

Dear All

Welcome to your weekly careers newsletter and apologies for the lateness but I have been out of school on the UCAS conference this week!

Careers in VFX, Games and Animation Report

On Tuesday this week, we were delighted to welcome Caroline Cox from [Escape Studios](#) in London, to talk about the huge variety of career opportunities in the visual effects, games and animation industries. Escape Studios, based in London, offer a number of undergraduate and postgraduate courses alongside short courses, for anyone who is looking to break into these lucrative, yet competitive professions. Over 70% of roles within these industries are creative and so, it came as no surprise that students taking this route tended to study an art based A level such as Fine Art, Product Design or Photography. There are also opportunities for those who are interested in the computer science and coding/software development areas but these roles are fewer in number. She explained that VFX is when the subject is designed to look real, whereas motion graphics is where subjects are meant to be more of a cartoon style animation – areas where potential students often get confused. Students were taken on a whistle stop tour of the roles in the industry from Previs Artist, 3D Artist and Digital Compositor to Environmental Artist, Animator and Producer. Information about these positions can be found in the [Careers Guide](#), available to download on their website and also on the careers pages of Firefly. Caroline also talked about how students might prepare themselves for these types of careers, besides picking an arts based A level. She encouraged students to start keeping a record of the activities they are involved in and how important it is to begin to collect evidence of their artistic skills, designs or research, and how these may have developed over the years. Downloading the free software programmes such as Maya (the industry standard software) [Blender](#) and ZBrush, where they can begin to understand the basics of design and produce their own projects. There are also a number of events that would be great opportunities for students interested in these fields to attend - [EGX Rezzed](#) (March 26-28), [VFX Festival](#) (March 18) and their [National Saturday Club](#), which is free and runs every week where students learn about the skills used in VFX, Games and Animation. Why not look at some of excellent apprenticeship routes into these careers too – have a look at [NextGen](#) for some examples. Other websites to consider are [icould](#) and [ScreenSkills](#) with their excellent [software guide](#). If you are considering work experience then this link to a list of all [studios](#) in the UK might be useful and if you are looking for topical news stories about the industry then heading over to the [UKIE](#) website, might be just what you are after. Many studios offer regular tours so you can see what really goes on and she also advised looking at job vacancies as you can glean an understanding of the skills and experience these organisations want you to have.

UCAS Update

Waiting for university offers can be a really tough time and, even though over 70% of applications have now received an offer there are still 155 individual university applications still awaiting an answer – that's 22% of all applications this year. I am afraid that whilst it is frustrating, you have to be patient and wait for their replies!

Once you have received ALL your university answers you will need to make your final two choices by the deadline set on your UCAS Track. I have listed them in the table below.

All Replies received by	Deadline for CF/CI Choices
March 31	May 5
May 6	June 4
June 4	June 18
July 13	July 20

A letter detailing this process will be sent out this Friday.

Internal events

COMING UP!

Careers in Science , Engineering, Technology and Maths – Tuesday 25 February at 7pm

I am delighted to invite you to attend the next careers evening, on Tuesday 25 February at 7pm in the Humphreys Theatre. We have a fabulous line-up of Old Cats and parents joining us and covering a superb range of career paths. Once again, we will be running the evening as a speed career type event where you will choose the speakers you would like to listen to. You will have an opportunity to listen to five fifteen minute sessions across the evening.

Alia is a process engineer in the food industry and is the only student I can remember who received an unconditional offer to study at the University of Cambridge! We have two speakers who are currently working in financial crime – both female, with one being an engineer and the other a bio scientist. Hannah is an OC who works for Deloitte Digital but studied International Relations with Business and Sustainability, Jonny has a degree in physics and now works for F1 as a data analyst, Jonathan is an engineer with McLaren, Laura works in the oil and gas field and has covered a range of science based roles whilst Wilson works as an industrial scientist looking at cell and gene therapy for GSK.

Please email clare.brown@caterhamschool.co.uk to reserve spaces. Friends and family all welcome.

Midwifery Careers – Tuesday 3 March at 4.15pm

Details to follow.

National Apprenticeship Show School Trip – Wednesday 4 March

Details shortly.

Study Abroad – Thursday 12 March at 7pm

This is the rescheduled evening from January and will now take place in the Deayton Theatre. Please see the letter in the parental portal for more information.

Careers in the Charity and Social Responsibility Sectors – Monday 23 March at 7pm

More details to follow.

Careers in Journalism – Tuesday 24 March at 4.15pm

Details to follow.

University Fair – Thursday 21 May

Details to follow.

External events

Youth Summit

On the 26th March 2020 at Nower Wood Education Centre, near Leatherhead, Surrey Wildlife Trust will be hosting their annual Youth Summit -a chance for 16-18 year olds to come together and stand up for nature. They want your thoughts, ideas and opinions on current environmental matters and what they can all do to make a real difference. There will be inspirational keynote speakers, hands-on workshops and an open forum to discuss and debate with fellow students. You will learn lobbying and promotional skills, improve your knowledge of our native species and at the same time be part of something that could enhance your UCAS applications and CVs. By the end of the day, they

will pledge to take action for Surrey's nature and the future of the planet. Click [here](#) for more information and details on how to apply.

Subject Taster Days

[The University of Leicester](#) are running some degree subject taster days over the next few months. They are covering allied health professions, biological sciences and natural sciences, business, economics and accounting, chemistry, engineering and physics, maths and actuarial science, medicine and arts based areas. Please click on the link for more information and how to book.

Saturday Clubs – 13-16 year olds

[National Saturday Club](#) where students aged 13-16 can attend a university, college or museum locally and on a regular basis to discover more about the subjects they are interested in. The subject areas available are Art and Design, Fashion and Business, Science and Engineering and Writing and Talking.

Degree Apprenticeships

It's National Apprenticeship week, so I thought it would be a good idea to refresh your memory with information and resources about apprenticeships and what they can offer in terms of a realistic, debt free alternative to university. In fact, you can apply for apprenticeship as well as applying to study for a university degree – although at some point you will have to decide which route to opt for! Have a look at some of the links below for more information.

[National Apprenticeship Week 2020](#)

[UCAS - A Guide to Apprenticeships](#)

[Not Going To Uni](#) – great search engine for details about current vacancies and information.

The [Apprenticeships](#) section of UCAS offer lots of information, guidance and links to all levels of apprenticeships.

[Rate My Apprenticeship](#) is another great website for information and lists of vacancies.

[Mischon de Reya](#) have just opened their Solicitor apprenticeships programme. We have an Old Caterhamian contact here too!

[Cyber Security Apprenticeships](#) – MI5 and MI6 are currently recruiting for these very exciting roles.

[BAE Systems](#) apprenticeships are currently open for applications. They offer several degree level apprenticeships in the engineering, technology and business fields.

[Walter Lilly and Co](#), a building contractor based in Croydon are offering a degree apprenticeship to become a Chartered Surveyor. Click [here](#) for more information and the application process.

[WSP](#) is one of the world's leading engineering professional services consulting firms and they are currently recruiting for a Civil Engineer degree apprenticeship.

[Unilever](#) are recruiting for [Data Scientist](#) and [Chartered Management](#) degree apprenticeship positions.

[KPMG](#) are currently recruiting for a Digital Technology degree apprenticeship.

[Turner & Townsend](#) are offering two different degree apprenticeship roles – Quantity Surveying or Project Management.

[Pearson College](#) in London are running Discovery Day on the afternoon of Tuesday 3 March for anyone interested in looking at the degree apprenticeship schemes that they run. Have a look at their current brochure, available to download on their website, or on the Careers pages of Firefly, under Apprenticeships, for more information about the schemes or click [here](#) to book for the Discovery Day.

Mrs Clare Brown
Head of Careers