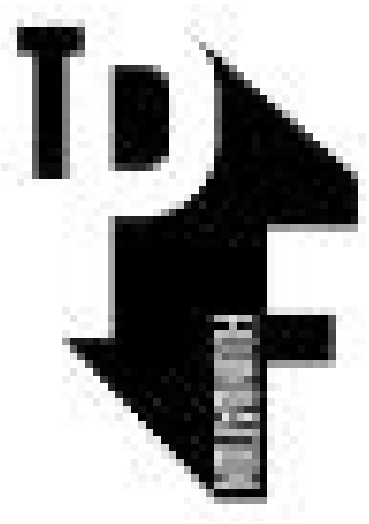
CAREERS NEWSLETTER

ALDRIDGE EDUCATION CONNECT

ISSUE 02 — TERM 1 — OCT 26

In this edition, we're showcasing a range of exciting pathways and opportunities to help students explore their future options. Discover careers in accountancy and photography, learn more about apprenticeships, HTQs and vocational qualifications, and find useful resources to support career planning, university applications and employability skills.



Building a career in Commercial and Fashion Photography

Are you interested in building a career in commercial and fashion photography? Then this photo tips session might be for you. The award winning, freelance, portrait and commercial photographer Shahfaq Shahbaz will share the practical realities of building a career in the fashion and commercial photography industry.

19th Nov 6:30-7:30pm
Photo Tips: Building a Career in Commercial & Fashion Photography

Taking a gap year after college?

A gap year is simply a planned break after college, which provides a chance to grow, explore and prepare for your next steps into employment and/or further study. You can travel, volunteer, work, gain new skills, or explore career options — the year is yours to shape. A gap year can build confidence, boost your CV, and give you clarity about your future goals. If you are unsure if a gap year is right for you, UCAS has gathered the essential information together to help you make an informed choice.

Find Information & Ideas to Inspire Your Gap Year Program

success at school

A series of webinars are taking place in December which bring accounting and finance careers to life. The webinars are designed to give students and parents a chance to hear from professionals, explore different career paths and ask questions about getting started.

The subjects are:
Pathways into accountancy from school with ACCA,
Day in the life of an accountancy apprentice
Where a career in accounting can take you
Views from Senior professionals in accounting and finance
How to get hired: applications and interviews explained.

Click below to book your place.
Webinar Calendar 26/27 — Book your place

The new V Levels

Have you heard of V Levels? They're a new vocational qualification being introduced in England from September 2027, offering another option alongside A Levels and T Levels.

V Levels will focus on practical, applied learning and exploring a career sector, helping students develop knowledge and skills that can support progression to university, higher-level training or apprenticeships.

The first subjects are planned to be Education, Accounting and Finance, and Digital Systems and Data. Each V Level will be equivalent in size to one A Level, and students will be able to combine V Levels with A Levels.

Thinking about your options after GCSEs?
V Levels could be another route to explore as more details become available. They won't be available to start in September 2026, so check with colleges about the courses they currently offer and keep an eye out for updates.

Find out more: GOV.UK – Post-16 pathways: implementation plan - GOV.UK

Click here to find out more about all the new vocational GCSEs which have been announced.

Degree apprenticeships: what are they all about?

This recorded webinar speaks to three degree apprentices about their own experiences

Jacob has just started his Business Degree Apprenticeship at Rolls Royce.

Harley is a year into his Engineering Degree Apprenticeship at Parker Aerospace.

Kim is a year into her Project Management Degree Apprenticeship at Amazon.

You can click through using the link or can download it and put it wherever you keep your digital resources.

Recording Registration - Zoom

The Sunday Times top 100 apprenticeship employers

This list recognises the UK's leading employers, from a wide range of industries & business sectors, that do the most to provide successful apprenticeships.

The prestigious annual rankings assess employers according to the number of apprentices they employ, their new apprenticeship starts, the diversity of their new apprentices, and how many apprentices successfully complete their apprenticeships.

Click below for the resource.
Read the supplement here.

Open the door!

Women still make up just under 17% of the UK's engineering and technology workforce. Often it isn't a lack of ability that holds girls back.

It's a lack of visibility. If a student has never seen what an engineer, a timetable planner or an operations controller actually does, it's hard for her to picture herself in that role. Virtual work experience is a simple, low-pressure way to change that.

Students can explore real roles, hear from real professionals and try real tasks, all at their own pace.

Springpod offer over 60 different free virtual work experience in STEM and you can find out more here.

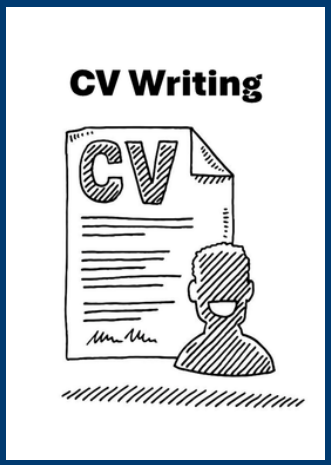
Springpod

How to write your first CV Webinar recording

The CV's only real job is to get you the interview, whether this is for an apprenticeship, to secure work experience opportunity to get a part time or full time job.

This webinar breaks down each section of the CV, explains why it is there, and suggests simple ways to make sure the students CV really works for them.

Recording Registration - Zoom (once you sign up you will have access to the recording.



Meet the Russell Group webinars

This is incredibly informative for students considering applying for universities such as Cambridge, Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Durham and Kings.

The webinars will cover topics such as Personal Statements & Applying, Researching University Options and Student Life.

These will be taking place until the 29th October 4:45pm to 6:00pm

Students and parents can sign up for each webinar via the registration link here.

UK university search

What alternatives are there to Degrees and Apprenticeships?

Thursday 8th October

We know that there is currently huge demand for higher and degree apprenticeships, but that demand is outstripping supply.

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) can be a good option for students to consider, providing a bridge into higher education, higher or degree apprenticeships, or a skilled job. In this free webinar we will share everything you need to know about HTQs, plus hear from a range of HTQ students sharing their personal journeys and how HTQs have supported their career plans.

Register here.

Amazing Apprenticeships

NavigATE: What to Expect from the Apprenticeship Recruitment Process

12 November 2026 | 3:30pm-4:15pm

This informative webinar will provide a step-by-step guide to the apprenticeship recruitment process, helping prospective apprentices understand what to expect from application through to appointment. Attendees will also receive practical hints and tips to help them prepare and succeed at each stage.

Booking Link:

https://us.list-manage.com/j0zDO06RPWn?e=6691c6225c&c2id=81d5965fa6caa90022d52eb68c1bf77a

NavigATE: How to stand out in the apprenticeship application process

2 December 2026 | 3:00pm – 4:15pm

When it comes to applying for apprenticeships, it's not just about ticking boxes – it's about showing who you are and what you can bring to your future employer and their organisation. In this webinar we hear what employers say makes people stand out and share practical ideas on how to stand out for the right reasons.

Booking Link:

hhttps://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/events/navigate-how-to-stand-out-in-the-apprenticeship-application-process/

Amazing Apprenticeships

November Mock Exams: Get Revision Ready !

November mocks are coming up, so now is a good time to get organised!

Mocks help you see what you're doing well and which topics need a bit more work before your final GCSE exams.

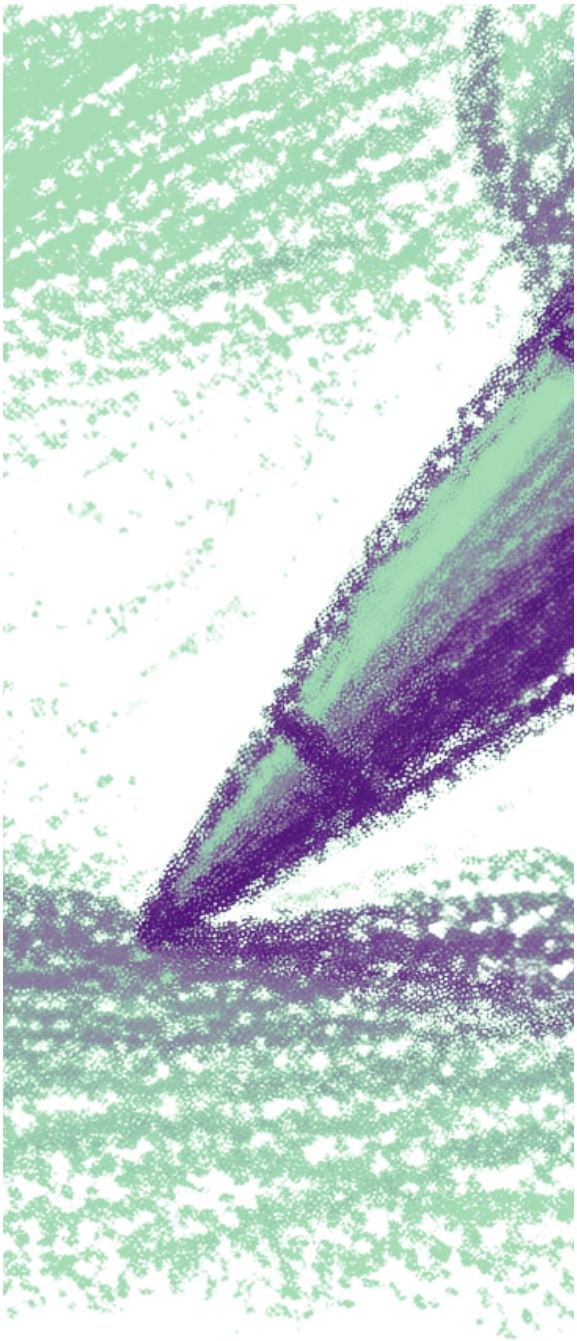
5 ways to make revision count:

- Make a revision timetable: Break subjects into smaller topics and spread them across the weeks.
- Practise exam questions: Get used to the types of questions you might face and check your answers against mark schemes.
- Test yourself: Use flashcards, quizzes and questions from memory rather than just re reading notes.
- Focus on your weaker areas: Spend more time on topics you find difficult and ask your teachers for help if you're stuck.
- Take breaks and get enough sleep: Short, focused sessions are better than trying to cram everything in at once.

Free revision websites
You don't need to pay for revision resources! Try these websites at home:

- BBC Bitesize – revision guides, videos and quizzes across a range of GCSE subjects.
- Seneca Learning – interactive revision courses and quizzes, with free options.
- Maths Genie – maths revision organised by topic and grade.

Remember: Your mock results don't define you. Use them to identify what you need to work on, ask for help when you need it and take things one step at a time. Good luck with your mocks!



UCAS - Care experience

UCAS has new dedicated resources to help care-experienced students research their higher education options and understand the support available to them.

The guidance includes choosing a university or college, accessing financial and wellbeing support, and preparing for the transition to higher education.

Help care-experienced students access the support available | UCAS

UCAS

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SOUTHERN APENDIUM

ALDRIDGE EDUCATION CONNECT

BSMS Outreach

BSMS Outreach: Getting in Medicine (Online Talk)

Tuesday 3rd November

17:00 – 18:30

This is an online talk designed to provide an overview of the admissions processes for medicine as well as the key skills and attributes required, which will be delivered by the Brighton and Sussex Medical School's (BSMS) Outreach team.

Click here for further information and to book your place

brighton and sussex medical school

Sussex Inspires Programme – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Deadline for applications – Tuesday 22nd November

Thinking about university but not sure where to start?

Sussex Inspires is a free programme for college and sixth form students, offering university visits, subject taster sessions, application support, and the chance to connect with current students.

Choose from Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences or STEM pathways and explore your future in a supportive environment. Participants who complete the programme also receive priority access to the Sussex Summer School.

Applications for the next intake are now open!
Click here for further information and register your interest

Public Transport Level 3 Business Admin Apprentice

The Public Transport Team have an exciting apprenticeship opportunity for a Level 3 Business Admin apprentice to join the service starting January 2027.

The vacancy is now live on the council website here Job search

The apprenticeship will study towards the Business administrator standard.
The training programme is with Chichester College Group and the duration is 21 months, depending on experience.

For further information please contact Barbara Higgins via the details on the advert
Closing Date for applications: 2nd November 2026

Brighton & Hove City Council