



ABK FUTURES

Newsletter Issue 2

7th March 2022

Table Contents

Careers Week: 7 th –12 th March	2
XELLO – Introduction to parents	2
Securing an Apprenticeship – A Student’s Experience (Year 13).....	2
‘Where to start when thinking about careers’, CIPD Enterprise Advisor, Anne Ranahan.....	3
Applying to University –UCAS and Unifrog, Mrs Howard	4
Upcoming Careers Opportunities for Students.....	4



Careers Week: 7th –12th March

This edition of the ABK FUTURES Newsletter is in conjunction with National Careers Week (7th – 12th March). This week, we will be delivering Form Time activities and some live assemblies to the students focused on Careers and planning for the future. In addition, please use the link below to access the National Careers Week website, which has a link for their Virtual Careers Fair.

[National Careers Week Website](#)

For further careers opportunities please scroll down to the **‘Upcoming Career Opportunities Students’**.

XELLO – Introduction to parents

This year we have introduced a new student careers platform called XELLO. This was launched with students for the first time in December and many of our students logged in and completed the skills audit and discovered relevant linked careers. Students can access XELLO the following ways:

- Via the school email account and search for XELLO in the Apps section (9 dots in top left of the screen).
- Via the website <https://login.xello.co.uk/> using the following details:
 - Username – school email address
 - Password – date of birth (ddmmyyyy)

Using XELLO, students can complete personal skills and interest audits to discover and save potential careers of interest. They can also search and discover details on both careers and higher education institutions.

[Start Your Career Adventure with XELLO](#)

Securing an Apprenticeship – A Student’s Experience (Year 13)

Owen Hawksley, one of our year 13 students who has successfully secured an apprenticeship with Grant Thornton UK, has answered some of the most frequently asked questions about apprenticeships.

Why an apprenticeship?

For me, I knew that only going to university was not what I wanted to do next and that I wanted to go straight into the world of work and to start gaining invaluable experience as soon as I could. Yet, a qualification at the end of an apprenticeship could also be incredibly useful, especially for securing the more high-end jobs. Because of this, I decided doing an apprenticeship alongside studying for a qualification is what was best suited for me.

How did you search for vacancies?

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS



A lot of it was simply searching 'apprenticeship' online and clicking on the company websites which came up. UCAS careers finder was also how I found some vacancies.

What was the application process like, including interviews?

The majority of the apprenticeships I applied for did not actually require a CV, choosing to opt for online assessments instead. These online assessments give you workplace scenarios and some of the most frequent tasks was ranking what you would be likely to do in a certain situation. Some of them also had numerical and personality games to complete as well. If you pass the assessment, then there is usually another intermediary stage before the final interview. In my case, I had to complete a digital interview, which consisted of me having to record myself answering given questions, as well as a written case study. If this is successful, then it is onto the final stage: the interview/experience day. Some placements are offering in-person experience days at the moment, but a lot of them will be online. My experience day was online and was split into two parts: a group exercise and the final interview. Many of the companies offering apprenticeships will have careers pages, offering advice and guidance on how to do well in your application process and interview(s).

What qualification will you achieve?

I will be studying for a Level 7 ACA qualification, which is equivalent to a master's degree.
any tips for those who are considering similar routes

Any tips for those considering similar routes?

My main tip is to not let rejection get you down. Whilst I secured a placement at one company, I must've gotten rejected from about 7 others, quite a few of which I was rejected after the first stage! Do your research and use the resources that are available to you. Explanations of the application processes for a company are often listed on their website, along with tips and tricks to help you along the way. Make sure to also look at a company's values and look at their place and purpose in the industry, if you can put these into your interview questions then it should be sure to impress!

It also helps you know whether a company will be the right fit for you or not. And for the final interview/experience day, as cliché as it seems, try your best to be yourself. Most if not all of the candidates applying for your role will be nervous, but if you relax and let your personality shine through, it'll definitely help make you stand out. Many of the companies tend to do more conversational interviews regardless, so this gives you the opportunity to show who you are.

'Where to start when thinking about careers', CIPD Enterprise Advisor, Anne Ranahan

I went to LightHall School in Shirley and I can remember the build-up to results days which felt like a challenging time. Students are faced with difficult and scary decisions about their next steps. Many students need guidance with their thinking and sometimes have to change their plans.

There is a lot to consider when making a career decision and lots for you to research. I would suggest you start early so you have time to explore what really interests you.

Where do you want to get to? What is important to you? Where can you find out about your options? Do you want to study full time; work full time or a combination of both?



There are a range of further learning options available to you from apprenticeships to A Levels and also the new T Level qualifications. Do you need to find out more about each of these different pathways?

Parents/carers can help you in your decision-making process but remember their experience of work/learning may differ from your experience. Listen to their opinion alongside investigating what a job type looks like today. Find out about the job roles that are in demand and likely to be needed in the future.

I am aware you will have individual time with your Careers Co-ordinator, Esta Leawal. Go prepared for this interview and make the most use of this time for you. You also have the ABK Careers web pages on your website, are you aware of the resources that are available to you?

As someone who has recruited many students to a range of different occupational areas, I would recommend it is effective to research a number of different career pathways and find out what you need to gain in terms of qualifications and skills to perform the roles that interest you. What do you need to put in place to have a good chance of securing a place at a chosen college/university? What skills and qualifications do you need to be successful in securing a job interview for a chosen role?

Always research jobs that you know you will enjoy. Research may mean completing voluntary work/part time work or observing someone doing the job. Collect useful experiences while you are at school that will make you stand out from the crowd. The job market is competitive. Your CV/application form will be strengthened by positions of responsibility e.g. Team Captain, completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award...


Rather than feeling scared about your career choices, enjoy your careers preparation. Have a plan, do a little often, record what you have done and found out and feel in control of your journey.

Be realistic about what is possible but never underestimate what you can achieve. Always remember as you gain more experiences, your journey may change and you may gain more success and strength on making those difficult decisions. Good luck!





Applying to University –UCAS and Unifrog, Mrs Howard

As Head of Year 13, it is my job to support students with the process of applying to university. Towards the end of Year 12 all students will be introduced to the online tool [Unifrog](#), and given an induction into how this can support and focus them in their decision-making journey. Students are also taken through the entire UCAS application process and provided with support in compiling their Personal Statements. In the Autumn Term of Year 13, all students will have a specified 15-minute appointment with me where we ceremoniously submit their application and then wait for the offers to come rolling in!



Upcoming Careers Opportunities for Students

 Solihull College & University Centre	Wed 16 March 10.30am-1.30pm	Solihull College & University Centre Careers Fair Solihull College & University Centre are holding a Careers Fair on Wed 16 March at their Blossomfield Campus.
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		Students are asked to bring their CV with them.
	Fri 25 March 9.30am-4.00pm	The National Apprenticeship & School Leavers Event and Conference The event is being held at Millennium Point in Birmingham. It is a chance for students to meet with a wide range of employers, training providers and colleges. 9.30am until 4pm (CLICK HERE TO BOOK)
	The Government Economic Service Degree Level Apprenticeship - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Government Economic Services Degree Apprenticeship Programme The Government Economic Service has launched their Economist Degree Apprenticeship programme for 2022. Starting in September 2022, applications are open now for over 60 vacancies nationwide.
	Summer 2022 Nuffield Research Placements information for students STEM	Nuffield Summer Placement Nuffield Research Placements are supervised but independent research projects relating to an area of science, quantitative social science, computing, technology, engineering or maths (or a combination of these). They take place over the summer after Year 12 and involve both online activities and two-weeks on-site research. Placements take place at a variety of locations including offices, museums, research centres, laboratories or fieldwork settings across the UK. The on-site placement activity will not cost the student or their parents/carers anything.
	Resources for parents and guardians (apprenticeships.gov.uk)	Amazing Apprenticeships January Parents Pack January's edition of the Parents' & Carers' Pack is now available, packed full of interesting articles about National Apprenticeship Week 2022, a 10-step apprenticeship plan, T Levels, and an apprentice perspective case study.



	<p>Tuesday 29th March 2022 (10AM-1PM) Crown Plaza Hotel Solihull)</p>	<p>SEND Careers Event Solihull Parent Carer Voice would like to invite you to a SEND Community event, bringing together parent carers and professionals. As part of our continuing work to ensure good mental health and helping parent carers to take time for themselves, all parent carers in attendance will receive a Well-being Pack (worth over £25)</p>
	<p>Thursday 17th March(6PM-7PM) Webinar Registration - Zoom</p> <p>Wednesday 13th April(5PM-6PM) Webinar Registration - Zoom</p> <p>Thursday 19th May(5PM-6PM) Webinar Registration - Zoom</p> <p>Tuesday 21st June(5PM-6PM) Webinar Registration - Zoom</p> <p>Wednesday 13th July(5PM-6PM) Webinar Registration - Zoom</p> <p>Wednesday 17th August (5PM-6PM) Webinar Registration - Zoom</p>	<p>How to stand out- This is an opportunity to get an understanding of what a CV should look like, hints and tips to help you stand out from the crowd.</p> <p>Commercial Awareness- A session to help you understand what commercial awareness is, both on a small and large scale, alongside helping you to begin building this essential life skill for the world of work.</p> <p>Wellbeing- At HSBC we recognise the importance of Wellbeing throughout the year but May holds special focus as the month of celebration for wellbeing. It's incredibly important to recognise that self- care isn't selfish. Join us to explore the importance of wellbeing as you focus on starting your career.</p> <p>Transition Workshop- A session to help young people to identify and develop the skills needed to transition from education to employment.</p> <p>Graduation Apprentice stories- Be inspired by the success of HSBC Apprentices and why they chose this alternative route to college/university.</p> <p>Resilience and Growth Mind Set- As exam results are announced and their futures are being finalised, a</p>



		<p>session to help prepare for the changes and challenges young people</p>
	<p>Google Apprenticeships Parents' Insight Webinar Tickets, Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM Eventbrite</p> <p>Studying for a Career in Healthcare with the University of South Wales Tickets, Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 6:30 PM Eventbrite</p> <p>Making a Successful Application to Study Health Courses Tickets, Wed, Mar 30, 2022 at 6:30 PM Eventbrite</p>	<p>Find out all about apprenticeship opportunities at Google, including Software Engineering, Digital Marketing, and Information Communication Technician.</p> <p>Interested in studying a healthcare course at university? - Join the University of South Wales for a two-part webinar that will give you the lowdown on all things healthcare careers, and give you tips on how to ace your application.</p> <p>Part two: Making a successful application to study health courses Join us on 30th March, where experts from the University of South Wales will provide you with essential hints and tips on writing an outstanding personal statement, how to avoid common application pitfalls, and how to perform well at interview</p>
	<p>Tuesday 8th March (10AM-4PM)</p> <p>EDU The VFX, Games and Animation Festival 2022 (thefxfestival.com)</p>	<p>Celebrating a decade of VFX Festivals</p> <p>What is the VFX Festival? This event aims to inspire school and college students by introducing them to the creative industries and all the opportunities they hold.</p> <p>Join us online to introduce your students to one of the fastest growing sectors! Whether they're interested in studying Film, TV, Art, IT or even Data Science, there is a place in this industry that will suit them.</p>
	<p>Monday 25th July- Friday 29th July</p> <p>Virtual Insight Week, National, 2022 - PwC</p>	<p>PwC have recently launched the applications for our Virtual Insight Week happening in the Summer! This 5 day programme provides Year 12 students the opportunities to gain lots of valuable skills and explore career options with PwC by giving a glimpse into our different business areas, and</p>



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		the range of routes into PwC such as degree apprenticeships or school & college leaver roles.
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