



Careers Newsletter

2024

December



feedback@mket.org.uk



www.waltonhigh.org.uk

NEWS FROM CAREERS TEAM

Careers guidance is crucial in helping students emerge from school ready to either continue their studies or ready for the world of work. We provide information, advice and opportunities to allow students to be well informed when making subject and career decisions.

Careers Team – December 2024 – Term 1

It's been a busy couple of months for the Careers Team. We started the academic year with a focus on seeing our year 11 and year 13 cohort for one to one Career meetings, this will continue into the New Year. We supported our open events and included some fun activities to engage the year 6 students in attendance. We hosted two Careers Fairs, ran a number of STEM related visits, supported year 13 students applying for Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry, saw a huge increase in the engagement of our year 13 apprenticeship workshops and launched work experience for 2025. Please read on to find out more.

Students from any year group can request a Careers appointment via Firefly, or by attending the Careers Office during break/lunchtime.

Our location:

Brooklands Campus – We are in the office opposite the ILA

Walnut Tree – We are based in the Library



Year 12 Employability Day - NHBC

In October 15 year 12 students attended NHBC headquarters in Knowlhill to take part in an employability day. After a Career WorkOut carousel of 1-to-1 conversations with staff from all areas of the company, students completed a range of individual and small group challenges to culminating in mock interviews.

In post workshop evaluation, all students agreed they had “enjoyed the session” (87% strongly agreed), “learned a lot” (67% strongly agreed) and “understand what skills employers want” (60% strongly agreed)

“I enjoyed everything,” said student Methujan, “especially being interviewed. Now I’ll think more about my body language in interviews and update my CV.”

Another student, Bethel, said: “I enjoyed the shortlisting process, especially collaborating with a team, and will now think more about how I present myself.”

At the end of the day, all students wrote actions they’ll take to develop their employability, including re-writing their CVs, speaking more clearly and socialising more with people they don’t know.

Gemma Moore, NHBC’s Talent Acquisition Partner, said: “The day was an absolute delight, filled with an enthusiastic group of students who were fully engaged and eager to participate. It was clear they genuinely wanted to be there, ready to learn and open to all the advice shared with them. Tom from Worktree brought great energy, making the day fun and engaging for everyone (myself included!). The thoughtful design of the activities and his warm approach made everyone feel welcomed and encouraged to take part. A big thank you to all the Walton High students, teachers & Tom who made the day so enjoyable. We hope to see you all again soon!”

Donna Montague, the school’s Head of Education 2 Employment, said: “To see our students grow throughout the day has been incredible. They have been put outside their comfort zone and taken on the challenge in a positive way. It was an excellent day which will continue to have an impact on our students going forward. We would be keen to engage with more Employability Den sessions if the opportunity arises. Thank you to NHBC and the Worktree team for supporting Walton High.”



Girls in STEM – This half term we have tried to engage more girls in STEM related activities. Did you know only 28% of females work within STEM related roles. Specifically, Computer Science, Engineering and Technology fields which show the largest gender imbalances from current students, to graduates and the workforce figures.



Only 31% of those studying core STEM subjects in Higher Education in the UK are women.

MK Innovates:

Some Year 8 Brooklands students attended MK Innovates at Unity Place for a STEM festival aimed at girls. During the event students were able to hear from the local MP Emily Darlington, engage with hands on activities and speak to employers about future opportunities.



SMC STEM event:

In November a group of Year 8 girls from the Walnut Tree campus had the opportunity to take part in an event ran my SMC at MK College. The event consisted of a presentation from SMC and the opportunities to engage with a number of Engineering tasks and interactive activities.



STEM Club visits Niftylift and takes part in the RC Nifty Challenge.



Our STEM club visited Niftylift and are now taking part in the RC Nifty Challenge. The team of students is in a competition against other schools in the UK in Years 8 and 9. The teams will build and code a Niftylift inspired remote controlled scale model to compete at the RC Challenge Day in the spring.

Good luck to the students involved.

Parker Engineering Virtual Event:



In November Parker Engineering ran a virtual information session focusing on women in STEM. Students from both campuses in Year 9 were able to attend. This virtual session allowed students to hear from current engineers and ask questions about career paths. Parker also attended both of our Careers Fairs to engage with students further.



Exploring Careers linked to STEM:

To read more about the progress and challenges of getting more women into STEM click [here](#)

To explore Careers linked to STEM click [here](#)

Year 13 MMI support:

For those applying for Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry the Careers Team ran three **Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)** workshops. Students were provided with an informative session about the competitive process and how to stand out at interview. They were then supported to create strong answers to some common interview questions before completing a large number of MMI stations. We wish all those who have interviews the best of luck!

How competitive are places:

7500 medical places available across the UK
1,100 Dentistry places available across the UK
1,200 Veterinary places available across the UK



In 2023 there were 24,150 applications for medicine for 7500 places. 2400 applications for Veterinary Science across the UK with 1,200 places. 9000 applicants for Dentistry with 1,100 places. These numbers while large are however down on previous years.

Success rates:

Medicine: 1:8
Dentistry: 1:15
Veterinary Science: 1:6

Dentistry – Manchester

858 applicants in 2023
70 places available

Veterinary – Royal School of Veterinary College

1,094 applications in 2023
160 places available

Medicine Cardiff:

4600 applications in 2023
1100 offered interviews
520 received an offer



Year 13 Apprenticeship Workshops:

Our annual Apprenticeship workshops returned with a growing number of students engaging. A huge increase of over 250% from last year!

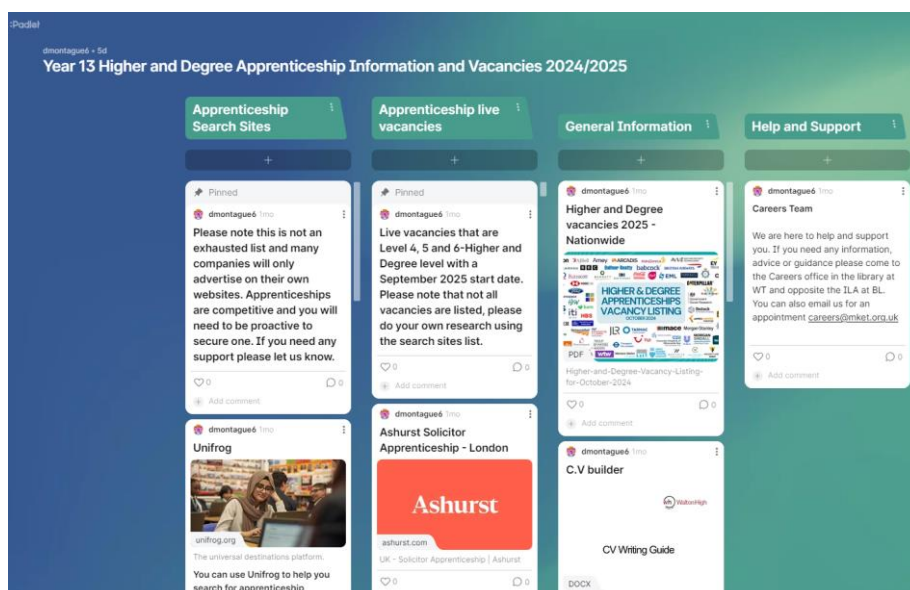
Workshops 1 – The first session involved general information around Apprenticeships including where to find Apprenticeships, an explanation of the different levels and the introduction to the schools Apprenticeship padlet which holds vital information and some vacancies.

Workshop 2 – A mock assessment centre ran by FCDO Services saw students put through a group challenge. This allowed students to understand what an assessment centre might be like if they got to this stage of the recruitment process. The employer gave feedback to students at the end of the session and was able to answer questions about the recruitment process.

Workshop 3 – An Interview preparation session ran by Dale Willis from MyGreatFristJob. This engaging workshop talked through the interview process and challenged some misconceptions.



Year 13 Apprenticeship Padlet: [Year 13 Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Information and Vacancies 2024/2025](#)



Work Experience Launch

In November and December, we launched Work Experience for our Year 10 and Year 12 students at both campuses.

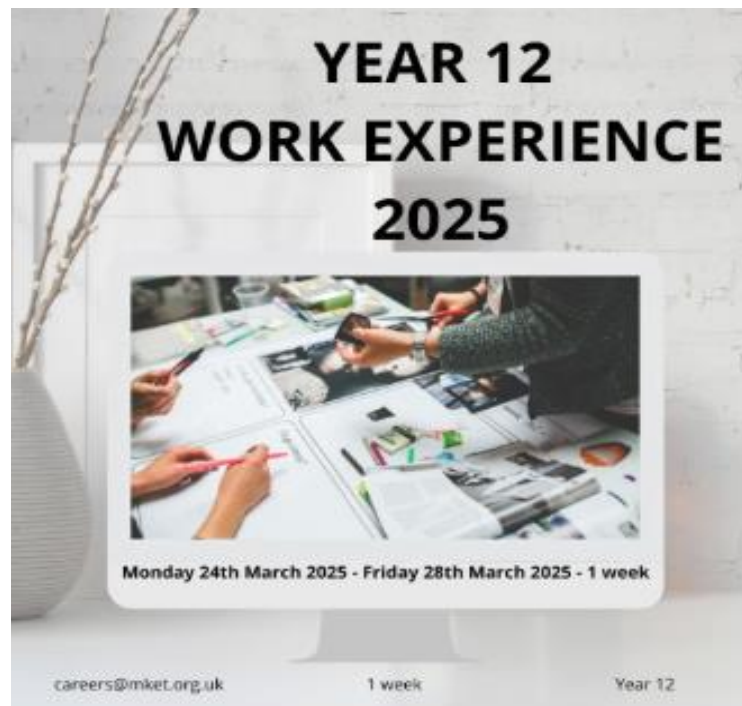
Year 10 Work Experience dates: BL w/c 9th June and WT w/c 23rd June

Parent information can be found on Firefly [here](#)



Year 12 Work Experience dates: Monday 24th March – Friday 28th March (1 week)

Parent information can be found on Firefly [here](#).



If you require any support with finding a work experience placement please let us know careers@mket.org.uk

Brooklands Careers Fair 2024

43 Employers and Providers attended the annual Careers Fair at our Brooklands campus. This included local colleges, a number of Universities and employers offering apprenticeships. Students from Year 8, Year 10, Year 11 and Post 16 attended across the morning.



A huge thank to our employers and providers that continue to support the school. Employers included Parker Engineering, The Parks Trust, Bedford Estates including Woburn Safari Park, Mears, Army, Mercedes Benz Finance, EMW Law, John Lewis, Varsity Nine, MK College, Grant Thornton, Niftylift, Kiddicar, MK Hoteliers, Aden and Arts1 to name a few!

Walnut Tree Careers Fair 2024

47 Employers and Providers attended the annual Careers Fair at our Walnut Tree campus. This included local colleges, a number of Universities and employers offering apprenticeships. Students from Year 8, Year 10, Year 11 and Post 16 attended across the morning.



A huge thank to our employers and providers that continue to support the school. Employers included Parker Engineering, Bellway, MK Dons SET, NHS, Mercedes Benz Finance, EMW Law, John Lewis, Varsity Nine, MK College, Grant Thornton, Niftylift, Ducklings Pre-School, MK Hoteliers, MK:U, Tommy Flowers and WiseStart accountancy to name a few!



All students in Years 9 to 13 have free access to Unifrog.

Yr7 and Yr8 students will be added after the half term break.

What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a universal destinations platform, a one stop shop for whole school careers guidance.

Our mission is to level the playing field when it comes to students searching for the best opportunities and applying successfully by working closely with our community of students from over 3,000 partner schools and colleges.

Our impartial, user-friendly platform allows students to explore pathways throughout school/college, evidence key activities and competencies, and draft and collate feedback on Personal Statements and CVs to submit the strongest possible applications.

Parents can sign in to Unifrog [here](#) to create a dummy account to explore this excellent resource.

Parent access code – **HIWHparents**

For further information about Unifrog click on the image below or [here](#) to watch a short video about the platform.



SKILLS EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR

Qualifications are not enough, employers are also looking for the following skills and qualities in their employees.

01.

Communication Skills:

Communication skills allow you to understand and be understood by others. These can include but are not limited to communicating ideas to others clearly, a friendly and confident demeanor, respecting other points of view and speaking in a public setting. Developing your communication skills can do much to help you advance in the workplace.



02.

Problem solving:

Problem-solving skills are skills that enable people to handle unexpected situations or difficult challenges at work. Organisations need people who can accurately assess problems and come up with effective solutions.



03.

Teamwork:

You need teamwork skills to be successful at work, regardless of your job title or industry. Working well with colleagues, management and clients will make your work environment enjoyable and help you complete tasks quickly and efficiently. Employers value employees who are team players that can help the organisation reach its goals.



04.

Organisational Skills:

Organisational skills are some of the most important skills you can have as an employee. Being organised allows you to meet deadlines, minimise stress and carry out your duties more efficiently.



05.

Resilience:

Challenges commonly arise in the workplace. Handling and thriving amid those challenges requires that you have resilience. Resilience is a skill that can benefit you at all stages of your career development.



06.

Initiative:

Initiative skills in the workplace are your abilities to assess a situation and take action, without requiring direction or permission from someone else. Initiative is a useful skill to develop as it can help you to appear confident, assured and decisive with your decision-making. It can also highlight problem-solving ability and leadership tendencies within a team.



07.

Reliability:

Being reliable in the workplace means that you are trustworthy, consistent in performance or behavior, and can be counted on to follow through on work tasks in a timely manner.



08.

Strong work ethic:

Good work ethic means consistently committing to doing your best on the job. It reflects dedication, responsibility and a positive attitude toward your tasks. Demonstrating a strong work ethic not only helps you perform better but also strengthens relationships with colleagues and enhances the company's image.



Staff training:

Mrs Montague and Mr Tan delivered staff training around Careers in December. This included an update on the Gatsby Benchmarks, how teachers can support the delivery of Careers, Labour Market Information and an activity to gather ideas from staff around the need of students.

Following this session some additional resources are being created and workshops will be run in the summer term.



Parent feedback welcome. If you have engaged with the Careers Team and would like to provide some positive or developmental feedback please email feedback@mket.org.uk

We welcome input from parents and hope to offer a supportive service to our students across both campuses.

Firefly has been updated with Careers information for Students, Parents and Teachers. You can find out more via the links below.

Students – Firefly click [here](#)

Parents – Firefly click [here](#)

Teacher – Firefly click [here](#)

We wish you all a restful and fun filled break!

