

7 December 2018

To Parents and Guardians of pupils in the Senior School

Dear Parents and Guardians

Here is this week's edition of Careers News Weekly for your entertainment.

Please remember that this edition and all previous newsletters can be found on the careers pages of Firefly, along with a vast amount of careers advice and links to jobs, apprenticeships, work experience, interesting articles and much, much more. Please do check this regularly as it is updated at least twice a week, often daily.

Degree Apprenticeships update

I know I am continually talking about degree apprenticeships but this is a relatively new field which is developing new and exciting programmes on a regular basis. The latest trend which is starting to pick up is degree apprenticeships offered by universities, where you apply through UCAS but the degree is linked to a particular employer. Rather than working for the company all week and then studying for one day a week, you go to university permanently but work for the company during your holidays. Your tuition fees are all funded and you are paid a monthly salary, so you get the full university experience with employment experience thrown in! For example, [University of Birmingham](#) is offering a BSc Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership degree apprenticeship with PwC. You are at university for the first two years, work for PwC during your holidays, spend your third year working full time at PwC and then return to finish your final year at university. All paid for!

Confused about your future?

Making decisions about what to do after GCSE's or A levels can be very scary! Often you tell me you have no idea what lies ahead but I would like to suggest two questions to ask yourselves, which might help you gather your thoughts and help you with your career investigation.

- **What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?** Sounds silly? How many times have you pushed a job thought away because you felt someone would laugh at you for suggesting it or you told yourself you weren't clever enough? It is very easy to dismiss jobs that might suit you because of rash judgments so try not to be too harsh on yourself at first – investigate the roles to see what you need to do to follow a potential dream. It may not work out but at least you can say you had tried!
- **What would you do if every job paid the same?** Money is often a defining factor when students talk to me about their career thoughts and many are attracted to professions because of the prestige or salary potential. Thinking about what you actually would like to do, is a really great way to focus on your values and what might matter to you in a job, which might lead you to investigate roles you hadn't previously thought of.

Of course, asking questions and doing some research can help with both the above questions and this is precisely what you should be doing. Come and speak to me in the careers room or have a look on the careers pages on Firefly. Pop up to the library and have a look at the careers books or just Google a career and see what information you can find. Of course, I can suggest some great websites to look at too, just click on the logo for instant access.



Work Experience

Pupils in the 5th Year are all encouraged to undertake a week of work experience with the aim of developing your understanding of the world of work and the career opportunities open to you. You are strongly advised to find your own placements, which should take place after your GCSE's have finished but if you need some guidance with this, then please come and see me. You can also have a look at the work experience pages on the Firefly careers pages, as there are a number of links to organisations that offer placements. These are updated regularly so please keep checking. Please also see the letter that was sent home to your parents and guardians last Friday. A copy can also be found in the letters section of the parent's portal.

Finding Placements

Asking family and friends is always a good idea, so start with these people. You can also contact companies to ask if they can offer you a placement. You will need to have a CV so I suggest you register with [Barclays Life Skills](#) and use their [CV Builder](#), if you haven't already got one. You will need to register to use the programme but it is free!

Top Tips for CV's

- Do NOT add your picture, just skip this stage.
- If you use your mobile number on your CV, please make sure any voicemail message you have on your phone is sensible. First impressions are very important.
- Don't worry about adding a video, just keep it to a paper CV.
- Qualifications – Add your GCSE subjects, explaining that you are taking them next year. You can add what you hope to achieve grade wise too.
- Work experience/employment – This can include babysitting, dog walking and any volunteering you may have been involved with.

The CV Builder has lots of tips and ideas for you to follow. I am happy for you to send me a copy to check, before you send it to employers.

NCS – National Citizen Service

You will have heard all about the [NCS](#) scheme in assembly this week and I would like to encourage you to think about this scheme seriously. There are a number of companies that will only offer placements to pupils who have enrolled in this scheme, [Santander](#) are one, so it is well worth considering in support of your future.

Career Ideas

Focus on Languages

Languages are all about allowing us to communicate with others, helping us to learn about different cultures and societies around the world. Languages open up an endless world of opportunity and can be instrumental in boosting your career prospects in every profession imaginable. Through languages we also learn about how history has shaped the way people live and spend their time, we learn about our differences and similarities, we begin to understand how religions shape society and how people spend their time. It is not just about learning how to communicate through speech and

writing. In the multi-cultural world we live in, it is so important that we can understand the values of those around us so we can build successful businesses and overcome barriers.

Civil Service (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)

Ever thought about a career as a diplomat or perhaps you would like to work in international trade? Both these areas, and many more, will allow you to use your language skills so have a look at [FCO Careers](#) for more information.

United Nations

Maybe a career with the [UN](#) would be your preference. Like the FCO there is a wealth of choice within the United Nations – you could be working in legal, management, economic and social development, internal security or science, to name a few of the areas. Flexibility is the key and language ability can also boost your career

Intelligence Analyst (Linguist)

Would you like to find out about a career in the Royal Air Force where you could use your linguistic and language ability to keep the country safe? Then you might want to investigate a career as an [Intelligence Analyst](#)

Investment Banking

Having the ability to talk more than one language can be a huge advantage in some areas of the banking world. For example, as a Sales Trader you may be looking at shares and bonds within certain international markets so being able to converse in another language other than English would be a great advantage. Even if you aren't fluent, being able to offer the basic greetings, means you have taken the time to learn and find out about the country with which you are dealing with. It can make people more receptive to your ideas.

The above are just a few suggestions, in fact, I am not sure I can think of any job where languages might not enhance your prospects! Target Jobs has a section on [What can I do with a modern languages degree?](#) which you might find interesting, and page 46 of [What Do Graduates Do?](#) also offers some interesting statistics. And although this [article](#) in the Guardian is now five years old, it still offers some idea of the diversity of language graduates and the types of careers they take up.

Internal Events

UCAS and Beyond Caterham Information evening – CHANGE OF DATE

Please note this event has been moved to Thursday 31 January at 7pm, and will now encompass the Study Abroad evening scheduled for the 14 January. Full details very soon.

Careers in the Creative Industries – 4 Feb 2019 at 7pm

More details will be sent after the Christmas break but I am hoping the evening will include a range of stand based careers including advertising, architecture, media and PR, fashion design and many more. Please do let me know if there is anything you would like me to try and feature.

Careers using Languages – 18 March at 7pm

Suitable for anyone who would like to find out about the variety of careers open to linguists. Details in the New Year.

University Fair 2019 – Thursday 23 May 3-7pm

Featuring over 37 universities, the event will be open to all parents and pupils. There is also a programme of talks looking at a range of topics. Details will be sent out in April next year, but please do put the date in your diary.

Events – External

How do I get a career in Events and Luxury Branding?

Taking place at the InterContinental in Park Lane, this one day course will give you an overview of the careers within the hospitality management, event management and luxury brand management professions. Click [here](#) for more detail and to book.

How do I get into Dentistry?

Held at the British Dental Association in London, this one day course will look at the careers in the dentistry profession. Please click [here](#) for more details and bookings.

What can I do with Maths and Economics?

Great course in London on Tuesday 19 February 2019, through Inspiring Futures, looking at the careers these two subjects can lead to, including actuarial science, Insurance, Artificial Intelligence and many more. Click [here](#) for more information and booking.

How do I get a careers in the Digital and Technology industry?

Taking place in London on Wednesday 20 February 2019, this one day course features presentations from Google, IBM, Jagex Games and Sky. Anyone aged 16-19 is welcome to attend. Click [here](#) for more information and to book.

Sky Insight Day

Ever thought about working for Sky, either on their apprenticeship programme or as a graduate? Maybe you would like to intern there when you are studying at university? Click here to find out about the insight day they are running on December 13th. They also have work experience vacancies and you can apply for those [here](#).

The Law Apprenticeship Conference – Saturday 19 January 2019

[Law Apprenticeship Conference](#) is a great way to find out about the routes into law via the non-traditional route. The next one is being held in London on Saturday 13 January and is suitable for pupils in Year 8 and above. These are incredibly popular events so I would recommend booking NOW!

Happy reading and see you next week!

Mrs Brown

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