



Spring Term  
2023

# Careers NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our St Peter's Careers Newsletter!

Welcome again to the careers newsletter, updating you on our activities this term and giving you a peek of what is to come next term.

The spring term is historically a term of planning for large events taking place in the summer term, but we have had a number of events take place this term together with individual career guidance for all Year 12 students so there has still been a lot going on.

We also have an update on the Quality in Careers standard which commenced last term and which we are working towards, with input from teachers, students and parents.

Finally, we would like to wish our Year 11 and 13 students the very best of luck with their forthcoming exams and hope you all have a very happy Easter.

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## CAREERS PROGRAMME - YEAR 7 NEWS

In March, Year 7 had the opportunity to attend a very engaging STEM show presented by BAE in conjunction with the Royal Navy and the RAF. The theme of the performance was 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space' and looked at ways in which engineering is creating innovative ways to reach these far-off locations. It was a highly interactive session with students taking part in several experiments. The show finished off with a huge sun filling the stage to help students understand the vastness of space compared with planet Earth.



### Your Career, Your Future

Our regular tutor time careers programme, 'Your Career, Your Future' has continued this term and has included a number of assemblies from employers and colleges.

**Year 7** have looked at stereotypes in the workplace and how to challenge these and have also explored labour market information using START.

**Year 8** looked at job adverts and the skills, qualities and qualifications that employers look for. A key theme emerged about the importance of GCSEs, particularly maths and English. They also had a session on START, exploring careers based on their own skills and qualities.

**Year 9** spent the first part of the term looking at option choices with two assemblies by Mrs Calvert and Miss Noonan and then looked at routes after GCSEs including sixth form, colleges and apprenticeships. They ended the term with a session on equality and diversity in the workplace and finding out more about protected characteristics.

**Year 10** have had three assemblies this term on a range of topics. First was a session with Foxtons Estate Agency looking at renting a property and learning more about the process involved. They also heard from Guildford and Merrist Wood Colleges, finding out about the vocational courses offered and what it is like to study there. Finally they enjoyed a joint session with Year 11 hearing from a successful animator about careers in the creative digital industries.

**Year 11** have been introduced to the UCAS process and the various steps in the process of applying to university. They have also had a time to reflect on their last 5 years at school, discussing a range of careers and employability topics.

## CAREERS PROGRAMME - SIXTH FORM NEWS

All students in Year 12 have taken part in one to one careers guidance sessions, looking at their next steps and identifying action to be taken over the next few months leading up to UCAS and apprenticeship applications. Their focus is now on researching courses and universities so that they are ready to proceed with their personal statements in the summer.

Year 13 students have started the process of signing up to our alumni website so that we are able to keep in touch with them over the coming years and invite them back to school for future events.

## SIXTH FORM - STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY AWARD

The Student Employability Award commenced in September 2021 and the first cohort to complete the full two year programme received their certificates at their Awards Assembly at the end of March.

The last two years have seen students develop skills in a number of areas including reflection, making presentations, work experience and networking with external business people.

Such skills form the foundation of university employability awards and we hope that our students applying to university will continue to engage with these as they can significantly improve the chances of gaining a graduate position.

A huge congratulations goes to all the students who put in the time and effort to develop their employability skills, facing their fears by taking part in challenges that had appeared daunting at first, such as presenting and networking, but overcoming nerves and successfully completing them. These experiences have hopefully built their confidence to be able to tackle future challenges when they arise.

A special congratulations goes to Tilly Hurndall for achieving the St Peter's Student Employability Award Student of the Year, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the award over the last two years and developing a superb range of employability skills.



*"In the new world of work, security lies not in employment, but in employability." Dr Helen Teague*

## QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD—UPDATE

We are delighted to have passed the first part of the re-accreditation process, achieving our Commitment Certificate in March. We now move on to producing a portfolio of evidence to show how we organise, deliver and evaluate the careers programme.

Students have taken an active role in this process with focus groups meeting with Mrs Calvert to share their thoughts about careers learning in school. It has been a very useful exercise and a number of suggestions have already been implemented.

Teaching staff have also had the opportunity to give their opinions and a survey was sent to parents in February.

If you would like to take part in the parent survey, please find the link [here](#).



## UPCOMING CAREERS EVENTS



Taking place at **Heathrow Airport on Saturday 22nd April, 9am to 5pm**, Pilot Careers Live is an exciting careers event which brings together leading flight training companies, airlines, universities, training experts and pilots to inform and inspire students interested in a career as a pilot.

Visitors will be able to get answers to key questions such as:

- What are the training costs?
- Pilot salaries. What can you expect?
- What A Level subjects/grades are preferred/required?
- Combine pilot training with a university degree. Find out how.
- Pilot selection. Have you got what it takes?
- What are the career prospects?
- What is it like to fly for an airline?
- Alternative pilot career options

Full information about the event, including costs can be found [here](#).



Students are invited to learn what it's really like to work in the NHS with a virtual 'Insight into Allied Health conference' on Sunday 30th April, 9am - 5pm.

The conference will include first-hand accounts of the daily experiences and responsibilities of different healthcare professionals, from midwives to paramedics.

All guests will be answering questions throughout the conference, giving students the chance to gain a personal insight into their respective fields.

Tickets cost £10 and students can register [here](#):



# OPENDAYS

Our local colleges have a number of open events taking place of the next few weeks. Please see these detailed below.

**Guildford College** - Summer Open Event - 26th April, 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Please click [here](#) for more information.

**Merrist Wood College** - Summer Open Event - 10th May, 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Please click [here](#) for more information.

**Brooklands College** - Open Day - 20th May - 10.00am to 1.00pm

Please click [here](#) for more information.

## ACCELERATED DEGREES AT FARNBOROUGH UNIVERSITY CENTRE



In addition to being an excellent Further Education technical college, Farnborough also has a University Centre, offering a wide range of accelerated two-year degrees accredited by the University of Surrey. For students looking to study for a degree locally there are a number of benefits to choosing this route:

- The University Centre is a small campus with a college style environment.
- Subject departments are small, giving plenty of time for personalised feedback.
- You can apply to University Centre Farnborough directly, effectively giving you a sixth choice, in addition to the five university choices submitted via UCAS.
- Farnborough's degree programmes are 2 years accelerated but you still graduate with a full honours degree accredited by Surrey University.
- You will save a year on tuition fees by doing an accelerated degree.

For more information about two-year accelerated degrees at Farnborough, please click the [here](#).



## COMING UP NEXT TERM

The summer term is packed with careers activities and we are excited to tell you about what students can expect after Easter.

### April

**Year 12** will attend a University Fair to discover more about the options available to them.

### May

### Years 8 to13

McLaren will be visiting us with two supercars to run a number of STEM workshops for students.

### June

**Year 7** will meet award winning author Ally Sherrick.

### July

**Years 8 and 9** will meet Chris Bradford, author of the Bodyguard and Young Samurai series of books.

**Year 10** will take part in Careers Week including Business Day in Guildford. More information will follow after Easter.

**Year 12** will take part in Work Experience week.

# Jobs in high demand

The UK government has a [shortage occupation list](#), which includes many skilled (and varied) roles such as nurses, geoscientists, artists, software developers and architects. This list is updated regularly, reflecting the best careers in the UK if you're job hunting. In great news for students and recent graduates, there are plenty of jobs in demand in the UK. In the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit-related changes, the economy is witnessing skills and worker shortages across the board.

Here are six of the most needed jobs in the UK:

## 1. Programmers and Software Developers

The UK (along with countries all over the world) is currently grappling with the digital skills gap. This means anyone with IT and software development skills is in high demand. With starting salaries at around £26,000, it's certainly a lucrative option. If you're looking for a future-proofed career in tech, working on your software development skills (especially coding) is a smart strategy.

## 2. Cyber Security Specialists

Related to the digital skills shortage, cyber security is another of the most in demand jobs in the UK. Salaries start at around £25,000. It's a vital part of helping private companies and government organisations keep people's information safe.

## 3. Health Services and Residential Care

Health service jobs are in high demand across the board. This is particularly the case for managerial roles, as well as full-time nursing jobs. So if you love making a positive difference in people's lives – this could be a fantastic career for you.

Health service roles (including nursing) average around £30,000, whilst jobs in care start at £21,000. It's certainly not an easy career path, but one that's incredibly rewarding.

## 4. Architects

It may be surprising, but roles related to architecture are among the most wanted jobs in the UK. It's a job that requires a unique mix of skills – maths and engineering, creativity, communication and teamwork. For this reason, training takes (at least) seven years.

Salaries start around £28,000 however, so if you're planning your studies and thinking long term – architecture is a safe bet.

## 5. Graphic Designers

In our increasingly image-led world, graphic designers are more in demand than ever. Whether it's logos, digital banners, websites, packaging or traditional print – the skills of graphic designers are essential. Starting salaries are slightly lower than other jobs on this list (at £18,800) – but this can quickly increase with experience.

## 6. Physical Scientists

The oil, gas and mining industries are currently facing a shortage of appropriately skilled scientists. This makes physical science roles some of the most high demand jobs in the UK – great for STEM students!

Starting wages are also high, at around £29,000. These industries are making great strides towards increased sustainability, with opportunities for lessening their environmental impact.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## JOSEPH MILNER



### **When did you leave St Peter's?**

I left St Peter's in Year 13 2018.

### **What are your favourite memories of school?**

My best memories of St Peter's are the school trips, especially the music tours to Italy and Germany.

### **What do you do now?**

I am currently a Sales and Advertising Executive working for LexisNexis, a data and analytical company for legal and tax firms. I am also involved in Music Production, which includes working on my own projects as well as helping other artists and musicians record and produce their tracks for Spotify and social media.

### **What made you decide to do the degree you chose?**

I chose to study Music at Cardiff University specialising in composition and jazz piano. Music was a subject I enjoyed at school and was good at. I also had some great teachers who inspired me.

### **How relevant was your degree to what you are doing now?**

The training I received during my music degree has given me a strong base from which to develop my professional career. I was able to develop excellent presentation, leadership and creativity skills, which have allowed me to do well in my job. Teamwork, time management and resilience were all embedded in my practical musical activities and performing in front of an audience has given me confidence in online and face to face job interviews and public speaking.

### **How did you get to where you are today?**

I was lucky enough to get some good work experience while at St Peter's and after university. This looked good on my CV. I was determined to get a great job and managed to play to my strengths. At job interviews, I related my past experiences, skills and personal qualities to the job description.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

My plans for the future are to develop new skills, keep learning from others and seize any opportunities that arise.

### **Finally, what would be your advice to students?**

My advice to students is do your very best in school so you have no regrets. Stick with what you want to do in life and more importantly what you really enjoy, and opportunities will come your way.