



CAREERS

Newsletter — February 2021

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the February edition of the Careers Newsletter. This month's edition celebrates National Apprenticeship Week, which is taking place 8th-14th February 2021. The week is dedicated to shining a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country. It's also a chance to recognise how employers of all sizes have stepped up to the challenge during this unprecedented time.

In this newsletter we have rounded up all of the different opportunities, information and guidance on apprenticeships for you, no matter what level you might be thinking about studying.

CAREERS SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

If you need support you can get in touch:

careers@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk

Mr Horsfield - Careers Leader

Mrs Chander - Senior Leadership Team with Responsibility for Careers

Mrs Simmons - Work Experience & UCAS Coordinator

Mrs Przyrodzki - Aspirations & Destinations Coordinator

Mrs Stajka - Independent & Impartial Careers Advisor

Mrs L Draper - SEND Careers Support

ONLINE CAREERS RESOURCES

You can follow us on Twitter [@stpeterscareer](https://twitter.com/stpeterscareer) or visit the school website's careers page. We post regular updates on the Student Homepage plus opportunities and events are emailed directly to students, so keep checking your inbox. You can also use our fantastic Careers Platform, Start, by visiting www.startprofile.com. More info on Start inside!

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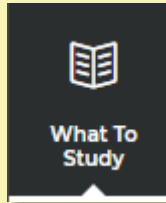




START - YEARS 7-13

APPRENTICESHIPS

Start have a wealth of information on apprenticeships for every level possible.



Here's how you can access the right information for you:

1. Log in to your Start Profile
2. Click on What to Study
3. Pick your level of study (Post 16 - Y11 or Post-18 Y13)
4. Click on the Apprenticeships section
5. Alternatively you can click on Explore by Subject or Qualification on the What to Study page and view all of the apprenticeship information there

As always, once you have read a page, make sure you mark it as "Explored".



SPOTLIGHT

Apprenticeships

Which apprenticeships are the most common?

When it comes to the number of apprenticeships offered and taken up by people, the following are the five most popular apprenticeship based on data from 2011-2016:

1. **Business, Administration and Law** 700,140 apprenticeship starts
2. **Health, Public Services and Care** 566,560 apprenticeship starts
3. **Retail and Commercial Enterprise** 450,450 apprenticeship starts
4. **Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies** 337,520 apprenticeship starts
5. **Construction, Planning and the Built Environment** 80,170 apprenticeship starts



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COMPETITION TIME

The 2021 Newnham Essay Prize competition is now open!

All female students currently in Year 12 at a UK school may enter the prizes, which are offered in Archaeology, Biological Sciences, Classics, Computer Science, Engineering, History, Mathematics, Modern and Medieval Languages, Music, Philosophy and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences, as well as our annual 'Woolf Essay Prize' with questions inspired by Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes have a **first prize of £400**, a second prize of £200 and a third prize of £100.

We welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects. Each competition has a slightly different word limit, so please consult the Information and Questions sheet for each of the prizes. All essays must reference sources (including websites consulted) and provide a bibliography.

Students may only submit an essay for one subject. Each school may only submit 5 entries per subject.

The deadline to submit entries is 12pm on *Wednesday 10 March 2021*.

Students must complete the following web form, and ensure that they attach both their essay and a completed cover sheet. Essays must be submitted as PDF files.

For further info please see website: [Newnham Essay Prizes](#)



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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS pt. 1

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid. You're an employee with a contract of employment and holiday leave. By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.

It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience. It's funded from contributions made by the government and your employer.

As an apprentice you'll:

- learn and train for a specific job
- get paid and receive holiday leave
- get hands-on experience in a real job
- study for at least 20% of your working hours - usually at a college, university or with a training provider
- complete assessments during and at the end of your apprenticeship
- be on a career path with lots of future potential

Apprenticeship Types (select link for information)	Level	Equivalent education level
Intermediate apprenticeships	2	GCSE
Advanced apprenticeships	3	A level
Higher apprenticeships	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree apprenticeships	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree



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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS pt. 2

If you think you need more skills and work experience before starting an apprenticeship, you can find a traineeship instead.

To become an apprentice, you must:

- be 16 or over
- not already be in full-time education
- live in England

You can start an apprenticeship whether you're starting your career, want a change or you're upskilling in your current job. You can have a previous qualification like a degree and still start an apprenticeship.

Apprentice pay and the National Minimum Wage

There are different rates of pay for apprentices depending on your age and what year of your apprenticeship you're in. Your employment contract should confirm your rate of pay.

- *Aged 16 to 18 or Aged 19 or over and in your first year:* The current National Minimum Wage rate for an apprentice is £4.15 per hour.
- *Aged 19 or over and have completed your first year:* You're entitled to the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage rate for your age.

	25 and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2020 (current rate)	£8.72	£8.20	£6.45	£4.55	£4.15



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UCAS TIMELINE UPDATE - YEAR 13

UCAS

At the heart of connecting
people to higher education

10 Jun 2020 Students to have completed **first draft** of their Personal Statement and emailed this to their form tutor.

30 Jun 2020 Students to have registered with UCAS and completed the Personal Details section.

17 Jul 2020 Internal deadline for students interested in studying medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge to notify Mrs Przyrodzki of course choice and admissions tests and complete Personal Statements.

7 Sep 2020 **Students to have completed final draft of Personal Statement and emailed this to their form tutor.**

8 Sep 2020 First day for receipt of completed applications.

1 Oct 2020 **Internal application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.**

15 Oct 2020 Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

20 Nov 2020 **Internal application deadline for all UCAS Applications.**

29 Jan 2021 Equal consideration application deadline (extended for 2021).

25 Feb 2021 Extra opens - more details [here](#).

22 May 2021 Student Finance Application Deadline.

30 Jun 2021 Last date for applications before Clearing.



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TEACHER'S CORNER

Each edition of the *Careers Newsletter* will feature the university profile of a St. Peter's teacher. This may inspire you or encourage you to ask them about their course or university that you may also have an interest in. They are more than happy to be approached in person or via email. *This week we have an apprenticeship focus instead.*

Apprenticeship profile of: Mr Hillen

I didn't leave Sixth Form with the exam grades I hoped for and found A-Levels to be the biggest challenge I've ever faced. So, I decided not to go to university in the traditional sense and applied to work at the Soli- Centre for Youth Ministry, on a gap year programme.

Soli is a retreat centre which works with young people between the ages of 14-25 (and is the sister centre to Alton Castle). Schools from all over the country would come and stay on school trips and my role would be to lead them in fun and engaging activities (e.g. bike rides and archery) while also opening up the conversation of faith with the young people. I got to live on the site of a castle while doing a job which I found both fun and rewarding. Whilst doing this job, I realised, I really enjoy working with teenagers and hoped to progress and work within education.

My experience at Soli gave me a foundation of skills, which help me daily working within the school setting.

Whilst volunteering I managed to gain a foundation degree (equivalent to the first 2 years of a bachelors) through distant learning through St Mary's University, Twickenham. Later I returned to more structured studies and completed my bachelor's in Theology at Newman University.

My advice for anyone studying A-Levels is to explore the options out there. There are a million different routes you can take, just take your time to find the right one for you.



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SPECIAL EDITION FOCUS: WHAT MAKES A GOOD APPRENTICE?

Below are 5 Skills & Traits each apprentice should have in order to succeed.

1. Passion

"We seek individuals who demonstrate passion..."

That's how Microsoft chooses people for their Leap Apprenticeship program. Passion is a must for young people trying different careers because it helps to keep going when things get tougher. If a person isn't passionate about what they do, then they're probably working in a wrong role, or, worse still, industry.

2. Determination

If an apprentice is determined to be successful in a program, the chance is great that they'll keep going despite the biggest obstacles.

Determination: 1) pushes to move forward and 2) is a major source of motivation. As long as an apprentice has a goal, they will try to overcome failure and push through obstacles on the way.

3. Resilience

Companies like Microsoft understand that being an apprentice is a serious test of a person's adaptability, discipline, and confidence. The participant will have to work productively in challenging situations – resilience is a must to succeed there.

That's why companies mention this trait in the requirements for apprenticeship programs. They understand that young employees become more productive and valuable as staff members when they demonstrate high levels of resilience.

To help develop this trait, companies design specific techniques for managing and coaching young employees in the workplace. These techniques create experiences that promote resilience. For example, trial and error exercises are an opportunity to learn from both success and failure.



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SPECIAL EDITION FOCUS: WHAT MAKES A GOOD APPRENTICE?

4. Communication

Employers think that communication is much more important than having a university degree, time management, and teamwork skills. Apprentices will have to communicate both in a verbal and written form with many employees, so being able to express their thoughts clearly and concisely is essential.

How prospective employers will judge potential apprentice's communication skills:
CV, cover letter, interview.

5. Willingness to Learn

Being eager to learn both general skills and specific industry skills is a major precursor of success for young employees. The most successful apprentices are those who retained the knowledge and learned how to apply it.

Being an apprentice also means learning about yourself. You can discover new interests, skills, or qualities or improve on the existing ones. But learning about self is possible only if a person is willing to commit.

Brian Herbert, an American sci-fi author, wrote,

"The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill, and the willingness to learn is a choice."

Passion, determination, resilience, communication, willingness to learn, and the ability to work autonomously are some of these skills that increase the chance of success. They apply to every professional role, company, or industry.

Employers are looking for apprentices who demonstrate them – so having and developing them is important. Besides, skills like communication can be learned, so investing in a professional skillset is something that'll serve you well in the future.



TOP 100 APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYERS

Rank	Employer	Sector	Apprenticeships Levels	% of Employees	New Starts 2019-20
3	Royal Navy	Armed Forces	2 3 4 6 7	12.6%	2,774



How do The Royal Navy Apprenticeships Work?

The Royal Navy offer more than 20 apprenticeships across a wide variety of roles.

There are three main schemes:

Rating roles (Intermediate Apprenticeships)

Accelerated Apprenticeships (Fast Track)

Undergraduate Apprenticeship Scheme (UGAS)

The work environment

Depending on your job, you could join up with your crewmates a few months after basic training is complete. Generally, it takes six months from signing up to shipping out. The typical working day is 0800-1630 when you're not on a shift pattern. Shifts (known as 'watches') go around the clock, so you could be working at any time of the day or night. When you're at sea, you'll go wherever your deployment takes you, which could be anywhere in the world. When you're not on deployment, you'll work at a shore base in the UK, or a Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) if you're in the Fleet Air Arm. You could also spend time at one of our training establishments, where you'll learn new skills.

Applying for the Royal Navy

The age range for joining the Royal Navy is 16-36, although that may vary for certain roles. If you're under the age of 18 you will need the consent of a parent or guardian.

You need to be medically fit to deal with everything that life in the Royal Navy throws at you - there are some restrictions to be mindful of, which you can see [here](#).

Find more information [here](#).



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YEAR 12 - STARTING YOUR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

The **University of Birmingham** which is a popular choice for many of our students at St. Peter's, have sent some virtual resources and opportunities to help you get started with your tertiary journey. Have a close look at the links below.

All the links come directly from University of Birmingham and look really helpful and informative. **It is up to you** to spend time researching what is available to you at tertiary level and this university is a great place to start.

Please note that **this is the time** to start doing your research into the various courses on offer and different campus / University options. It is up to you to learn about University by accessing resources such as the following videos below:

[Year 12 Pathways to Birmingham programmes](#)

[The benefits of university](#)

[Choosing a university and course](#)

[Student finance](#)

[Writing personal statements](#)

[University of Birmingham Drone Campus Tour](#)

Some of you may also be interested in their [EPS Future Foundation Year](#) which is a fully-funded Foundation Year aimed at students interested in Science and Engineering. Further information on the course and eligibility can be found [here](#).



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YEAR 12 - STARTING YOUR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

SUPER CURRICULAR LEARNING

In your personal statements, Universities look to see if your knowledge and passion for your chosen course is superficial or shows evidence of independent learning. **We cannot stress how important this will be for you as you have not been able to do much in the line of extra-curricular hobbies and volunteering during the pandemic. Super curricular will show you have not sat idle but used your initiative.**

Read below to help develop your super curricular.

Academic staff at the University have put together some subject specific [academic resources](#) to enrich the curriculum and to support the transition of students from school to university. They cover a large range of subject areas and will be of interest to Year 12 students who may be looking to explore subjects in more detail prior to university study or to help support their current learning.

Over the coming weeks they are also running [live webinars](#) covering general topics and subject specific sessions. These are free but you do need to book on so get onto it!

Furthermore, there is also a collection of videos called [Shape Your Future](#) which has involved current University of Birmingham students interviewing academics about contemporary issues, from the Black Lives Matter protests to Social Media.

For students considering healthcare degrees and careers (**medicine, dentistry, dental hygiene/therapy, nursing, pharmacy and biomedical sciences**) we have a number of [specific resources available](#) that will help guide them towards their career goals.



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