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Careers Newsletter

September 2020

And we're back!

All ALET schools are open and raring to go! This Careers Newsletter has converted into a monthly newsletter, as the offerings are still out there! Hope you find this useful. Any feedback gratefully received.



UCAS & Personal Statements

The main focus of a lot of Careers Guidance and Information at the moment is on UCAS and applications to University. If this is the point you are at this year, there is a lot of support out there for researching Universities, applying to University and writing your personal statements at the moment.

- ❖ **UCAS Advice on Writing Personal Statement -**
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>
- ❖ **Stemettes** member Isadora has written a helpful blog post on writing your personal statement based on her experiences:
<https://stemettes.org/zine/advice/personal-statement-writing-editing/?fbclid=IwAR3y7wqM0v7M8RbQWzyApWoufAM5xE8dvrdb2HxlbZ1HZKwlljKzeX8vglc>
- ❖ **UniTasterDays**, a directory of University events, are running a weekly online University guidance webinar on Tuesdays on all sorts of different specialisms. Take a look and tune in for some great advice:
<https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx>
- ❖ There are tips for researching and applying for University here:
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/student-blog-tips-choosing-and-applying-universities>

- ❖ **University of Reading** realises that parents need help through this stage of their child's life as well and are offering a free **Parent and Supporter's Guide to University Entry**. For more information and to sign up visit: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/guide-to-university-entry?fbclid=IwAR26LELMdWXpGOjZCgue-xijWQse5V7Kpy-6BynG8lgLqL0wUkzeEJZHMLI>
- ❖ **University Virtual Open Days** – lots of Universities are holding Virtual Open Days or Taster Sessions so check out the Universities you are interested in and sign up!
 - Oxford Brookes - <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/virtual-tour>
 - Brunel University – <https://www.brunel.ac.uk>
 - Reading University – <https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/visiting-and-open-days/opendays.aspx>
 - Kingston University – <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/open-days/>
 - University of Swansea – <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/virtual-open-day/>
 - University of Southampton - <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/visit/open-days>
 - University of Portsmouth - <https://www.port.ac.uk/study/open-days>
 - University of Surrey - <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/open-days>



Apprenticeships / Employment

For those of you interested in an **Apprenticeship or Employment** route now is a good time to be researching and making decisions about what you would like to do, where you would like to work and which companies are of interest to you.

A good place to start is with the **Government** website on Apprenticeship. Here you can register to receive regular updates on apprenticeships that are added based on your interests and preferences:

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

If you're not sure which direction to go in then there are also lots of sites designed to help introduce you to careers you might not have considered, for example:

National Careers Service (<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>) features lots of job profiles and enables you to get an idea of what is out there.

icould (www.icould.com) and **Careers Box** (www.careersbox.co.uk) both contain careers information by sector and **icould** also has a personality quiz designed to match you to careers that would suit your personality.

For those that identify as female **WISE (Women in Science and Engineering)** has a whole database of female role models, who would be very happy to chat to you about your career choices. Visit their campaign **My Skills My Life** to discover your personality type, and see how your skills match up to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers. Connect with real people in STEM careers who have the same personality as you. What do they do? What do they earn? How did they get there? It's all about your skills, and how you can make them work for your life. [To find out more, get in touch!](#)

To get an idea of the kind of jobs that are out there if you were to seek **employment** after leaving full time education take a look at the following sites:

- <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>
- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk>
- www.gov.uk/jobsearch
- www.indeed.co.uk
- www.fish4jobs.co.uk
- www.jobsite.co.uk



Further Education

You might also like to consider **Further Education** at local colleges, that may offer courses that could be of use to you as the next step in your career. **Activate Learning** has 7 colleges locally and they are running a series of **Virtual Open Events** over the coming month. Take a look here for more info: <https://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/events>

Careers Resources

For those of you in younger years, there are still a lot of resources online to help you to further develop yourselves and extend and supplement your learning within school and college.

PwC Employability Skills Sessions

Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) have developed a programme of Employability Skills Sessions, combining both live and pre-recorded sessions which will provide you with an insight into PwC and an opportunity to develop your employability skills. You'll also have the chance to engage with a range of PwC ambassadors through the interactive live sessions, whilst having the flexibility to watch and listen to the recorded sessions at a time best suited to you each week. Interested? Take a look and sign up here:

<https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student-careers/school-careers/virtual-classroom.html>

Gresham College Lectures

Gresham College was founded in 1597 and has been providing free lectures within the City of London for over 400 years. As with a lot of things over the last 6 months, they have now moved to digital delivery and have a whole range of talks and lectures ranging from science and technology, over religion to music, something for everyone! All of their past lectures are also available on their website to watch after the event. Have a browse through, there's bound to be something of interest!: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>



Virtual Work Experience

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the chances of getting any face to face **Work Experience** this autumn are very slim. However, do not despair! There are still ways to enrich your CV and to gain experience – through **Virtual Work Experience Placements!** A number of companies are now offering these, and the list is growing daily.

Speakers For Schools – sign up with Speakers For Schools to find out more about their VWEX scheme and the companies that they are working with: <https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/vwex/>

Barclays Life Skills, who offer lots of really great courses, are also now offering **Virtual Work Experience**. Find out more and sign up here: <https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/virtual-work-experience/>

A comprehensive article on **Virtual Work Experience** from **Prospects**, detailing which companies are offering VWEX at the moment. Have a read to find out more: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/work-experience-and-internships/virtual-work-experience>

And for parents – how can you support your child with **Virtual Work Experience**? This useful article from **The Parents Guide To** gives support and advice: <https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/virtual-work-experience>

And that's all for September 2020! We'll be back with more tips, tricks and most importantly information in October.