



As a result of COVID-19 and school closures a lot of companies and organisations are offering digital content rather than the real life opportunities that would normally have been open to students. We have included a few opportunities that have come to our attention over the last week. If you come across anything that you think might be of interest to other students then please do communicate these to us.

As ever, if anyone would like a one on one teams chat with Amy or Steph, as a follow up from a Careers Advisor for example, or has any questions about apprenticeships, applications, work experience, CVs, etc. then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We can then arrange a time for a call at a mutually suitable time (please be aware that Amy only works Tuesday-Thursday). We are also very happy to answer any questions by email.

Email: stephanie.Mitchell@utcreading.org.uk

Email: amy.Sutcliffe@utcreading.org.uk

We shall add to and update this information on a regular basis to ensure that you have useful resources to work from when you are at home.

Virtual Work Experience

Virtual Work Experience seems to be something that particularly Law Firms have been doing for a while. However, again in the current crisis more companies are rising to the challenge. Here are a just a few we've found. If you want to give them a go then please do let us know how you get on:

Speakers for Schools has announced the launch of the Speakers for Schools Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) programme to address the need for high quality work experience, in communities which often have a disconnect between the aspirations of young people, and the presence of outstanding employers. VWEX'ing will expand their current on-site work experience programme to level the playing field for all. Our VWEX programme is the first of its kind in the UK and enables employers to solve key problems in their business while delivering meaningful and structured work experience to more young people wherever they reside. Speakers for Schools invite employers, educators, careers leaders and young people to register their interest here: <https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience/vwex/>.

Inside Sherpa offers virtual work experience programmes for law, technology, finance and more! Build experience and skills with Inside Sherpa company-backed Virtual Work Experience programmes. Complete pieces of work with mentoring from industry professionals then get a certificate at the end that can be added to your CV. For more information visit <https://www.insidesherpa.com/>.



Barclays Life Skills: Virtual Work Experience gives you a unique opportunity to gain work experience in a company that you might not normally get access to while highlighting the essential skills you might need. You'll get to see the inner workings of Freeformers, a 'digital transformation' agency, and actively work with different departments on one exciting project, helping them solve problems and complete real-life tasks. As part of the experience you'll also see lots of tips as well as links through to other LifeSkills content. These are designed to help you learn how best to deal with situations you may come across in the workplace. By clicking on the links you'll get the most out of your Virtual Work Experience and learn more about the vital skills you'll need in the workplace.

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/virtual-work-experience>

PwC Employability Hub

A website with podcasts and e-learning modules to build employability skills, including modules on online applications, interviews, and assessment centres:

<https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student-jobs/employability.html>

Uptree

A professional network for students, where you have the chance to apply for work experience days. They also organise online webinars and events. <https://uptree.co/>

LinkedIn

There are a lot of people on LinkedIn offering support to students to mentor them through the search for jobs / courses / apprenticeships etc. This could be help with personal statements, CVs, cover letters to actually helping you get access into companies. You have to be over 16 to have a LinkedIn profile, but for those in Year 12 & 13, if you don't have a LinkedIn profile then do consider setting one up as there is a lot of useful content on there. This article is for American High School Students but has a lot of relevant points about what to put on a LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/linkedin-tips-high-school-students-judy-schramm/>. Once you've set yourself up be sure to link up with Amy Sutcliffe and Steph Mitchell and other teachers at UTC Reading. They can then suggest interesting and useful people for you to follow.

CV Writing Resources

There are lots of online resources that can help you to get a basic CV together. I recommend you visit this site - <https://bit.ly/2xmgj4A>, which talks you through creating a CV step by step, prompting you as to what information you should include and helping with the formatting and layout. Remember, even though you are still at school there's a wealth of detail that can be added to a CV, think about the project days you have completed within college, any work experience you have done, professional qualifications you have obtained, trips you have been on and what skills you developed during them and generally what you gain from being at a UTC. For more resources also have a look here:

<https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/how-to-write-a-cv/> and here: <https://www.cv-library.co.uk/career-advice/cv/how-to-write-a-cv-tips/>



Resources for Careers

We included these links in the last newsletter, but we shall leave them here as a reminder of places to go to for great careers information:

Careers Research

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> – click on job profiles

www.icould.com – careers info by sector, plus personality quiz

www.careersbox.co.uk – careers info by sector

Apprenticeships

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk>

Job Search

www.gov.uk/jobsearch

www.indeed.co.uk

www.fish4jobs.co.uk

www.jobsite.co.uk

Universities

www.push.co.uk/Uni-Chooser - course generator for those Year 12s who are interested in Uni, but unsure what to study.

www.ucas.com – the official website for information about universities and for applying to courses. Lots of information.

www.whatuni.com – course finder which enables you to search for courses.

<http://Unistats.direct.gov.uk> – government website comparing data from all undergraduate HE courses. Very useful for comparing courses at different universities.

www.studential.com – general advice on applications and a really good section on personal statements including real examples on dozens of subjects.

LMI Information

Labour Market Information (LMI) helps to see where there will be skills gaps and therefore employment opportunities in the future and in which industries and areas people are needed at the moment. This can be helpful when planning future careers. Good online resources for finding out more about LMI are:

<https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/> - not only does this have a lot of LMI information, it also features a Careerometer, to help you find out about careers you might not have considered.

<https://www.worldskillsuk.org/media/4461/how-to-use-lmi-booklet-a5.pdf> – booklet put together by WorldSkillsUK on LMI.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket> - The Office for National Statistics is also a good source for LMI.