meet with Staff Tasker for an insight into what to expect

Step 3: Confirmation of places and full itinerary provided

IN COOPERATION WITH



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



What can you do with...

CHEMISTRY

Chemical Engineer

Solve problems and design chemical manufacturing processes for fuel, medicine, food and more.

Forensic Scientist

Collect evidence from scenes of crimes or accidents and analyse samples.

Food Scientist

Experiment and develop new recipes, and investigate how we can make food better.

Colour Technologist

Develop dyes and pigments for food, cars, paper, paint, cosmetics and more.

What **SKILLS & TRAITS** could you need:

- research & analysis
- problem solving
- numeracy
- communication
- teamwork
- IT skills

SCAN ME

to build your skills
and explore
careers



youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub/



QUESTION OF THE MONTH...

BBC
BITESIZE
CAREERS



HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAREER ROUTE?

We've teamed up with BBC Bitesize Careers to find answers to the top questions that parents and carers have.

Discussing your child's career path can often be challenging. **Mark Anderson** from **BBC Bitesize Careers** shares 5 ways you can help them make informed decisions about their next steps.

1 Learn about their options

Find out as much as you can about the career options available – the more you know the better equipped you'll be to support your child. A great place to start is the BBC Bitesize Careers website.

2 Share your own career journey

While things have changed since you started your career, sharing your experiences, both the successes and challenges, can provide valuable lessons. This will help your child gain insight into their own journey.

3 Encourage exploration

Encourage your child to step outside their comfort zone. Trying new things, such as volunteering, hobbies or gaining work experience, can help them discover hidden strengths and skills.

4 Help them discover what they are good at

Parents often spot strengths in their children that they might not recognise. Take the time to highlight their talents, whether it's being organised, good with numbers, skilled in coding or great with people. This boosts their confidence and helps them make choices that align with their abilities. ["Help! What am I good at?"](#) is a video podcast hosted by BBC Radio 1's Katie Thistleton that you could watch or listen to together for tips and advice.

5 Ask thoughtful questions

Sometimes the big questions such as "What will you do with your life?" can be overwhelming, so instead, try asking questions that open up meaningful conversations without adding pressure, like:

- What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?
- If all jobs paid the same, what would you choose?
- What cause or issue in the world do you care about enough to make a difference?

FOR MORE IDEAS, VISIT THE
BBC BITESIZE CAREERS
[WEBSITE](#) BY SCANNING
THE CODE.





STEM Dorado Volume 8: Exploring the Tiny Wonders of Nanotechnology

We're pleased to share Volume 8 of STEM Dorado Science Magazine – and this one is particularly special.

[Read the latest issue](#)

A Closer Look at Nanotechnology

This issue takes readers into the world of nanotechnology – a field where incredibly small materials are having an enormous impact. From healthcare to environmental protection, energy, and everyday tech, this edition shines a light on how nanomaterials are shaping the future.

New Collaborations

Volume 8 also marks the beginning of some exciting collaborations with leading scientific institutions, including:

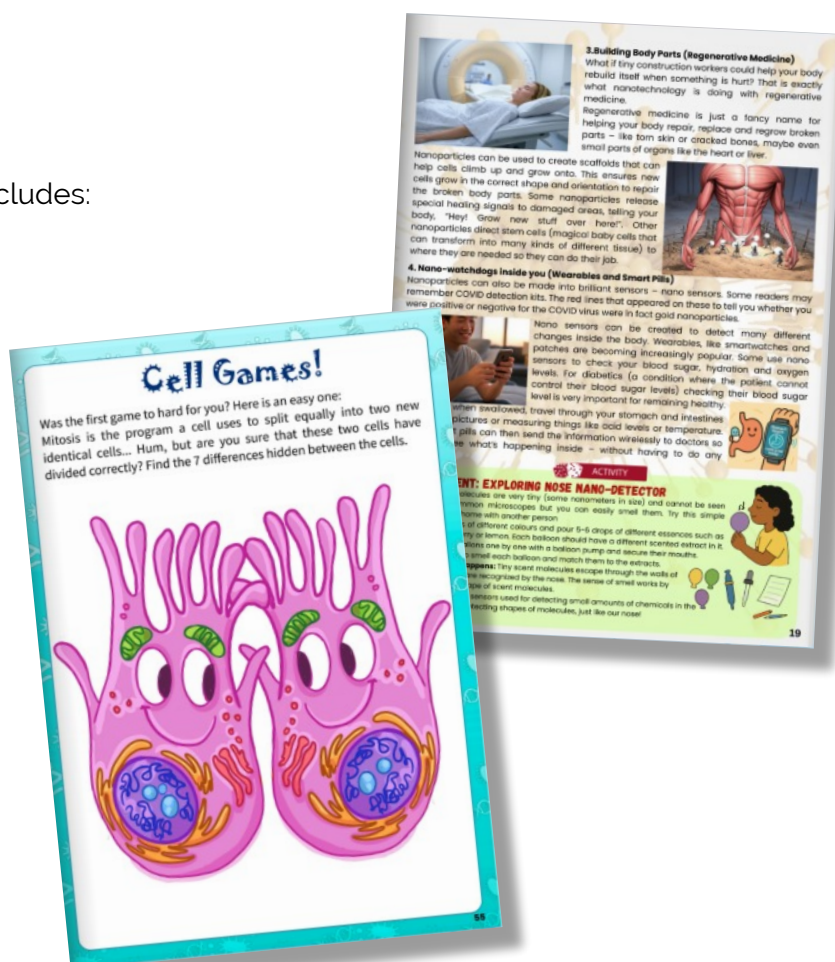
- The Institute of Physics (IOP)
- VaxHub – University College London
- The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BiFoR)

Each partner has contributed content and expertise to help us take the magazine to new levels. We're also looking ahead to the next issue, which will feature contributions from the Institute of Pandemic Science at the University of Oxford.

What's Inside?

Alongside the nanotech theme, this issue includes:

- A feature celebrating Earth Day
- A look back at the invention of computers
- An introduction to BiFoR's FACE experiment, which explores how trees respond to climate change
- A deep dive into cell-free synthesis, a key development in synthetic biology
- An accessible explanation of quantum mechanics for younger readers
- An interview with a real-world science communicator
- And plenty of experiments, puzzles and creative activities for children to get stuck into



CHOICES

The monthly parent & carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education

CONSTRUCTING CAREERS
FROM T LEVELS TO
APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM
NEW 'MODERN' WORK
EXPERIENCE MODEL

NEW FOUNDATION
APPRENTICESHIPS LAUNCH
IN AUGUST 2025

MY DAUGHTER THE AWARD-WINNING APPRENTICE

HEAR FROM PROUD FATHER, RANJIT

Amazing
Apprenticeships

CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE JUNE ISSUE

BUILDING A CAREER WITH TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Nylah studied a T Level in Construction, Design & Build and is now a Level 4 Construction Apprentice at Berkeley Group.



Stand out moments

A real stand out moment was National Apprenticeship Week 2025 - I met the Secretary of State for Education and the Leader of Lambeth Council, attended a careers fair and spoke on a webinar.

Looking to the future

After my level 4 apprenticeship, I'm planning to move on to a level 6 with the support of my employer. I'm really excited for the future.

Career opportunities

I'm really lucky to be working on Opal Village, an exciting build of new apartments that re-imagines an iconic Victorian gasholder - building in a circle is really different and challenging!

Level 4 Apprenticeship - learning on-the-job

I work on the design side of the construction, liaising with the build team, commercial team, architects and structural engineers.

Level 4 Apprenticeship - learning off-the-job

I spend one day a week at university, learning the theory side that I can then put into practice at work.

T Level Industry placement

I gained so much from my 45-day placement - experience and knowledge of working in construction and ended up securing an apprenticeship with them!

T Level in Construction, Design & Build

I chose a T Level because I originally wanted to pursue a career in architecture, but I didn't want to go through the route of having to study maths and art at A-level.

WHAT ARE FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS?

Launching in August 2025, new Foundation Apprenticeships are designed to support young people aged 16-21* to access apprenticeship programmes in priority sectors. *Available up to the age of 24 for certain eligible young people.

What are Foundation Apprenticeships?

Foundation Apprenticeships are a brand-new programme, available from 1st August 2025, designed to support young people aged 16-21 to access paid employment through an apprenticeship. For eligible young people with an

Where can I find apprenticeship vacancies?

One of the best places to begin will be the government's Find an Apprenticeship website. This platform provides an excellent starting point and lists thousands of 'live' apprenticeship vacancies from across England. findanapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

MY DAUGHTER: THE AWARD- WINNING APPRENTICE!

Meet Ranjit, whose daughter, Jainna, is a multi-award winning Project Manager Degree Apprentice, as well as vice-chair of the Ethnicity Inclusion Network and co-founder of The Brown Girl League.

How did Jainna decide to do an apprenticeship?

Academically, Jainna was very strong - she got four A's at A-level, and she had offers from some of the biggest universities. But from an early stage of doing her research, she realised that maybe going to university was not the right thing for her. She did weigh up university life versus working, but she really wanted to work and didn't know what she wanted to study at university. When she heard about the project management apprenticeships, she was very excited.

Were you happy she was looking at apprenticeships?

I had no doubts whatsoever about her doing an apprenticeship. I still think that there is, unfortunately, a stigma attached to apprenticeships.

where people think they are for people that are not academic and more of a practical person. That's definitely not the case. Financially it's brilliant (I've got four daughters!) - they're paying for her degree and she's going to come out with no debt. When you weigh up £9.5k a year for university fees, plus other costs like living expenses, compared to the good salary she's earning and the company paying for her degree, it makes an apprenticeship a great idea! Plus, she's getting five years' worth of work experience while she's doing her degree. She's not going to come out of university and have to try and find a job.

"If I was thinking how I could future-proof my kids, an apprenticeship is the way to go."

Did you support her to apply?

Absolutely. We supported her to research and explore different vacancies across different areas. There weren't loads of vacancies in project management so she had to do a lot of research. I don't think she originally envisioned working for an aerospace company in the STEM sector, but it aligns very well with her skill set and she loves it.

How did you know an apprenticeship was right for her?

It's not whether I thought it was right for her or whether the school thought it was right for her. As adults, we can provide guidance, but it's got to be right for your child. That's the most important thing.

They need to be able to decide themselves what is right for them. Two of my daughters went to university. Jainna is doing the degree apprenticeship and my youngest is yet to decide as she's just doing her GCSEs.

How has Jainna found working and learning?

Jainna has really excelled at balancing working and learning. She does four days a week at work and one day at university, which is mostly remote.

One thing I feel she might have missed out on a bit is university life and some of the skills you develop there too. But I think the skills that she's learned on her apprenticeship - the ability to motivate herself to go into work every day, for example. She passed her driving test and within two months she was driving quite a long commute to work and back.

"Don't just think about now, think about what they could become in four or five years' time. If I was thinking about how I could future proof my kids, then an apprenticeship is the way to go."

offering them and why they're offering them, the growth that they can offer a person and what future prospects there are.

Don't just think about now, think about what they could become in four or five years' time. If I was thinking about how I could future proof my kids, then an apprenticeship is the way to go. They're working, they're earning money, they're learning, and they're growing as individuals. And if I was on the other side, hiring someone, would I hire someone straight out of university, or would I hire someone that's been working for four years as an apprentice and learning on the job?

She does socialise with colleagues and it might not be the same as if she was at university, but I think this has prepared her better for life. She also does things outside of work - like co-founding The Brown Girl League for example, and she has got a very large network.

Has she had any standout moments?

She's had so many opportunities - she met Keir Starmer last week, she's been to the Houses of Parliament for meetings, she is an ambassador for the Association for Project Management and she works with

Future Leaders UK, she's won numerous industry and apprenticeship awards...I could go on!

What would your advice be to other parents and carers?

The first thing is to discuss it with your children. Have an open mind about the different options, whether that's university, whether that's work, whatever it is.

You've also got to look at all the options when it comes to apprenticeships and it's good to understand the companies that are

es of opportunities will be available?

ation Apprenticeships are new es, it is going to take a bit of time for to start offering them. Many employers e up to £2,000 from the government to tem with the costs of creating these new ties, so look out for vacancies becoming over the coming year.

Can I find out more?

at the [Institute for Apprenticeships and Education](https://findanapprenticeship.service.gov.uk) website.

ASK AN APPRENTICE COMMUNITY!

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Gain insider knowledge and get ahead in applications



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Get advice specific to the industry you're interested in applying to!

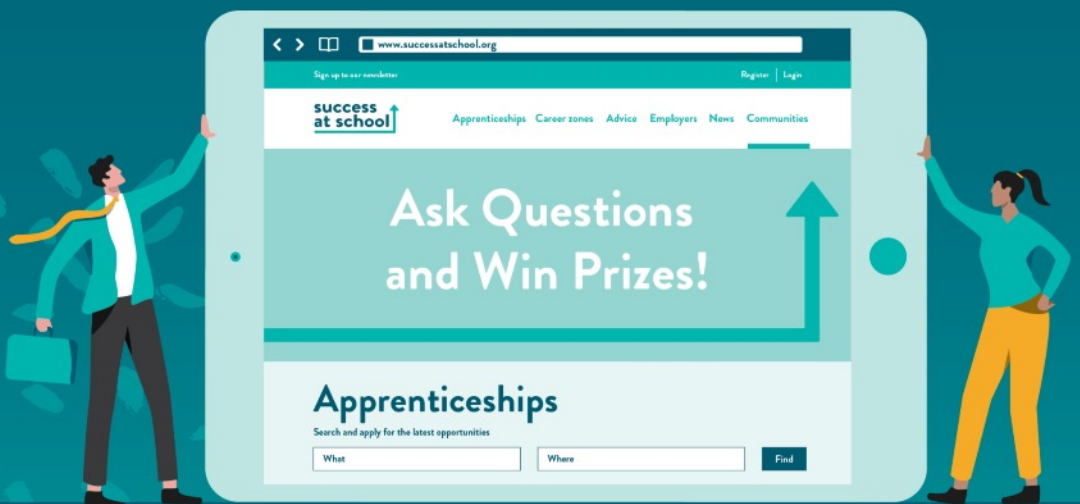
How it works:

- Sign up for free and join the community.
- Post your questions about apprenticeships, careers, and more!
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Not sure what to ask? Things to ask about:

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Interview tips...

Top tips for a successful interview

1

Plan your journey

Allow extra time and plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early. If you are unfamiliar with the location, do a test run.

2

Research, research and research!

Be prepared for the interview - research the company and your role.

3

Appearance

Dress professionally for an interview.

4

Behaviour

Make sure that you use positive body language, such as a firm hand shake, sit up straight and make eye contact. Don't take your mobile phone into an interview with you.

5

Sell yourself

Take a record of achievement file with you including your GCSE certificates. You can take notes into your interview.

Before your interview

Practise answering interview questions with someone else. If you are at school or college, you may be able to arrange a mock interview.

Keep in mind the interviewer wants to find out about what you can offer them: the particular skills and qualities you can bring that set you apart from other applicants.

But it's not just about what the employer is looking for – try to think of some insightful questions you could ask, for example:

- Future opportunities for progression?
- Do you have a mentor scheme?
- What responsibilities would I start with if I was successful?
- How soon could I start?

On the day - breathe!

First impressions count!

Make sure you dress appropriately and look the part. Avoid elaborate jewellery, body piercings, excessive make up and hairstyles, etc.

Offer a firm handshake and make appropriate eye contact with the interviewer.

It's OK to take a moment to think through your response, and better to have a considered reply rather than a rushed answer. If you need more time to think about your answer, ask the interviewer to repeat the question. Don't let your nerves take hold of you, channel them and use them to your advantage!

Remember it's not enough to just say you're good at something – always try to provide examples.

It's fine to ask questions! Ask your prepared questions and anything that came up during the interview... **Avoid JUST** asking about your salary and benefits!

Commonly asked interview questions

Background on you...

- Tell me a bit about yourself?
- What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies etc)
- What is your current situation? (i.e. school, college, employed)
- Have you been given any responsibilities? (i.e. prefect etc)

Why should they hire you...

- What made you apply for this position?
- What do you know about the company?
- What can you bring to the company?
- What skills do you have that will help you in this role?

Can you give me an example of when...

- You worked as part of a team?
- You used your initiative?
- You worked under a pressure?
- You worked to a deadline?
- You multi-tasked successfully?

Self evaluation...

- What do you consider your strengths?
- What do you consider your weaknesses?
- What is your greatest achievement and why?

Future career plans...

- Where do you see yourself in five years time?
- Have you got a future career in mind?

! Did you know that you can book a mock interview with your Training 2000 recruitment advisor?

CV tips

Use a positive tone throughout

Maintain a consistent font and use appropriate sizing

Keep it up to date with relevant information

Use a chronological order with work experience and qualifications (most recent first)

Keep it simple and clear

Spell check and use correct punctuation and grammar

Key things to include:

- Contact details
- Personal statement - a short introduction to you
- Grades / education history
- Work experiences
- Work history (if it's not your first job)
- References
- Key skills

What happens next...

If you are successful in the interview:

- We will call you and offer you the Apprenticeship position
- A member of Training 2000 will contact you to officially register you on the Apprenticeship programme
- A start date in company will be agreed and you START your employment
- You will be invited into Training 2000 to complete your on-boarding

If you are unfortunately not successful in the interview:

- We will get feedback from the company and find out why
- We will contact you and explain what steps we can take to make the next interview successful (this may include a mock interview here at Training 2000)
- We will continue to pair you with companies and arrange interviews until you are successful in finding an Apprenticeship

www.training2000.co.uk | 01254 54659

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DEVELOPING TALENT THROUGH TRAINING

THE POWER OF WORK EXPERIENCE



What is work experience and why is it important?

Work experience doesn't have to be full-time employment. It can be a weekend job, a school placement, volunteering, or even helping in the family business. The purpose is to give young people a taste of the working world and help them to develop practical skills. Often, employers are looking for candidates who show initiative and a proven interest in the field. Work experience can help to demonstrate that.

How work experience can help your child:

1. Builds valuable transferable skills

Through work experience, your child could develop skills such as communication, teamwork, timekeeping, and problem-solving skills.

2. Makes their application stand out

Apprenticeship programs are competitive. As reported on the [latest government statistics on apprenticeships](#) more than 200,000 young people started an apprenticeship between 2024 and 2025. Work experience could help your child's application stand out by showing they've already taken steps to prepare for working life.

3. Prepares them for the workplace

Having some real-world experience gives young people a head-start when adjusting to full-time work. They're more confident, more prepared, and more likely to succeed.

[Read the ISE article to learn more about what students think about work experience.](#)

4. Helps them discover what they enjoy

Sometimes, trying a job or role is the best way to figure out whether it's the right path. Work experience helps your child explore different careers and make informed decisions about their future.

How can you help?

- **Encourage them to look for part-time or holiday jobs**, even if they're not directly related to their dream career.
- **Help them to explore volunteering opportunities** in areas they're passionate about.
- **Talk to family, friends, and local businesses** to see if they'd be open to letting your child shadow someone for a few days.
- **Find organisations that offer work experience for young people, like Uptree.** Uptree is on a mission to see employers everywhere offer unique experiences of work to demystify careers and help students transition from education to employment. They have a wide offer of in-person and virtual work experience days that your child could take part in. You can learn more by visiting their website.

"The events that I was accepted onto allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the working environment and helped me to figure out exactly what it is that I enjoy doing and the jobs I could pursue as a career"

Uptree student

Find out more about Uptree here: uptree.co



Vision Boards

Advice from Helen Tupper, Co-founder of Squiggly Careers and CEO at Amazing If

You've come across mood boards - why not create your own vision board to visualise what you want, and what you want to be, in the future.

"I feel a bit lost without a vision to work towards and can find myself getting swayed by other people's priorities."

"Doing a vision board at the start of the year helps reconnect with what matters most to me and to see what I can't always say".

My top tips for creating and using vision boards

1. **Collect images on instinct** - I prefer to get images from magazines but you can also use Pinterest if that feels better. The important thing is not to search for the perfect image - just save the ones that feel important to you. The same applies to words and quotes. You make sense of it all when it's put together.
2. **Pick a colour that connects** - Colour creates a shortcut to a feeling. This year I've gone with red which I associate with passion, drive and courage. Use your colour throughout your board as a quick reference to a feeling you want to remember.
3. **Stick and commit!** - Grab your glue and get to work. Don't worry too much about creating an amazing collage. Done is better than perfect and making progress is much more important than it looking pretty.
4. **If you want to be it, you need to see it** - I keep the original on my desk and take a photo to use as my screen saver on all of my devices. It needs to be something you see almost daily to stay front of mind.
5. **Take a weekly action to activate** - This can be a really small thing. The idea is to get closer and closer to the reality. This could just be making an enquiry, shadowing someone, writing a plan etc.... Day 1 won't mean it's done, but keep accumulating small actions and you'll make a lot of progress.
6. **Set up a regular review** - I'd recommend doing this monthly to look at what has moved and what do you need to do more of. Even better if.... you buddy up with someone and every quarter you talk it through. This increases your accountability and improves the quality of your reflection.

There's loads of ideas on the internet, plus videos talking you through how to create a vision board.

Why not have a go?



Support for students with special educational needs and disabilities

By Verity Lewis, Disability Advice Officer at the University of South Wales

Starting university is an exciting new chapter filled with opportunities and challenges. If you have special educational needs or a disability (SEND), you might feel uncertain about what to expect. However, rest assured, UK universities are dedicated to supporting you every step of the way. This guide will introduce you to the resources, adjustments, and services designed to help you thrive and make the most of your university experience.

Declaring your disability

Your first step towards accessing support is to declare your disability on your UCAS application or directly to the university. Many students worry this might affect their application, but universities are legally required under the Equality Act 2010 to treat everyone fairly. Declaring your disability

helps universities understand your needs and arrange reasonable adjustments to support your learning and university life from the very beginning.

The Disabled Students' Allowance

If you have additional needs due to a disability, learning difficulty, or long-term health condition, you can apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) (page 60). This non-repayable grant can cover the cost of:

- non-medical helpers, such as a mentor or note-taker
- travel costs related to your disability
- specialist equipment, like a laptop with assistive software
- other resources tailored to your needs.

It's important to apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) early, as the process can take some time. While it might seem overwhelming at first, universities are here to guide you through it. At the University of South Wales, for instance, you can connect with a Disability Adviser during open days, taster sessions or through their dedicated email inbox, even before you enrol. These conversations ensure you have the support you need in place, ready for when you start your university journey.



DOWNLOAD NOW!

What to expect at a university open day

By Gavin Spoons, Regional Student Recruitment Officer at Norwich University of the Arts

Open days are the perfect way to experience first-hand what being a student at a particular university is really like. You can gather lots of useful information online and in prospectuses, but nothing beats being in the university environment and having the opportunity to speak to academics and current students. Open days are packed with scheduled activities to help you get a feel for a university and see if it's somewhere you might want to study.

Campus tours

Arguably the central event of the day, these guided tours are typically led by current students who show you around the campus. You'll explore the university environment, see communal areas such as cafes and libraries, and have a chance to visit facilities related to your course. This gives you insights into your day-to-day life as a student, and you might see work and projects you could do yourself.

Course talks

Throughout the day, there will be a range of informative talks offering information about the university, specific courses, and student support. Most universities host a welcome talk at the start of the day to highlight the unique aspects of that university.

Course-specific talks hosted by academic staff are also very valuable. These talks share detailed information about the courses you're

considering. They allow you to talk directly to the course leader, their fellow lecturers, and current students. These course talks give you a more detailed look into course content than you will find outside of an open day. They cover the work you will do, and the careers you could progress into.

Support talks

Finally, there are additional talks and sessions throughout the day to introduce you to other university departments and of... You could find yourself in talks about accommodation options, what is available, student experience receive advice for applications

Accommodation tours

If you're looking to move away to study at university, you'll want to know what accommodation options are available to you. Similar to campus tours, be an opportunity to look around accommodation sites with help from current students there to answer any questions. You can see the types of rooms and facilities offered in different accommodation sites. Imagining yourself living at university is just as important as receiving advice for applications

Plan your day

Open days can be quite intense, with lots of talks and sessions, but there's a lot to gain from them. Universities offer an open day programme after you've been through the open day. This contains a list of each talk and tour, so you can plan your day. Try to experience as much as you can. It'll help you make informed decisions about your university journey.

The best way to discover the opportunity to about your choice

Top tip: You will find the library at a university is available.

Example: At dedicated to are ready to your source

Choosing the right degree University of independent new friend

University available to our students. Support your app us. This support university

Student your so events continue. Choose a new exciting accommodation needed

Top tip: If you have a specific career in mind, find out if your degree needs to have any specific accreditations from an industry body.

Example: If you want to become a professional psychologist, you need to study a degree that is accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Choosing the right campus

A university's campus is the heart of your learning journey. You're likely to spend time in a range of lectures, seminars, and other learning activities, so make sure the campus has everything you need to succeed. This includes passionate teaching staff who are experts in their field and excellent facilities available for you to use.

making that all-important decision

Going to university helps you build a strong foundation, academically and personally, providing new and exciting opportunities. Making an informed choice on your subject, location, and potential future career gives you the greatest opportunity to succeed. Just remember to make a decision that is best for you and your future, and will help you to thrive.

making that all-important decision

Going to university helps you build a strong foundation, academically and personally, providing new and exciting opportunities. Making an informed choice on your subject, location, and potential future career gives you the greatest opportunity to succeed. Just remember to make a decision that is best for you and your future, and will help you to thrive.



Featuring expert contributions from over 65 education practitioners

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Students' Guide to University 2025

The key higher education facts for students thinking about university

Produced in collaboration with HELLO

Scholarships: finding financial opportunities and standing out in applications

By Jon Hering, Head of Commercial at Blackbullion

Introduction

We get it: studying is expensive.

Tuition fees are going up in September 2025, there is an ongoing cost-of-living crisis, and rising inflation affects how much your maintenance loan can help. Heading to university can seem like a pricey way to kickstart your adult life.

That's where we come in.

To date, Blackbullion has released over £25 million in additional funding - grants, bursaries, hardship funds, and scholarships - through our Funding Hub. Our first corporate scholarship launched in April 2023. Since then, we've continued to work with brands like Amazon, Nationwide, and Accenture to help students cover the costs of university.

Even though there are more opportunities out there, the market for scholarships is still small and highly competitive. That's why this article is here to help you find the right opportunities. It will give you the tools to stand out and smash your applications, so you have the best chance to secure additional funding for your degree.

When to expect scholarships to launch
You should be aware of the main funding windows:

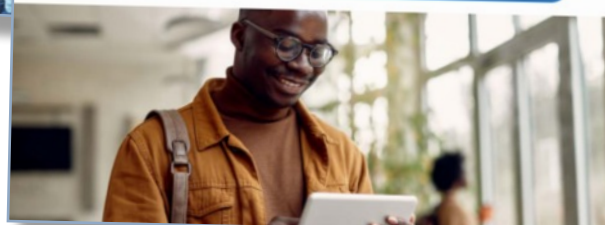
- National Scholarships Week 2025 - running 31 March to 4 April 2025, in partnership with Amazon. Last year, NSW 2024 launched over £800,000 worth of scholarship funding through corporate partners.
- April 2025 - a key period when many scholarships open. Make sure to prepare applications in the spring.
- September 2025 - another wave of scholarships launches in early autumn, giving you a second chance.

Scholarships as a gateway to careers

Many scholarships provide more than financial aid. They offer internships, mentorship, and work experience. These extras can be pivotal in building your career. Try to seek scholarships aligned with your goals, as these opportunities will make you more appealing to future employers.



Learn more about bursaries, scholarships, and free money on Episode 22 of The Uni Guide Podcast, featuring the author of this article, Jon Hering from Blackbullion.





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1



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2



Project Manager

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Store Managers plan and manage work streams, with a focus on continuously improving Tesco's service to customers, communities and the environment each day.

3



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Become proficient at using a range of different technologies.

Stock

Learn to manage stock availability using systems and procedures.

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Build your people and teamwork skills by working with a wide variety of colleagues.

Problem-solving

There will be lots of opportunities to develop your problem-solving skills in retail.

Business

Develop an understanding of how a business works – on a store and national level.

Social Media

Gain knowledge of the impact social media has on brand reputation.

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Develop an understanding of product placement promotional activities.

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Progress your time management skills and learn how to prioritise tasks.

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Youth Futures Team

Next Steps



Leaving School? What Next?

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- A Levels
- Vocational Courses
- T Levels
- Entry Level Courses

Apprenticeship

- Work Based Training
- 4 days work, 1 day college/training
- Apprenticeship Salary
- Qualification on completion

Employment

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- Hourly / Salary Paid
- CV Needed
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youthfutures@lancashire.gov.uk

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Anna (North): 07354 167290

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How do you prepare for an interview?

Once you've had your interview confirmed, you only get one opportunity to make a good first impression. Make sure you're prepared for the apprenticeship interview

There are few things more stressful than a job interview. Luckily, there's no need to worry about it, if you prepare, prepare, prepare!



Research

Do your homework: Fail to plan, and you plan to fail. You are certain to be asked specific questions about the company, so make sure you've done your homework. You can find useful information on their company website, look for details about the company culture, their mission and values. You could also speak to someone who already works there, or look up the company online. Also take a look at the latest developments in the industry so you can talk with confidence.

Prepare your answers: You can't predict what questions you'll be asked, but you can plan general answers that can be narrowed down on the day. Common questions include: What are your goals? Why do you want the job? What are your strengths and weaknesses? Why should they hire you? The less you have to improvise, the better, so practise potential questions and answers on your own or with a parent or teacher.

The interview: Interviews vary depending on the employer. Remote interviews (either over the phone or via video call) are becoming commonplace. Some companies still do lots of one-on-

one interview on a single day, and then make their decision. Others prefer two interviews; the first to whittle down applicants from a long list, the second to make their final decision. Some employers even meet their applicants all at once, to see how you would react in a group setting. Find out what the format of the interview will be when the employer gets in touch so you can prepare. If you are booked in for an online video interview, it's a good idea to test out the interview platform in advance. Use the best internet you can access and find a nice, quiet place where you will be able to talk without distraction – it might be a quiet café or a local library if your home is noisy or has dodgy wifi.

The location: There's nothing worse than stressing about being late to an interview! Make sure you know where you're going ahead of time, and how you will get there on the day. It might even be a good idea to visit the location ahead of your interview, to time how long it'll take you to get there.

The day before

Dress code: It's always best to wear something smart, even if the employer is a casual startup, or if your interview is online. 'Smart' is open to interpretation, and you should always wear what makes you most comfortable, but don't let your appearance speak louder than your words. Make sure you look clean, your clothes fit correctly, and that any accessories are subtle. Dressing one level above the job you're applying for shows a desire to succeed. Don't be afraid to seek a second opinion about your outfit choice from a friend or relative.

Things to bring with you: You may need to bring a portfolio of work, a passport to prove you have the right to work in this country, or your CV. Check you have everything and make sure it's ready the day before, so you won't forget it.

Get to bed early: Getting a good night's sleep before the interview will help you feel fresh and motivated.

The interview

Be punctual: Don't be late. It's easy to be delayed or get lost. If it's an online interview, test out any links to your video interview early, and make sure your camera and microphone are working so you don't lose precious conversation time to technical difficulties. If it's in person, give yourself plenty of time to get to the interview – arriving frazzled after a mad rush is not the best way to start! Arriving too early (more than five minutes) is also a no-no. Employers need to know that you can keep to schedule, so go and get a coffee if you're early.

Keep calm: You're going to be nervous, but you've got this. Shake the hands of everyone present when you arrive and keep it natural. Don't fidget and keep your hands clear of your pockets. Remember to speak clearly, smile, and remember that your interviewers are just normal people who want you to succeed. If it helps, ask for a glass of water. Even if you're not feeling confident, act it!

Show interest: You should always have some questions for your interviewer to demonstrate your interest in the position. Prepare around three questions, some which will give you more information about the job and some that delve deeper into the culture and goals of the company. Good examples of questions could include: 'What would a 'day in the life' of this role look like? What can I expect from you in terms of development and support? What is the company culture like? Questions about pay or benefits might be appropriate but ask them tactfully and save them for the end of the conversation – employers want to know that you care about the work, not the money.



Understanding the pivotal role that work experience plays in shaping a student's perspective on their future career, we're delighted to extend an invitation to your students to participate in our FREE 6-month medical or 4-month dental virtual work experience programme.

Aiming to provide students with insights into the medical and dental fields, this free virtual work experience empowers students to make informed decisions about their future.

Students aged 14 and above are eligible to apply for a placement for FREE through these links:

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

Dentistry: <https://dental-mentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Virtual work experience has been recognised by the Medical Schools and Dental Schools Council as a valuable substitute for in-person shadowing. This endorsement is underpinned by the Health Education England Discovery report, which highlights the positive impact of virtual work placements.

This virtual experience not only serves as a dependable alternative to traditional shadowing but also plays a pivotal role in equipping students with the necessary skills for their in-person work placements. In 2024, these 6-month medical and 4-month dental work experience programmes facilitated over 30,000 secondary school students in accessing complimentary work experience opportunities. Through structured instruction and direct engagement with healthcare professionals, students are well-prepared for their future endeavours.

Crafted in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust and built with the flexibility of an E-learning format, participants can navigate their placements at their own pace, exploring vital topics like ethics, procedures, and broader team roles. This virtual experience not only enhances students' UCAS applications, but also strategically prepares them for the practical challenges and opportunities ahead.

Taking part in the Virtual Work Experience will provide:

- **Comprehensive Insights:** The programme covers a range of specialities, providing a deep 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 sessions, students will receive a certificate from Medic Mentor and UHB, validating their active participation which they can include in their UCAS and apprenticeships applications.

***The new speciality on General Practice or
Public Health & Oral Pathology is available now.***

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

Aspiring Medics: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shrGJUAtigzZzDwTN>

Aspiring Dentists: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shr1YAbWctfkXarfQ>

Previously successful Medical students:

<https://medicmentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

Previously successful Dental students:

<https://dental-mentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

From Secondary School Student to Medical Scholarship Student: a step-by-step guide on getting into medical school successfully: <https://medicmentor.org/become-a-medic-mentor-student-2/>

MEDIC MENTOR



YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

The Medical Schools Council acknowledges virtual work experience as an equal alternative to in-person shadowing based on a discovery report conducted by Health Education England. I encourage students aged 14 and over, interested in medicine to participate in our FREE National NHS Virtual Work Experience programme. We are pleased to offer a variety of medical specialties, with a focus this month on palliative care. This enables your students to gain a well-rounded perspective of working within the NHS.

This opportunity is for students in Years 10-11.

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

Developed in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this Virtual Work Experience has proven to be transformative for thousands of secondary school students over the past year. It also provides a strong foundation of knowledge for students who are preparing to undertake future in-person placements.

We've designed a 6-month medical e-learning work experience programme, focusing on one specialty each month, allowing students to set their own pace of learning. From structured teaching to direct interaction with doctors and healthcare professionals, our programme ensures students not only observe procedures but also gain a broader understanding of roles within the medical field.

Covering everything from confidentiality and ethics workshops delivered by the GMC to clinical procedures, our virtual work experience provides a crucial overview, thereby enhancing your students' UCAS applications.

Signing up is easy – students simply need to fill out the free online application form:

Why the Medic Mentor Virtual Work Experience is the largest In the UK...

- There are 6 Sessions in total providing the longest and most in-depth work experience available
- It covers 6 different areas of medicine whereas other work experiences only cover 1 or 2
- It is e-learning based so students can complete it in their own time around school work
- Students have 30 days to complete one session and then the next session drops
- Students are provided a certificate of completion once all 6 sessions are done
- Involves real doctors, clinical settings and high fidelity simulations
- Takes students on a complete patient journey
- Students get an insight into the multidisciplinary team
- Includes a free reflective journal (great for personal statements)
- It's completely free!
- *Why not sign up today?*



**University Hospitals
Birmingham**
NHS Foundation Trust

Scan to
register!

LIVE!

FREE

Get Into Medicine.

CONFERENCE

One of our doctors (Chief Mentors) will take you step-by-step through your application to medical school.

This includes:

- Application Timelines
- Interview Training
- Personal Statements
 - CV Building
 - UCAT Exams
 - Extracurriculars
- Accessing Medical Leadership Programmes, Awards Programmes and Scholarships to University

You'll also hear from a recently successful applicant on what it takes to make your candidacy to medical school stand out!



When guiding your students through the process of choosing the right university, it's essential to delve into various factors. Entry requirements, acceptance rates, proximity to support systems, and teaching approaches all play a crucial role. Do your students lean towards a more traditional learning environment, or do they thrive in a clinical-based setting?

Drawing from my experience in medical school administration, I've witnessed firsthand the impact of selecting the right university and what sets successful applicants apart. I understand the pivotal elements that can elevate your students' chances of gaining acceptance into medical or dental school, which is why I'd highly recommend students attend the upcoming final Free Virtual Get Into conferences of this academic year.

Register for the Free Virtual Get Into Medicine Conference on: **Sunday 22nd June from 9:30am - 3:30pm**

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

At this conference, Dr Kennedy, Dr Safiyyah and I will explore the intricacies of choosing the correct universities, creating a standout personal statement that reflects unique journeys and aspirations, along with the other crucial aspects of the UCAS application, like the UCAT entrance exam, Work Experience and more, including:

- Tactically choosing universities
- Entrance Exams: UCAT
- Medical/Dental school interview skills
- Medical Leadership Programmes
- Medical/Dental Awards Programmes
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Applying for scholarships to study medicine/dentistry

Our aim is to equip aspiring medical and dental students with the tools to sidestep common mistakes and pitfalls and ace their application to university. Students aged 14 - 18 are invited to attend with a parent or guardian, equipped with a working camera and microphone.

Register for the Get Into Medicine Conference on Sunday 22nd June from 9:30am - 3:30pm

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

Previously successful Medical students: <https://medicmentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

Previously successful Dental students: <https://dental-mentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

From Secondary School Student to Medical Scholarship Student: a step-by-step guide on getting into medical school successfully: <https://medicmentor.org/become-a-medic-mentor-student-2/>

Getting medical work experience

If you are a student planning to apply to medical school or a doctor who is about to take on a student for work experience, our guidance will help you to get the most out of work experience placements.

Work experience in a caring or service role is now an essential step when getting into medical school. Medical schools will be looking for students who have gained a broad range of healthcare experience. Both students and doctors should use the advice and resources below to guide them through the process.

Advice for students

All UK medical schools now require applicants to have experience in a caring or service role, either paid or voluntarily, in health or related field, as well as direct observation healthcare.

You can get a placement in a range of healthcare settings, such as a GP practice, hospital or even internationally.

Keep in mind that it will take some time. You may need to apply to many places before you get a positive response.

How to get a placement

Get in touch with GP practices. Contact practice managers and GPs to explain who you are and ask for their help. Many will ask you to complete an application form.

Make the most of any contacts you have, such as relatives, neighbours or friends who work in healthcare or in a hospital.

If you can't shadow a doctor, look at shadowing another healthcare professional like a pharmacist or physiotherapist.

Organisations that can help

There are a number of organisations that can help you to get a voluntary placement in a caring role, some of these include:

- Volunteering England
- Kissing it Better
- St John Ambulance
- Royal College of General Practitioners

The BMA does not encourage healthcare professionals to charge students for placements, although there may be instances where you could be asked to cover costs such as administration. Don't be afraid to ask what, if any, costs you may be asked to pay before starting your placement.

Top tips when on a placement

- Dress smartly as you would for a job interview.
- Be aware that some patients may wish to be seen without a student present. Don't take this personally.
- Remember that patient confidentiality is important. You must not, under any circumstances, discuss patient issues outside of the department or practice you are based in. Be aware that you may be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- It would be inappropriate for you to see a patient that is known to you socially, whether it be a family member or friend. If this happens you should tell the person who is supervising you and leave the room.
- Make sure you tell your placement what you expect to get out of it and let them know if there is anything that you would like to do or learn whilst you're there.
- Keep a log/ daily diary of what you did and saw. This can help solidify what you learn, but is also an important reference tool when you are writing a personal statement and preparing for your medical school interviews.
- Try to speak to a diverse range of staff. Time with other healthcare workers can offer a great insight into the multi-disciplinary approach to healthcare.
- Ask questions and show enthusiasm. Ask the doctors about what they think are the qualities of a good doctor, ask them about their work patterns, lifestyle or whether they would choose medicine again as a career.
- Talk to patients - remember to be polite and introduce yourself as a medical school applicant on work experience.
- Be proactive and offer a pair of helping hands at every opportunity.



Scan to
register!

LIVE!

FREE

Get Into Dentistry.

CONFERENCE

One of our dentists (Chief Mentors) will take you step-by-step through your application to dental school.

This includes:

- Application Timelines
- Interview Training
- Personal Statements
 - CV Building
- Entrance Exam: UCAT
 - Extracurriculars
- Accessing Medical Leadership Programmes,
- Awards Programmes and Scholarships to University

You'll also hear from a recently successful applicant on what it takes to make your candidacy to dental school stand out!



After the success of our recent NHS National AHP Work Experience session, I am thrilled to extend an invitation to your students in years 10-11 for our upcoming sessions.

June: Paediatric Pathway

- We will be following our patient Samantha, from her birth, to her diagnosis of mild cerebral palsy at 2 and then to her early teens where our team work with her to help her keep her independence through treatments, medication and support equipment.
- With teaching on paediatric medicine, medical conditions, diagnostic tools our team use on a daily basis and the skills our Allied Healthcare Team need to help make a difference and give the best care they possibly can to their patients.

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

The NHS Virtual Allied Healthcare Work Experience offers a unique opportunity for aspiring healthcare professionals. It's a rare occasion for students to hear from our exceptional guest speakers.

Students will gain an intimate look at the healthcare industry in the LIVE virtual work experience, delving into diverse roles within allied healthcare and taking a closer look at patient care by following the journeys of two patients from incident through to treatment.

The NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience is the largest programme for aspiring healthcare professionals, having successfully invited over 12,000 students to participate in its programme last academic year - many of which have gone on to study:

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

Registration Link: <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

Once registered, students will receive access to their virtual work experience portals. Better yet, every complete session comes with a Work Experience Certificate, and for those who complete the full 6-month programme, there's a Highly Commended Reference - a golden ticket for their apprenticeship and UCAS applications.

Registration will start at 8:30am then the live work experience session starts at 10am, with an end at 5pm. Plenty of breaks are scheduled throughout.

Students can register at any time throughout the 6-month programme using the link below. We recommend booking early to gain as much out of this programme as possible.

Places are £10 a session to cover administrative and technological costs, or £50 for the full 6 months:

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

Join Every First Sunday Of The Month!



Scan to
register!

LIVE!
VIRTUAL

Allied Healthcare Work Experience

Take your first steps into the world of healthcare careers
in our Virtual Allied Healthcare Work Experience.

Meet this month's AHP professional **guest speaker**, from **9 - 10am**, and
then dive into live work experience sessions.

After a compelling talk from our guest speaker about their career and
what they do day to day, you will **dive into live work experience sessions**
from the safety of your home.

Witness the journey of two patients from injury to recovery over 6
months, and experience how many different healthcare professionals
are involved in a patient's care, from hospital all the way through to a
community team.



ALLIED
HEALTHCARE
MENTOR

APPRENTICESHIPS LINKED TO PSYCHOLOGY

- ARTS THERAPIST
 - ASSISTANT PRACTITIONER (HEALTH)
 - CLINICAL ASSOCIATE IN PSYCHOLOGY
 - COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING WORKER
 - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
 - PLAY THERAPIST
 - REGISTERED NURSE
 - WELLBEING AND HOLISTIC THERAPIST
- AND MANY MORE!**



Interested in apprenticeships, but not sure what to do next? Take a look at the employers offering apprenticeships that link to the subject you love.
amazingapprenticeships.com

SCAN ME



APPRENTICESHIP



Level 2 Accounts Apprentice

Workman Facilities Management LLP

VAC1000323922

Level 2 Early Years Apprenticeship

Bunnies Childcare, Gelston Manor Day Nursery, Chorley

VAC1000321082

Level 2 Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship

Tesco plc - recruiting nationally

VAC1000323438

Level 3 Apprentice Business Administrator

ESG Global (Energy) Ltd, Euxton

VAC1000322099

Level 3 Digital Marketing Apprenticeship

The Spectacle Factory Ltd., Bamber Bridge

VAC1000321844

Level 3 Business Admin Apprentice

ESG Global (Energy) Ltd., Euxton

VAC1000321903

Level 3 Apprentice Business Administrator

Merlin Diesel Systems Ltd

VAC1000323588

Level 3 Apprentice Teaching Assistant

Brinscall St John's CE Primary School

VAC1000324364

Level 3 Dental Nursing Apprenticeship

Rodericks Dental Holdings Ltd., Chorley

VAC1000324769

See elsewhere in this issue of Career News for details of the Progress Housing apprenticeships.

To search for an apprenticeship anywhere in England, have a look at the national apprenticeship website, create an account and apply for any of the vacancies.

[Click here](#)



Lots of vacancies available at Alliance Learning in Horwich: Fabricator/Welder, Craft/Manufacturing, Business Admin, Electro-Mechanical Engineer, Property & Marketing and at Training 2000 in Blackburn: Customer Service, Fabrication and Welding, Dental Hygiene, Optical and much more.



CAREER *of the* WEEK

Optometrist

The examinations carried out by optometrists are crucial for detecting vision and eye health problems and providing the necessary adjustments, treatments or referrals.

As an optometrist, you'll be trained to recognise vision defects and abnormalities, injuries to the eye, eye diseases such as glaucoma and macular degeneration, and serious health conditions such as diabetes, brain tumours or high blood pressure.

You'll use your skills to improve patients' vision and will prescribe and fit spectacles, contact lenses or low-vision aids. You will also make referrals to specialists as necessary to deal with diseases of the eye or other health conditions.

Within an eye clinic or hospital you'll share the care of patients with chronic conditions or manage patients with low-risk eye conditions. Most of these activities involve the use of specialist equipment.

Patients range from very young children to the elderly. You may see both NHS and private patients.

Types of optometrist

Most optometrists work in community practice. This may be:

- high street practices - either independent practices or regional or national brands that have numerous practices
- community practice - going to patients' homes, care homes and day care centres to carry out eye examinations. Patients may have dementia, learning needs or physical disabilities

You could also work within:

- hospitals or eye clinics
- academic research centres
- research and industry
- third sector
- locum and portfolio work

Responsibilities

As an optometrist you'll:

- speak to patients to get detailed case histories from them
- examine patients' eyes using specialist equipment to detect vision defects and signs of injury, disease or abnormality
- manage and monitor some eye conditions, either autonomously or alongside other healthcare professionals
- detect signs and symptoms of general health conditions such as diabetes
- fit spectacles or contact lenses
- discuss vision-related matters with patients, and offer advice and reassurance
- offer help and advice to patients when choosing frames and lenses
- liaise with and write referral letters to doctors and other optometrists with higher qualifications
- meet sales targets with regard to selling spectacles or contact lenses

In some roles you may:

- manage and train staff, including other optometrists, dispensing opticians and optical assistants or medical students
- manage the retail aspects of spectacles, contact lenses and other vision care products
- administer, organise and plan the development of the practice
- liaise with sales representatives from vision care product suppliers
- own or manage a practice
- treat, manage and prescribe medicines for people with eye conditions
- advise NHS England or local clinical commissioning groups on the development of eye care services



For more information [click here](#)