



In the newsletter this month



**British Science
Week – 7th to 16th
March 2025**



**Changes to
apprenticeships
announced by
Education Secretary**



**UCAS Discovery
events 2024/2025**



**Amazing
Apprenticeships –
Parent and Carer
resources**

News updates

Apprenticeship Week: February 2025



During Apprenticeship Week in February, our team of advisers delivered a wide range of workshops and information sessions across Devon, Hertfordshire, and Oxfordshire. Supporting over 20 schools and colleges, we ran awareness assemblies, attended careers fairs, and led mock assessment centre sessions. Students received CV writing and application support, while parents joined informative talks. These sessions helped boost understanding of apprenticeships, T-Levels and technical pathways, empowering students to make informed career choices. Thank you to everyone who took part! For more information about the ASK Programme see [here](#)

Record number of UK 18-year olds to apply to university this year



By this year's January UCAS deadline, a record 600,660 applicants sought university places, including the highest-ever number of UK 18-year-olds. International applications rose by 2.7% to 118,790. However, application rates among disadvantaged English students declined, while rates in Scotland increased across all areas. High-tariff universities saw more applications, whereas low-tariff institutions experienced a decrease. Read more [here](#)

Changes to apprenticeships announced by Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson



Changes to Apprenticeships announced mid-February, including Apprentices aged over 19 no longer required to have Maths and English and the minimum duration reducing from 12 to 8 months, so people in shortage occupations qualify sooner. Concern too for 16-18s, as a recent study by Co-op suggested school-leavers face a lack of local opportunities, with

barriers including not knowing how and lacking the confidence to apply identified. See the article [here](#).

Engineering degree applications rise, but challenges remain



The latest UCAS data also shows a 14% rise in engineering and technology applications, marking a second consecutive year of strong growth. However, universities face financial challenges in expanding places, meaning many aspiring engineers may miss out. With the UK facing a shortfall of 29,000 engineering graduates annually, experts are calling for government funding to bridge the gap. Alternative routes, like apprenticeships, remain highly competitive. Read more [here](#).

Creative Industries Boom: 124 billion sector drives UK growth



The UK government has identified the creative industries as one of eight key sectors to drive economic growth, contributing £124 billion to the economy in 2023. This sector encompasses areas like IT, software, advertising, and film, collectively accounting for 5.2% of the UK's gross value added. Despite this significant impact, challenges such as skills shortages and funding access persist. The forthcoming industrial strategy aims to address these barriers, fostering further expansion and job creation within the creative industries. Read more [here](#).

Universities Wales calls for urgent action from Welsh Government



This story from Wales online indicates that the number of people from Wales applying to university has fallen this year amid calls for “urgent” action from [Welsh Government](#). Alongside an overall drop in applications, Wales also now has the lowest proportion of 18-year-olds in the UK applying to undergraduate courses. Read the article at: [Calls for 'urgent action' as fewer people from Wales apply for university](#)

DfE Considers Expanding NHS T Level Coordinators Nationwide



The Department for Education is evaluating a national rollout of coordinators to connect T Level students with NHS work placements. This follows a two-year pilot program initiated in 2023. The initiative aims to address the shortage of placement opportunities, especially in health-related fields, by designating coordinators as T Level ambassadors to engage more NHS employers. An early engagement notice has been issued to assess interest in this expansion. Read [here](#)

University of South Wales expected to announce staff and course cuts – Wales Online



Following on from the difficult news that the University of Cardiff plans cuts to staff and courses, comes this article from Wales Online which suggests that the University of South Wales is also expected to cut courses and staff. Perhaps a response to the downward trend in applications, perhaps a worrying call to action for Welsh Government? Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Events

British Science Week – 7th to 16th March 2025



British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that will take place between 7-16 March 2025. With events and activities, a taster pack, activity pack, community hub to celebrate the diverse individuals and diverse range of careers in the STEM sector, there is sure to be something for everyone. Sign up for their newsletters and download the Taster and Activity packs at: [BritishScienceWeek.org](https://www.britishsienceweek.org).

UCAS Discovery events 2024/2025



Save the date for this year's UCAS Discovery events [UCAS Discovery Events](#) in: **Exeter** 11-12 March, Westpoint Centre; **Newport, Wales** 7 – 8 April 2025, ICC Wales; **Bristol** 29 April, UWE Frenchay; **Glos.** Hartpury University 13 June and **Bournemouth** University 30th June 2025. Students can discover more about all of their options under one roof. Find out about traditional degrees, apprenticeships, careers and more by registering to attend the event [here](#).

Royal Holloway, UoL Summer University for year 12s – applications open



Royal Holloway, University of London have opened applications for their Summer University 2025. Aimed at Year 12s and running from 25th-26th June, students can explore a range of activities, attend subject insight sessions, meet current uni students, take part in social activities and stay on campus to get a taster of university life at Royal Holloway. For more details and to apply, see: [Royal Holloway, UoL - Summer University](#).

Swansea University - Year 12 STEMM Summer School, closing date 11th April



Swansea University are inviting applications to their 2025 on-campus STEMM Summer School 6-9th July. Giving students practical and study opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics, this 3-day residential programme costs £175 (including accommodation, activities and meals). With a closing date of 11th April, students can find out more and apply at: [Swansea University STEMM Summer School 2025](#).

Smallpeice Trust – Competition events and Summer of STEM Programme 2025



Applications are now open for the Smallpeice Trust Summer of STEM Programme, including: [Engineering Experience Midlands \(Girls\) 15-17 Apr](#) ; [Engineering Experience OPITO \(Virtual\) 27-30 May](#) ; [Engineering Our Environment 15-17 Jul](#) ; [Biomedical Engineering 29 Jul-1 Aug](#) and [Girls into Engineering 12-14 Aug](#) Book using the links, please note these experiences are costed.

Recommended Websites & Resources

Oxford University Careers Service – Careers with Social impact



Oxford University Careers Service provides information on a range of careers offering the opportunity to make a difference in some way. Includes careers in human rights law, international development, international organisations, the charity sector, psychology, medicine and sustainability. For more information, see: [Careers with Social Impact | Oxford University Careers Service](#).

BBC Bitesize Careers resource 2025



These BBC Bitesize Careers resources include exploration of the motivations around doing certain jobs, a behind the scenes look at real jobs, setting career goals, jobs by school subject, job profiles and top tips for CV writing, applications and interview techniques. Useful for those students considering options in transition years, the site also has some great quizzes, podcasts, videos and a toolkit for National Careers Week (NCW) 2025, see [BBC Bitesize Careers](#).

Luminate: Graduate employability



The luminate platform provides vital insights for on graduate employability and the UK labour market. It features reports on graduate destinations, student career views and sector trends. Collaborating with industry experts, it offers the latest news and research. Sign up for the monthly newsletter or explore key reports via Prospects and Jisc's Resources page to stay updated on career opportunities and workforce developments. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Insight into life as an Army Officer



The Army Officer Recruiting Team have produced a series of webinars to provide insights into the Army Officer Selection process, bursaries, scholarships, training and life beyond Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) click [here](#) to view.

IDP Hotcourses – Discover study abroad courses



IDP Hotcourses Abroad helps students find study abroad opportunities. With over 2,700 institutions and 250,000 courses to explore, students can research, apply, and plan their future. Also offers advice, student reviews, and the latest updates. Click [here](#).

Jobs in Care – Careers Wales



Did you know that Care is a Green Career? The Care sector is growing, with roles in community care and specialised health support. Now featured on 'Future Jobs Wales', discover how Care careers promote sustainability, compassion and rewarding opportunities at: [Jobs in Care | Future Jobs Wales](#).

Discover Cardiff webinars



Discover Cardiff is a series of FREE webinars aimed at year 12 and year 13 students from the University of Cardiff, covering a range of topics related to Higher Education. One such is this timely Youtube video: [‘Discover Cardiff - Making the most of UCAS events’](#).

FutureSmart Careers March 2025 blog - Hospitality, Catering and Tourism industry



Coming soon: With the planned sector growth due to the Heathrow expansion, this month’s FutureSmart Careers blog covers the “Hospitality, Catering and Tourism industry” helping your students to explore careers, build relevant experience, access online resources and reflect on their skills. Read the blog on our website: [FutureSmart Careers](#).

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Cornwall College Group – Apprenticeship Jobs Fair March 2025



Cornwall College Group are holding an Apprenticeship Jobs Fair at their Camborne and St Austell campuses this month - [Camborne](#) Tues 11th Mar 5–7 pm and [St Austell](#) Thurs 20th Mar 5-7pm. With talks (5:15 and 6:00pm) and the opportunity to meet local employers, explore 70 apprenticeship pathways, talk to current apprentices and get CV and interview tips, this promises to be a popular event, so book to avoid disappointment.

Year 12 Explore EY event “Unlock doors to your future” – Reading, 14th March 9am-4pm



Ernst & Young are opening the doors to their in-person Explore EY (Ernst & Young) event for Year 12 students: “Unlock doors to your future”, in Reading on Friday 14th March, 9am – 4pm. Learn about opportunities available to you after finishing school and see what goes on at the EY Reading Office. Sign-up now at: [Explore EY 14th March 2025](#) as places may fill up quickly.

National Trust Apprenticeships



Did you know? It's been 130 years since [National Trust](#) was founded by three people who believed everyone should have access to green spaces and understood their importance for our well-being? To mark this milestone [National Trust](#) is offering 130 NEW apprenticeship opportunities as part of their new strategy. The first round of apprenticeships will be open for applications in May 2025. To find out more, visit [National Trust apprenticeships](#) or register your interest with [Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships – Parent and Carer resources



Amazing Apprenticeships have useful resources for Parents and Carers. Including the popular Parent Perspective podcast series: [Parent Perspective Podcast](#) covering opportunities in the Public Sector, Hospitality or Engineering, as well as post-16 and post-18 options, pay and where might an apprenticeship lead. Also the monthly Choices Magazine Parent & Carers Guide; you can access past copies and subscribe to future editions at: [Choices Magazine - February 2025 Parent & Carers Guide](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

Amazing Apprenticeships – ASK Sharing HTQs webinar Mon 17th March 3:30-4:30pm



Join this webinar to look at how to share information with students, parents/carers and colleagues about HTQs to ensure good knowledge and awareness of these fantastic qualifications, as well as how to support students during the research and application process. Register [here](#).

Preparing students for the modern workplace – UCAS Adviser



From UCAS Adviser comes this smart crib sheet on Preparing students for the modern workplace: [Preparing students for the modern workplace | UCAS](#). Written by Caroline Green, Careers Adviser and founder of the Talent Cycle, she hypothesises that the UK job market is undergoing significant change in 2025, with increased focus on new technologies, sustainability, and diversity and inclusion practices, and offers the 5 top skills employers are seeking.

National Careers Week (NCW) – 3rd to 8th March 2025



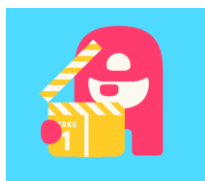
National Careers Week (NCW) is a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK [National Careers Week](#). Our aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance to support young people to develop awareness and excitement about future pathways. With free printable, downloadable, digital and video resources for educators to support planning and delivery, resources and activities available year-round. See [FREE resources for NCW 2025](#) to download.

National Careers Guidance Show in London 2025 – 1st April, ILEC Conference Centre



In partnership with Optimus Education, as well as lead sponsor GetMyFirstJob, comes the National Careers Guidance Show 2025, ILEC Conference Centre, London. We look forward to seeing you at the FutureSmart Careers stand! To book your ticket to access the speakers, seminars and other networking opportunities, see: [National Career Guidance Show - London](#).

Animation Nation workshops for Schools and Colleges, ages 8 and above



Animation Nation offer workshops for education, teaching the art of stop motion animation, also called stop-frame or claymation, the illusion of motion created by moving objects frame by frame. They can visit your school or venue and set up 8 mini studios in a classroom or venue space. To find out more about the half-day, one day or two day workshops, see: [Animation Nation](#).

Cambridge Teachers and Advisers Conference – summer 2025



Cambridge University Teachers and Advisers Conference will be held in summer 2025. To ensure you do not miss out when registration opens, please sign-up for their monthly Teachers' Newsletter; helping keep Teachers and Advisers up to date on events, the latest admissions news, and resources for students and teachers. Sign-up for their newsletter [here](#).

Smallpeice Trust – Global Underwater Hub Competition 2025



Students across the UK can enter the **Global Underwater Hub STEM Challenge**, run by the Smallpeice Trust. The competition invites teams to design and build a remote-controlled underwater vehicle, solving real-world engineering problems. Open to **Years 8 and 9 (S2 and S3 in Scotland)**, the challenge helps develop STEM skills and creativity. Winning teams will showcase their designs at a national final Find more information and sign up [here](#).

UCAS Adviser – Breaking down the barriers: How schools can champion apprenticeships



Siobhan Williams, writing for UCAS Adviser, has crafted this informative piece on how schools can champion apprenticeships, including tips on working with Parents and Carers and empowering young people by promoting apprenticeships as well as university, sharing employer profiles, organising employer events and building strong partnerships with business. Read more [here](#).

CDI National Careers Leaders' Conference – Wed 18th June 2025



The CDI's National Careers Leaders' Conference is on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at Royal National Hotel, London. Organised by the CDI and iCeGS, University of Derby, the theme is 'Evolving careers programmes to meet new policy requirements and maximise outcomes for young people'. Careers Leaders, Advisers, Hub Leads and Enterprise Coordinators can convene and learn about latest developments and how they can enhance their careers programmes. Find out more [here](#).

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials for schools

**FUTURESMART
ESSENTIALS.**

RESOURCES
HELPLINE
NEWSLETTER



FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly. Our FutureSmart Essentials package includes:

- Suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

Many schools upgrade to **FutureSmart Pro** which includes all of the benefits of Essentials plus additional in-school support from our team of qualified advisers for workshops, personal guidance sessions, talks and other activities tailored to the schools' exact requirements.

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

We'd love to hear from you!

No responsibility can be taken for the content of external websites mentioned in this newsletter

Registered FutureSmart Careers Limited Reg. No 11968993 (Registered in England & Wales). Registered office 14 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bristol, BS32 4JT