



WEST COVENTRY ACADEMY 6th Form CAREERS NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2021

Welcome to our Careers Bulletin, where I hope to share some exciting careers information for students Yrs 12 & 13 to experience even from the comfort of their own home. Some events may be year specific so please bear this in mind. I have tried to incorporate as much as I can without overloading, so please scan through & pick out possibilities and take the appropriate action, which is **Right for You!**

Please may I also remind you to access the Careers Tab on the school's website

(http://www.westcoventryacademy.org/life_at_school/careers.aspx) as there is information for Students & Parents with useful links to Careers:-

Also to coincide with **National Careers Week and British Science Week 2021** early March, again there should be a lot of events, so please read on & students have already been emailed of various events but some more are included below.

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 1st -5th March

Coventry & Warwickshire Careers Enterprise Company - CWLEP – are holding their First Virtual Careers Fair – Wed 3rd March 1-7pm <https://cwcareersh.vfairs.com/>

Are you a student aged 11-18? Or a parent of a student? This virtual career show is for you.

It is an opportunity to:

1. ask questions
2. gain insight into different education settings and programmes
3. provide context to those important decisions that young people will make
4. hear from employers about why those choices matter
5. obtain advice and guidance

University of Law: Explore Series 1-4th March – To Book an event - <https://www.law.ac.uk/events/booking/>

University of Law have arranged some events to introduce students to career paths across subject areas (Law, Business, Criminology, Policing and Politics) through a combination of talks, practical tasks and other activities such as a Q&A panel with a professional. Events take place virtually across the week, from 4-5.30pm:

Explore Law- Mon 1 March (Q&A with a solicitor advocate)

Explore Business- Tues 2 March (Q&A with a head of financial and strategic risk)

Explore Policing- Tues 2 March (Q&A with a police officer and police prosecutor)

Explore Politics- Wed 3 March (Q&A with a parliamentary assistant)

Explore Criminology- Thurs 4 March (Q&A with a criminologist)

UCAS are offering something to all students in National Careers Week (1st -5th March), 14:00 – 15:00 everyday next week to Careers Hour. - <https://www.ucas.com/ncw2021>

Each session is designed to inspire, guide and answer some of your students' questions about what their next step is once they finish school or college.

Monday: Student stories: Uni or apprenticeship?

Tuesday: CV writing workshop with Reed

Wednesday: Jack Parsons: Becoming an award-winning CEO in his 20s

Thursday: How to secure a school-leaver opportunity with Fledglink

Friday: How to ace interviews



STEM CAREERS

Wednesday 3rd March 10.30 – 11.30am - 'Pathways into STEM' career chats activity, where young people will meet an exciting panel of STEM employers and will be able to hear their pathway into their role and also have the opportunity for Q&A.

<https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/pathways-into-stem-live-career-chats/> or any problems or questions email - lara.bracey@educationandemployers.org

The **STEM Ambassador Programme**, - Closing Date **1st March** to register <https://www.stem.org.uk/> in partnership with Brightside charity, is launching a national online mentoring scheme to support young people who are interested in STEM.

Available from end of **February to May 2021**, the scheme pairs each young person with a STEM Ambassador volunteer who is ready to support them with exploring STEM career options, helping them to feel more confident about their future. The mentoring will take place flexibly, through a moderated messaging system and all STEM Ambassadors are DBS or PVG checked as standard.

Young people will receive:

- 1:1 support and inspiration from a STEM Ambassador
- Support and resources to help them make informed decisions
- Training on how to use Brightside's secure and moderated messaging system

Young people can [register for the mentoring programme here](#), the deadline to register your interest is Monday 1 March.

There's more [information on our website](#). If you have any questions, email stem-ambassadors@stem.org.uk

WHAT CAREER/UNIVERSITY LIVE – Fri/Sat 19/20th March 2021 - <https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/> to register & attend. **This could help Yr 12 students in their decision making on University or Apprenticeship.**

Using a highly engaging virtual event platform, students have the opportunity to chat to representatives from leading universities and employers, and get one-to-one careers advice from independent experts. They'll also have access to a programme of live and on-demand talks, covering everything from the UCAS application process, to kick-starting your career with an apprenticeship.

SPOTLIGHT TALKS

Wed 24th & Thurs 25th March 9. -12.00 World Skills are holding a series of Talks including work within the sciences, British Esports & Vocational Career pathways & work as a Neonatal Nurse in the NHS.

Also from their November Talks there are many still to view that you can access, so use the link & explore/do some research.

https://www.worldskillsuk.org/careers-advice/spotlight-talks-inspiring-careers-excellence/?dm_i=5BD4,BP3C,3C2MWF,1C49C,1



HIGHER EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY

Wed 17th March 12-6pm - UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair

This will feature over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers, including Russell Group, Red Brick, Modern & Specialist universities, alongside higher & degree apprenticeship providers.

[You can view all of the exhibitors who have already signed up here.](#)

It will also be hosting 10 webinars on topics such as Writing a Personal Statement, Choosing a Course, and how Degree Apprenticeships differ to Traditional Degrees.

Aston University are offering a number of events in the next week – please look at the Progression Pathways as this may help in Entry offers for some degrees (there are some Eligibility Criteria but its worth applying):-

Mathematics Virtual Taster Session - Thursday 25th February, 4:30-6pm

Where could a Maths Degree take you? Attend this session to discover some of the surprising directions a Maths degree could take you in. Students will receive talks from alumni, current students and Aston University academics who will showcase how rewarding a maths degree can be. On top of that students will get an insight from real employers at DHL, Lloyds Bank and AON who have all chosen Maths as their degree subject. [Book your place here.](#)

Last chance to apply for the Aston Progression Pathways Programme - closes Monday 8th March

Applications are open for the Aston Progression Pathways (APP) programme for eligible Y12 students. This will empower students to achieve their goal of studying STEM, Business or Law courses at Aston University. Students will benefit from a summer school, e-mentoring, UCAS and personal statement support, study skills support and a contextual offer. Applications close 8th March. For eligibility, [find out more about APP.](#)

Hear from 8 different universities on student finance and budgeting - Thursday 11th March, 6-7pm

This session will help students find more about how student finance works, including the UK loan system, applying and repayments. You'll also find out about extra funding and how to budget at university, by hearing from higher education professionals themselves from eight different universities. The session will begin with a short 5-10 minute presentation followed by a Q&A for the remaining time. [Book your place here.](#)

Chat with a graduate as part of national careers week - Thursday 4th March, 4:30-5:30pm

This Employer Engagement event will give students an opportunity to develop their understanding of what their future career could look like as well get the opportunity to hear how former Aston graduates were able to earn their current positions. Our careers team will also be delivering a small talk to highlight what key skills you need and how they can help you develop them. We will finish with a panel style Q&A, to give everyone the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. [Book your place here.](#)

Warwick Yr 12 Sutton Trust Summer Schools –Closing Date 2nd March

<https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>



There are Entry Criteria but it's worth applying and can help in progression to Warwick University. It's highly likely the summer school will move online, with a visit to campus in the Autumn term if it's safe to do so.

There are on offer six fantastic subject streams available this year, many of them are collaborations across departments and faculties at Warwick as follows:

- [Biology of Health \(Life Sciences, Warwick Medical School, Warwick Manufacturing Group\)](#)
- [Law](#)
- [Education, Psychology & Global Sustainable Development \(GSD\)](#)
- [Engineering & Computer Science](#)
- [Classics & Ancient History, Film & TV Studies, History of Art](#)
- [The Colonial Hangover Project \(Politics & International Studies, Modern Languages & Liberal Arts\)](#)

Applications are currently open and close at midday on **Tuesday 2nd March 2021**. If you have eligible students and would like them to apply please send them the link to the Sutton Trust website which has more information on all the Sutton Trust Summer Schools available to them <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>

Pathways to Property Summer School for Year 12 students – 19-22nd July 2021

The **Summer School** is a fully funded, 4 day residential programme at the University of Reading for Year 12 students. During the week, students will attend taster lectures, go on site visits, take part in a group project and debate, learn to network with key employers in the industry and experience life on a University campus. All individuals will be provided free accommodation and food and their travel expenses will be covered. At the end of the week, if they are keen to learn more about property they can complete a funded **work experience placement** over October half term, have access to our **e-mentoring** programme, and if they choose to apply to study a property related degree, can apply for a **bursary up to £30,000** over three years. **APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUMMER SCHOOL ARE NOW OPEN!** (Until 15 May 2021) The 2021 Summer School will take place from 19-22 July at Henley Business School, University of Reading. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent this event from taking place in person, a virtual Summer School will still take place. [Apply here](#)

Pathways to Property Career Webinar – Thurs 4th March 4-4.45pm

We encourage students, teachers and parents wanting to know more about property and the Pathways to Property programme to join our upcoming Property Webinar where you will get the chance to gain a better understanding of the property industry and the potential career paths it has to offer. Hear from an industry professional about their experience working in property, learn about how the Pathways to Property programme can support you into the industry, and join an interactive Q&A session to ask property-related questions that may help guide future career choices. [Sign up here](#)

If you have any questions about any of these opportunities please don't hesitate to ask. For full details of Pathways to Property please visit our website [here](#)

PwC's Insight Week – Monday 26 July - Friday 30 July 2021 - <https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student-careers/school-careers/our-programmes/insight-weeks.html>

If you're in Year 12 and keen to understand how you can progress your career in the world of **business, accounting or technology** at PwC, the Virtual Insight Week offers a fantastic opportunity to do just this. During this action packed week, you can choose from a range of sessions covering Accounting, Business, Technology and your career development. You'll also have the chance to connect with our people and hear their stories.

This could be great way into one of the Large Accountancy Firms - Learn more and apply [here](#).



APPRENTICESHIPS

Well, we have just had National Apprenticeship Week on 8th – Friday 12th February, where there was a lot of activities for all years. I know this did coincide with Assessment week but most events were early evening and many are also recorded so you can still gain invaluable information.

I have now been seeing a number of really exciting apprenticeships, some which are very local and for Aug/Sept Start:-

- **Severn Trent -Closing Date 21st March** - <https://www.severntrent.com/careers/apprentices/why-choose-us/> There are a number of Apprenticeships on offer either Degree or Advanced in areas such as HR, Marketing, Project Management, Assistant Accountancy, Water Processing, Farming Liaising. This is a local, supportive Employer who are keen to develop young people's talents.
- **Cooper Parry are offering school leaver apprenticeships in Audit** for Sept 2021 – <https://cooperparry.com/careers-our-roles/careers-early-roles/> so all those interested in Numerate subjects, please research & don't delay in applying. 2 years ago one of our 6th form students started work there and felt supported from Day One. They have offices in Solihull (& Derby)

They are looking for students in Year 13 completing their A levels/BTECs; it doesn't say any specific subjects from what I can see but look at the type of person they are looking for:-

You like variety and being out and about in different places

You want to be client facing

You are precise with an eye for detail

You like working in teams contributing to the wider picture

You're naturally inquisitive and curious

You drive your own development seeking feedback and improvement

<https://cooperparry.com/careers-our-roles/careers-early-roles/>

- **EY Degree Apprenticeships – Birmingham - Business leadership & Management and Digital Technology** https://www.ey.com/en_uk/careers/students/programmes/schools/digital-tech
- **Aldi – Store Management Apprenticeships** - <https://www.aldirecruitment.co.uk/job-search?tag=store-management-apprentice&lat=52.406822&lng=-1.519693>
Entry Requirements – GCSEs Grade 4s+ including English Language & Maths
- **Virgin Media – Birmingham – Commercial Associate Apprenticeship Level 3** - <https://careers.virginmedia.com/future-careers/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-schemes/commercial-associate/>
- **Capgemini Application Workshop** - West Midlands - **Tuesday 16th March, 4pm - 5:30pm**
 1. Insight to the £20billion Technology & Consulting firm Capgemini
 2. If you are interested in Technology and considering a Degree Apprenticeship then this is for you!
 3. How to apply / pass Capgemini's selection process (FAST TRACKS for all students on the webinar)
 4. **Open to all Y13 female students**
 5. Get your questions answered by the recruitment team
 6. Parents are encouraged to join!
 7. FREE event (limited places, first come first serve)
 8. Application Link: <https://www.research.net/r/Capgemini-16-March>

There are limited places (20 spaces) so if interested please book on ASAP to secure your place. **All students on the webinar will be given a fast track link to Capgemini's Technology Degree Apprenticeship Program** giving you the ultimate head start to your tech career!



- **MTC Academy Open Evening for Engineering – this Thursday 25th February 6.30pm**
Register & apply on <https://the-amtc.co.uk/apprenticeships/for-apprentices/open-events/>
They are offering some excellent engineering apprenticeships – some in the local area. Requirement 5 x GCSEs Grade 4s+ with an aptitude for Maths/Physics
Some Advanced Apprenticeships requiring GCSEs Grade 4/5s+ but offering excellent Progression, located on the Govt apprenticeship Website (see below) so please search & apply:-
- **Kautex Unipart Technology** Apprenticeship £12k PA via MGTS **Engineering** Training Provider
- **Fireangel Ltd – Product Design & Development Apprenticeship** £10k PA via MTC Academy
- **Amazon Services Ltd – Mechatronics Apprenticeship** via MTC Academy
- **DHL Services - Assistant Accountancy** - £18k Training via BPP Professional
- **Busybees Nursery – Allesley Green – Catering and Childcare** for September Start

Please don't forget the general Government Apprenticeship website to look & apply -

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

Also look at Employer's own websites as to what is on offer. The above is not an exhaustive list and young people need to do their own research or send speculative CVs to Employers.

There are local colleges (see above for Colleges' websites) and Training Providers who have links with Employers and support students in their Apprenticeships so students can apply/register an interest direct to them.

MGTS – Midland Group Training Services (Engineering) - <https://www.mgts.co.uk/>

MTC Academy (Engineering) - <https://the-amtc.co.uk/apprenticeships/>

Coventry & Warwickshire Training – (Various Vocational areas – HD, Business Admin, Accounting, Childcare, IT etc) <https://www.cw-chambertraining.co.uk/>

Heart of England Training – HOET – (Various including Hair & Beauty, School, Business Admin) - <https://www.hoet.co.uk/>

SCCU – (School, Childcare, IT, Business, Sports apprenticeships) - <https://sccu.uk.com/training-programmes/stn-apprenticeships/>



VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Students are normally expected to undertake some Volunteering/Enrichment/relevant Work Experience whilst at 6th form, however this has been difficult this year. However there have been and continue to be some excellent virtual Work Experience placements being offered where students can register to attend. It may be during a half term holiday or on a Saturday or working a few extra hours, so please read up on any offers. These are normally offered via a platform such as Teams or Zoom and encourages students to develop Independence, Teamwork, Resilience plus demonstrates to prospective Employers that they took up opportunities and gained Confidence along the way.

Speakers4Schools <https://www.s4snextgen.org/> These offer a variety of Virtual Work Experience opportunities throughout the year so I would recommend signing up to see what there is on offer for your son/daughter to take part in. Many are within Construction/Engineering but there are many others on offer so please encourage your son/daughter to register to look through and apply for anything of interest- encourage them to widen their search & be open to experience.

Springpod <https://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes/> Another platform to take part in some Virtual Work experience (some on offer include Journalism, Law, Finance, Marketing, Teaching, employability Skills plus an Insight day offered by BT; students can also view professionals talk about their own Career Journeys via the 'Learn Lounge'.

JED/HIGHER IDEAS

These are websites which WCA students can access via www.careersoft.co.uk using the school's Access Code – **2e2j9smm**. This is especially helpful for students with no or few careers ideas. There's an initial quiz to help them to start thinking but then students can explore further, looking at what subjects are useful to take, what degree would be useful etc the Higher Ideas link is especially useful for students considering Higher Education and can look geographically what degrees are offered where, looking at 1 subject or a combined subject degree.

Students are most welcome to seek Information & Advice from myself and normally I do see students from both Yrs 12 & 13. They can refer themselves or tutors/teachers can request on their behalf.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me and please do remember to use the careers link on the website (Life at school – Careers) for further information and upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Day

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West Coventry Academy

enjoy · achieve · aspire

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