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News updates

FutureSmart Careers Apprenticeship Support



Since the announcement that the DfE has removed the funding for the ASK programme, many of the schools and colleges we have worked with in Devon, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire have enquired if we can continue to provide a similar support package.

We are delighted to advise our ASK colleagues Jenny, Kelly and Suzy have produced a suite of workshops and talks, based on their knowledge of what was popular, what worked well and any workshops that were missing.

These have been produced to include the best bits from Ask but with the added extras we feel are needed. We intend to offer these as a paid for options, where schools/colleges can opt for a single talk/workshop or a suite of talks/workshops, **it will be a paid for service, but we are working hard to make it cost effective and flexible** to help you support your students. We are also able to work in all geographic areas we cover.

We have produced a form for you to complete to indicate an Expression of Interest to help us understand what will be useful for you and to help us understand who to contact to arrange a planning meeting, Please click on the link to complete the form: [Apprenticeship Support - Expression of Interest Form](#)

What to Expect in the UK Job Market 2025 – Stunited, April 2025



Stunited shares key 2025 UK graduate employment trends, noting emphasis on Digital and Tech skills, Remote and Hybrid working and Automation, the article discusses the expansion of Green Jobs, Soft Skills and skills over qualifications. Workplace wellbeing and culture, personal branding and less London-centric job opportunities also provide an interesting picture of [Graduate Market Trends: What to Expect in the UK Job Market 2025 - STUNITED](#).

Careers & Enterprise Company launches JPMorganChase partnership for work experience



The Careers & Enterprise Company have announced a £3.3m investment from JPMorganChase for a partnership to widen access to high-quality work experience for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Future Ready Fund will give 3,700 young people in 250 schools two weeks of work experience, supporting them from year 8 to year 10. It focuses on students on free school meals, SEND and at risk of becoming NEET. Read more [here](#).

95,000 GCSE pupils to receive exam results digitally in trial – CDI News 25th June



CDI News reports that in a trial of digital exam results, 95,000 pupils in Greater Manchester and West Midlands will receive their GCSE exam results via the new Education Record app, replacing the paper results sent to schools that pupils then must collect. Part of the government's reforms across post-16 education, moving to digital results could save around £30m each year.

WONKE and The Post-18 Project paper: Tooling up



WONKHE's new paper *The Post-18 Project: Tooling Up* calls for government action to better align higher education, skills, and economic growth. It argues that the current market-led approach isn't working and urges the government to take a more active role in shaping the system. The paper recommends setting up new regional bodies to coordinate efforts between colleges, universities, and employers to meet local skills needs. Read the full paper [here](#).

World largest survey published of teenagers' career preparation



Education and Employers funded OECD research into the career aspirations and readiness of teenagers around the world. In the largest survey of its kind, the survey heard from 700,000 15-year-olds in 80 countries and economies. It found teenagers have high levels of career uncertainty and confusion, while job expectations have remained similar to those in 2000 – bearing little relationship to actual labour market demand. Read more at [The State of Global Teenage Career Preparation | OECD](#).

Upcoming Events

Kings College, University of Cambridge – Maths residential, apply by 25th July



This four day [residential](#) runs from 26th - 29th August 2025 and provides opportunity for year 12s to explore mathematical concepts beyond the school curriculum, as well as deepen their understanding in Geometry, Mechanics, Trigonometry, Projectiles and Parabolas (and more). Students will experience the types of abstract reasoning and critical thinking expected at university level, supporting them when applying to study mathematics at competitive universities. Apply [here](#).

Smallpeice Trust - Biomedical Engineering 5th- 8th August, University of Southampton



This four-day course, delivered by leading academics at the University of Southampton, invites Year 11 students to explore cutting-edge technology shaping the future of modern healthcare. Students will participate in interactive sessions and immersive lectures and discover how engineering provides innovative solutions for everyday problems. If cost is a barrier, please see more details here: [FAQ](#) . To book a place click [here](#).

University of Cambridge Homerton College Subject Focus Sessions – July 2025



The Homerton College July Subject Focus VIRTUAL sessions promise a wealth of information about and introduction to the University of Cambridge and Homerton College itself, with a subject taster and Q & A section these online events will cover: Economics, History, Modern languages and Politics, Land Economy, Law, Social Anthropology and Vet Medicine. For more information and to book, see: [Upcoming events | Homerton College](#).

UCAS Discovery Events tour 2025-2026



The [UCAS Discovery Events Tour](#) for 2025–2026 kicks off on **8th October**. These events offer students the chance to explore traditional degrees, apprenticeships, careers, and more. Attendees can speak directly with universities and colleges about courses and student life, connect with employers and apprenticeship providers and get advice from qualified careers advisers. Access the dates in England and Wales for 2025-2026 [here](#).

Dig Data and HSBC virtual Work Experience events – October 2025



Coming soon: The team at Dig Data are now partnered with HSBC to offer VIRTUAL Work Experience to students in October 2025. **First Step** will be aimed at Years 7-9 and **Next Step** at Year 10-13. These online events will be held outside of school hours, making them easily accessible for all students. More details will follow in the new academic year. Keep an eye out at: [Digdata programmes for schools and colleges](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

University of Cambridge: Teacher Reference and New Personal Statement Format (video)



The University of Cambridge has shared a highly informative webinar on UCAS teacher references and the new personal statement format. This detailed session offers valuable guidance for both teachers and students. Click here to [watch it](#).

UCAS Adviser news – Supporting your students with offers and results



UCAS Clearing allows students to apply for vacant university places. In 2025, clearing opens 5th July. The system is useful for those who change their mind, missed the 30th of June deadline, didn't meet the entry requirements for firm or insurance choices or have achieved higher grades. The FAQs cover Clearing Plus, Self Release, Entry requirements, Interviews, Accommodation and the UCAS Hub. Read more at: [Clearing 2025 FAQs | Uni Compare](#).

University Jargon busting with UniTasterDays



If you are thinking of university and have come across jargon that isn't clear, UniTasterDays have put together some explanations of the main terms which are used in relation to university. Have a look at [Jargon Buster | UniTasterDays](#).

MoneySavingExpert Advice on Student Loans



Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert, has provided essential need-to-knows about the Plan 5 Student Loans for students applying through Student Finance England (SFE) in this article: [Martin Lewis' 6 need-to-knows about 'Plan 5' English student finance](#). Covering repayments, parental contribution and interest it's worth a read.

University of Cambridge Super Curricular Activities for summer 2025



Once students have decided on a course they wish to apply to, they can begin exploring the subject in depth through super-curricular activities. Visit the University of Cambridge website for a list of recommended resources for each subject: [Cambridge | Super Curricular activities for year 12s](#).

Times Higher Education (THE) Guide to the 2026 changes to the UCAS Personal Statement



In April 2025, THE created this supportive guide to the changes to UCAS Personal Statement for 2026 entry. The guide describes the role of the UCAS Personal Statement, gives the three new Personal Statement questions and provides some tips for responding to the questions. To access the guide see: [Guide to 2026 changes to the UCAS personal statement | Times Higher Education](#).

CV Keywords for 2025 from Indeed



The people at Indeed have created this list of 269 CV keywords by heading. There are eleven headings, including Leadership, Communication, Creativity and Problem-solving and Analysis (highly sought after by employers). The resource also gives tips and explains the benefits of Keywords. View the full list and headings [here](#).

Apprenticeship Opportunities

The Jockey Club Apprenticeship Scheme – applications open summer and autumn 2025



Interested in working within Information Services, the Grounds Team (summer) or Facilities (autumn) for [The Jockey Club](#)? With Racecourses across England, they offer role-specific training, practical, hands-on experience and a buddy scheme to allow for accessible career pathways and support racecourse communities. For more details see [Apprenticeship Scheme | The Jockey Club](#) and contact: recruitment@thejockeyclub.co.uk with any questions.

TESCO Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeships – start date 22nd September 2025



The [TESCO Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeships scheme](#) is still recruiting for September 2025, with successful applicants being placed on a first-come, first-served basis. Offered across England and with a starting salary of £22,501.44 pro rata for weekly working hours of 36 (5 days), 28 (4) or 21 (3) and 20 days holiday (pro-rata) per year, you can apply online. Find more details and apply [here](#).

QA Tech Apprenticeship programmes 2025



With Apprenticeships available at Level 3 to Level 6 (degree apprenticeship), QA encourage you to explore their training offer for those interested in powering-up their Tech career within areas such as AI, Cloud, Cyber Security, Data, Digital Marketing and e-Commerce, IT, Product Management and Software. Find out more, view job vacancies and apply at: [QA Apprenticeships - Explore Apprenticeships](#).

Degree Apprenticeships in Engineering and IT with BAE Systems



[BAE Systems careers](#) have an opportunity to combine your studies with hands-on work, tackling complex problems and building real solutions to keep our world safer. You'll receive an honours degree, funded tuition fees and a competitive salary. Covering disciplines including Aerospace Engineering, Management, Nuclear Engineering, Project Management, Software Engineering, Information & Technology, and Enterprise Architecture. Applications open in November and close in February 2026, click [here](#) for entry requirements and eligibility.

Horticulture Apprenticeships with The National Trust



With Apprenticeships based at locations round the country and provide opportunities for a range of careers including horticulture and countryside management, as well as project management, information technology, finance and HR, the National Trust is still recruiting to its Horticulture apprenticeship vacancies. While now limited for September 2025 entry, there are still opportunities available in **London, Maidenhead, Greater Manchester and Wilmslow**. For more information and to apply, see: [National Trust - Horticulture vacancies](#).

Spotlight on Degree Apprenticeships with Prospects 2025



[Prospects.ac.uk](#) has a very useful page on Degree Apprenticeships, which includes aspects such as: What is a Degree Apprenticeship, who are they aimed at, Pros and Cons, What you can study and Where you can study. They also cover Latest trends, Pay and prospects and How to apply. See: [Degree apprenticeships | Prospects.ac.uk](#) With [CVs and cover letters](#) pages and ones on [Interview tips](#), this is your one-stop-shop.

Apprenticeship interview questions from RateMyApprenticeship

★ **RATEMYAPPRENTICESHIP** RateMyApprenticeship has a student-friendly article covering the [Most Common apprenticeship Interview questions](#), such as What are your Strengths? and What skills would you like to improve by completing this apprenticeship? Timely examples for all seeking an apprenticeship or employment this summer.

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

Join CEC's Youth Advisory Group



CEC's Youth Advisory Group consists of diverse young people that play a role in enriching our initiatives, ensuring that youth voices remain at the heart of CEC, helping mobilise young people's perspectives to improve the careers education system for everyone. They are seeking 14–25-year-olds, particularly those who are NEET, T-Level learners, young males, from underrepresented backgrounds or in SEND or alternative provision. Help spread the word using the [communications pack](#). To apply and find out more click [here](#). Closes **Mon 7 July 2025 at 9:00am**.

UCAS Adviser Lives - Lunchtime Live: Planning careers in the curriculum



Join careers expert Liz Lloyd on **8 July** for practical tips on embedding career planning into the curriculum. Ideal for career leaders preparing for the next academic year ahead, this session covers aligning subject teaching with career education and linking learning to post-18 pathways. Register at [Adviser lives | UCAS](#).

Access arrangements and bursary applications for ESAT and TMUA



Candidates required to sit either the TMUA or the ESAT in October 2025 can now request their access arrangements, or apply for a UAT-UK bursary code (UK candidates only) to cover the full cost of their test. All information on these processes and our full [Bursary Policy 2025-26](#) and [Access Arrangements Policy 2025-26](#) can be found on the [UAT UK](#) website.

Power Up your STEM Careers Provision with EUK Education



Bring STEM to life using this free guide, which offers practical tips grounded in the latest research. Careers Leaders can use the top tips, further reading, and resources to enhance career provisions in schools. Discover how to align with Gatsby Benchmarks to make the most out of your careers planning. Click [here](#) to find out more.

FutureSmart Careers July Blog - Careers in Aviation: the sky's the limit



The FutureSmart Careers July blog is on our website now. Careers in Aviation: the sky's the limit, encourages students to soar high. The content includes the main areas of employment, useful subjects to study, entry requirements and training options, the wide range of careers, potential salaries and useful links. Read the blog on our website at: [Careers in Aviation: The Sky is the Limit](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships – Results Days Hub



With tips on next steps at 16+ and at 18+, and advice on exploring options such as Apprenticeships, T-Levels and HTQs, as well as support for CVs and Cover Letters and access to the Higher and Degree Apprenticeships Listings and the Amazing Apprenticeships 'Rapid Reads' documents, the [Results Day Hub](#) is an excellent resource for you during August and beyond. Access the catalogue of 'Rapid Reads' [here](#).

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Events – October 2025



REMINDER: The UK University & Apprenticeship search events are at **Bristol, Ashton Gate Stadium** on **Wednesday 8th October**, booking details [here](#) and **Cardiff, Cardiff City Stadium** on **Wednesday 22nd October**, booking details [here](#). Featuring stands from Russell Group, Red brick, post-1992 HEIs and Apprenticeship providers, there are seminars too. They are offering limited financial contribution towards your coach travel (on first come basis) when bringing a group of 50 or more students.

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials for schools



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

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