

Welcome

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week, so pages 2 & 3 of this edition of the newsletter will focus on this exciting route.

Since the last edition all U4 pupils have selected their GCSE subjects and the U5 will be making their final A level choices by Monday. Good luck to them all.

The L6 and their parents attended an [information evening on Higher Education](#), which included a talk from the [University of Southampton](#), as well as information on medical applications, applications to study abroad, apprenticeships and Oxbridge. We hope that they found the evening useful and are starting to really consider their next steps. Please click on the links to access the slides from the evening.

If any pupil would like to book a 1:1 discussion with Mrs Ryckaert, please email lucy.ryckaert@freemens.org.

Oxbridge Applications Talk – 30 January

Last week U5 and L6 students and their parents, were invited to a talk from Oxbridge Applications. They explained what makes the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge unique and how to make competitive applications. If you missed the talk, click [here](#) to view the [recording](#) (via Freeman's log in only) or see the [PowerPoint](#).



U3 Across the Board – Employability Skills Day

On Tuesday 14 January U3 pupils spent the day creating innovative board games in teams, brainstorming original concepts, exploring themes, identifying target markets, and crafting promotional strategies. Using recycled materials, they brought their ideas to life and later tested and played each other's games. Their energy, creativity, and teamwork were outstanding





Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week 2025
10 to 15 February

Did you know that degree apprenticeships allow you to earn a bachelor's or master's level qualification through a combination of work and study?

Apprenticeship Virtual Events – click the links for dates and more information

British Army - voted the Number 1 Apprenticeship Employer in the Top 100 in 2024, for the fourth year in a row!

HSBC - explore the essential skills needed to excel as an apprentice at HSBC. Learn how to develop key competencies like communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and resilience.

National Audit Office - The NAO is the UK's independent public spending watchdog. Fully funded ACA qualification?

National Health Service – Pharmacology Apprenticeship - Join to hear about all the apprenticeship roles available within the pharmacy profession.

Pathway CTM – Join virtual events from AWE Nuclear Security Technologies, ACCA, KPMG, Deutsche Bank, PwC, Met Office and more.

Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair – Wednesday 12 February from 4.00pm. Learn all about the world of apprenticeships.

London & SE - The National Apprenticeship Show – Sandown Park, Surrey. 11 – 12 February

Success at School Virtual Careers Fair – Wednesday 12 February. Aldi, DHL, Eon and more. This takes place during the day but if you register you will be able to access the recorded sessions.

Warner Bros. Discovery's Early Talent Team is hosting a virtual event - Championing Apprenticeships

Dates for your Diaries

Monday 10 February

L5 & U5 Assembly on Apprenticeships

1.15pm Talk from Rawlinson Hunter on Accountancy Apprenticeships in the Ferndale Theatre

Friday 14 February

L6 Assembly on Apprenticeships, Unifrog and MOOCS

Friday 7 March

L6 Assembly from the University Guys on Applying to Universities abroad

Thursday 13 March

U5 Assembly on Work Experience

Tuesday 1 April

U4 Enterprise Drop Down Day

Apprenticeships Tools on Unifrog

As well as using Unifrog for psychometric tests, helping to identify the right university subjects and careers which are best suited for individuals. Unifrog can be used to find the right course at the right university using the UK University Tool or to find out more about apprenticeships. The following guides help to answer questions and dispel myths.

[How to... use the apprenticeships tool](#)

[Is a UK apprenticeship right for me?](#)

[A guide to degree apprenticeships](#)

[The Sixth Formers' Guide to Degree Apprenticeships](#)

The 30-minute programme accompanying The Sixth Formers' Guide to Degree Apprenticeships introduces the 'earn as you learn' route to a university degree or professional qualification.

Click to [here](#) to access the fact sheet



Tips on Applying for an Apprenticeship

Applying for degree apprenticeships is a long process and you will probably need to complete several applications to get the ideal position. You can apply for an apprenticeship alongside applying for a university place through UCAS.

What to do Now

Spend time doing research and looking at the area and individual companies you would like to apply to. The sites below have information on apprenticeships that are available now, so you can look and see the sort of apprenticeships that will be available when you want to start applying. However, it is also advisable to look at company sites directly and link with them, via social media, LinkedIn and, if possible, through work experience, insight days or work shadowing.

What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences. Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices spend at least 20% of their working hours completing applied learning with a college, university or training provider which leads to a nationally recognised qualification. Degree apprenticeships are offered by universities and other higher education providers. They contain either a full degree or degree-level qualification and go up to master's level.

Resources

[What is an Apprenticeship? – fact sheet](#)

[What is a Degree Apprenticeship? – fact sheet](#)

[Finding the Best Apprenticeship For You? – fact sheet](#)

[UCAS](#) – have a whole section on apprenticeships now

[UCAS Parent and Guardian guide to apprenticeships](#)

[Best 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2024 - 2025](#)

Other Useful Sites

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#) - experts on apprenticeships driving forward innovative and creative work.

[Multiverse](#) - provider of high-quality apprenticeship programmes, combining work, training and community.

[Prospects](#) - experts in graduate careers, guiding students to a bright future.

[Rate my Apprenticeship](#) - like Trip Advisor but for jobs and careers advice.

[Young Professionals](#) - Created for the engaged and career-driven student.

You may find the following programme interesting [The launch of the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers and Top 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers 2024 - YouTube](#)



Rawlinson & Hunter Talk – Monday 10 February 1.15pm Ferndale Theatre

Come and hear about the opportunities at Rawlinson & Hunter, a firm of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers.

Apprenticeships

[Advanced Therapies Apprenticeships Community](#) -

We develop apprenticeship programmes, designed to train and upskill individuals for the ever-growing and thriving life sciences industry.

[Lloyds Bank Apprenticeships](#) with around 20 different roles available, there's something to suit almost every interest. It's a chance to learn skills, gain qualifications and earn a salary, all while playing an important role in helping Lloyds Banking Group be the best bank for our customers.

[Morgan Stanley](#) - working alongside industry experts gaining valuable on the job training, whilst working towards a higher or advanced apprenticeship qualification and earning a salary. Our 18-month Apprenticeship programmes delivered in partnership with Multiverse are designed to give you the foundations to kick start your career in a supportive environment, where you can make valuable contributions from the outset and develop both personally & professionally.

[The Met Police](#) are looking for people who share our values of integrity, courage, accountability, respect and empathy who are committed to working hard to bring offenders to justice, protect vulnerable people and deliver the change needed for London and its communities. Become a police officer with a starting salary of over £38k

[Not Going to Uni Podcast](#)

Explore the extraordinary journeys of apprentices who have chosen alternative career routes over traditional university paths.

Listen now on your chosen podcast streaming platform or watch on the Not Going to Uni YouTube channel!



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Useful Links and Opportunities

The following are links to opportunities that have been sent to us that may be of interest. Please note that some may incur a cost and the School is not able to endorse them. Please click on the title to access the webpage.

Events or Programmes

Bloomberg – As part of the family of City of London Schools, you have the opportunity to have free training from Bloomberg. Bloomberg Finance Fundamentals (BFF) is a self-paced, interactive e-learning course that provides an introduction to the key concepts involved in finance and investment.

INVESTIN – Find out ‘What’s it really like to work in’ Medicine, Finance, Engineering, Law or Business in these virtual events this week.

Gresham College Lectures - provides free educational videos and lectures at university level

EDT - stretches learning beyond school, college and university and gives insight into real-life STE(A)M careers. They are currently accepting applications for their Residential Insight into University Courses. The courses run over 4 or 5 days and students get a taster of university life and an insight into a specific STEM subject.

Minds Underground - Are you curious about the world around you? Join an international community of like-minded thinkers, Curious Minds! It is entirely free to join with members receiving resources to support their academic studies, including reading suggestions across STEM and Humanities subjects, an essay competition and academic event recommendations.

What Next? – 15 – 16 November 2025, considering your post-school or college choices? If you are aged 15 to 19 and wants to discover the best university or apprenticeship options, this is a truly unmissable event! Tickets are completely free and available now, book yours today for fast-entry access to discover the best school leaver options, all under one roof.

Future Financial Advisor - Future Financial Adviser is a community where young people can access career advice and learn about opportunities within the financial advice profession.

The University of Law Virtual Events – click to access the spring schedule including Explore Law (virtual event) on 3 March.

Thinking Ahead – The Engineering and Design Institute online engineering taster programme, inviting you to learn more about the world of engineering and take part in a sustainability-themed design challenge.

Essay Competitions - Fitzwilliam College Cambridge - Fitzwilliam College runs essay competitions in a variety of subjects, allowing talented pupils to explore their interests beyond the school curriculum

Explore Careers at HM Treasury – Virtual Event Wednesday 12 February 5.00 – 6.00pm. This is a very rare and exclusive event where we have brought together senior officials from HM Treasury to talk to students about what life is like working for the government agency in charge of economic budgeting.

Pilot Careers Live – 22 March 2025, featuring a series of informative presentations delivered by airlines and training providers

Cambridge University – Subject Masterclasses subject-specific events that offer high-achieving students in Year 12 the chance to experience typical undergraduate teaching at the University of Cambridge.



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Work Experience

KBR Work Experience Opportunity – if you would like to apply either email earlycareersuk@kbr.com or click [here](#)

INVESTIN Weekend Career Experiences - Students will learn directly from some of the world's best professionals - doctors, lawyers, engineers, investment bankers and more - through a series of live, interactive simulations which provide tailor-made professional experience. **You will be entitled to 10% discount on any bookings through InvestIN if you use the code FREEMENS10.** Several Freeman's pupils have taken part in these courses over the years and found them really useful.

Virtual Work Experience – Virtual Work Experiences is a free service covering 110+ careers and provides fun exploratory activities for students and goes a long way to providing answers to finding, affirming, and developing a student's career choice.

Pathway CTM -Connecting young people, schools & parents with leading global brands. Providing employability skills training, free careers events, and work experience & apprenticeship opportunities!

Springpod Virtual Work Experience - In-depth, interactive and informative virtual work experiences from industry experts in the world's leading employers.

Careers Days – CareerDays.co.uk is for any student aged 13-18 who wants to experience different careers or gain work experience in their chosen field. From medicine, law, performing arts, psychology, business or becoming a vet, we have a 1-day online event for you, designed to give you an insight into life in your chosen field.

Prospects – learn more about internships, online experience, work placements, shadowing, volunteering and part-time work.

University Events

Free Interactive University Online Events from Channel Talent - The sessions, each including either one or two universities, offer enrichment for curriculum themes and support for students considering progression to HE. They aim to be dynamic and participative, encouraging everyone to engage and shape the session but in a way that they are comfortable with.

University of Cambridge - Get free up-to-date application advice on every step of the application process

University of Oxford - What student life here is really like' official guide will take you through everything from how you'll learn to our wide range of clubs and societies.

Step into Bath - Step into Bath is a 2-night residential summer school for Year 12 students who are on track to meet our typical offer and who are considering applying to Bath for 2026

UCAS – University Open days – use UCAS to search University Open Days

Complete University Guide – find virtual events at universities here

UniTaster Days - Search the directory of university events or listen to podcasts

Medics

Live Virtual NHS Healthcare Careers Work Experience Programme - created and delivered by healthcare professionals. You can select from one day or a full 6 month work experience programme where you will follow patients from admission to discharge in the high fidelity simulation suite, designed to provide you with an immersive experience from the comfort and safety of home.

Applying to Medicine - this popular Medic Mind FREE course, will give an insight into the medical application.

NHS Careers Untapped - The NHS Careers Untapped NHS Team are pleased to announce upcoming webinars showcasing some more of the great jobs available in the NHS.

Medic Mentor – Free virtual live conferences



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Apprenticeships

Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair - students are invited to meet up to 40 employers in two hours. From finance to healthcare, and retail to the armed forces, your students can discover opportunities in a diverse range of sectors at all qualification levels from intermediate to degree apprenticeships.

The National Apprenticeship Show – Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 February 2024, at Sandown Racecourse. The show is the perfect event for School and College leavers, as well as young adults, to discover more about Apprenticeships across the region.

Ask An Apprentice - Student mentors, apprentices who have been where you are now, are here to help. Get honest answers from people who get you.

BBC Apprenticeships - The BBC's award-winning apprenticeship schemes could be your chance to start an exciting career across a wide range of jobs in the media industry. With opportunities in the areas of business; digital, data and technology; engineering and operations; journalism; and production, there's a place for you, with us, at the BBC

KPMG – interested in an apprenticeship at KPMG, click for more information.

PwC – Sign up for their Virtual Experience Day on Tuesday 18 February from 10.00am – 3.00pm. School and College Leaver programmes and the career opportunities available to students at PwC.

Accounting Apprenticeships –Have you considered and apprenticeship? AAT – apprenticeship guide and ACCA

British Airways - the Emerging Talent team will be virtual 'drop in' sessions for you to ask any questions about our emerging talent programmes and opportunities

Deloitte - programmes that have been designed to help you build your career your way, as you develop the skills you'll need to make an impact that matters to you. Find out more about paths with Deloitte that could be right for you.

Amazing Apprenticeships – find out more about apprenticeship and their benefits and join virtual events on how to make a successful application for apprenticeships.

Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers - Over the summer holidays, the Department for Education launched the new Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers for 2024, during a special live TV programme. Click to watch it.

Not Going to Uni – click here to access information about apprenticeships and careers

Other Interesting Links

British Army Scholarship Scheme - The Army Officer Scholarship Scheme guarantees them up to £10,000 in financial support, starting in academic year 13. Our scholarship also guarantees them a place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and a career as an Army Officer when they finish education.

GVI (international volunteering, gap year and internship provider) is now hosting free Virtual Open Days every Tuesday at 13:00 EST/18:00 GMT and you're invited! They'll be sharing details about their programs in some pretty incredible locations.

Thinking of Studying in US – Visit the Fulbright College Day on 26-27 September.