



AUTUMN 2016
EDITION 10

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Autumn 2016 edition!

Welcome to the autumn edition of our career newsletter. This is the term when Year 11 and 13 pupils have been visiting various institutions and making applications to colleges, 6th form and university. It can be a lengthy process, especially for those applying to university, so it's a relief to finally get it out of the way so you can focus on those all important exams.

I've been seeing the Year 13 pupils for their one to one appointments to discuss their plans and go through their psychometric reports. Most pupils have found it comforting to see that the report has confirmed their suitability for their chosen career path. The personality section has been useful to go through too. A knowledge of your personality alone won't tell you what job will suit you - we are much more complex as human beings and within all jobs there are a range of personality types. However, it will give you a clue towards the type of activity you may or may not enjoy within a job. It's worth keeping hold of the report in years to come as it will serve as a useful guide in your job search.

In this edition, we highlight some fantastic apprenticeship opportunities. We'll also catch up with some past and present pupils to see how their career and choices are progressing. There's much more too.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you a fantastic Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

An Introduction to our new Careers Co-ordinator

This year I have been given the privilege to take on the role of Head of Careers. I take on the role following Mrs. Phillips, who has spent the last 3 years building the excellent careers education students receive at Gordon's.

I extend my gratitude and thanks for setting up such excellent systems, such as the electronic system for setting up Work Experience, and for developing engaging careers events in the school.

I will be coming to Year 10 and Year 12 tutor groups over the next few weeks to lend additional support for your work experience hunting. If you would like to discuss anything careers or work experience related, any students can find me in S2 or you may email me at krysturnbull@gordons.surrey.sch.uk.

Miss Turnbull



CONTENTS

.....	
Welcome	1
New careers co-ordinator	1
Nurse apprenticeships	2
Before Gordon's	2
Opportunities	3
Only Girls Allowed	3
New careers service site	3
Where are they now?	4
Applying to Uni - Sophie	5
The cost of Uni - the facts	6
Government backtrack	6
James Thompson visits	6
Applying to uni - James	7
What's on - Spring Term	7
Latimer Burns visits	7
Job vacancies	8
Study in the USA	8



Mark Anderson

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Careers Newsletter P1

BEFORE GORDON'S



I wrote and managed BSc / BA degrees in Psychology, Criminology and Sociology for Farnborough University Centre/Surrey University. Before teaching I was a Sales & Marketing Manager for Corel Corporation – an IT software company.

Sandra Radford, Head of 6th form and Psychology Teacher



I worked for GEC Marconi (now BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.). I have experience of working abroad (Munich), contracts, customer management, bid work, and dealing with MoD and the Army.

Simon Depoix, Head of German and International Schools' Coordinator

NURSE APPRENTICESHIPS TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 2017



Students will be able to start degree-level nurse apprenticeships from September 2017, the government has confirmed as it announced £4.5 million of funding will be given to universities to develop new courses launching next year.

Four universities will offer nurse apprenticeships from next autumn, while another that is involved in testing the forthcoming nursing associate role will also be given funding. Nurse apprenticeships will be offered at the Universities of Derby, Gloucestershire, Greenwich, and Sunderland.

In addition, funding for creating a nursing associate apprenticeship will be given to the University of Wolverhampton in partnership with Walsall College, City of Wolverhampton College and Birmingham Metropolitan College.

The introduction of nurse apprenticeships comes at the same time as major changes to funding for student nurses on traditional pre-registration degree courses, who will no longer receive bursaries and instead have to take out a loan to cover tuition and living costs from September 2017.

The apprenticeships are designed as an alternative to traditional courses, with participants spending part of their time at university and the other part with their employer. This is the first round of funding to be awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to course providers, as part of a two-year programme.

Skills and apprenticeships minister Robert Halfon said: "Apprenticeships work, that's why we've launched degree apprenticeships that give people a real chance to earn while you learn, putting you on the fast track to a top career."

Earlier this year, the Department of Health unveiled a target of 100,000 new apprenticeships in the NHS in England by 2020. The government first announced its plans for nursing degree apprenticeships in 2014 as a way of attracting the brightest healthcare assistants, who may lack the entry requirements for university, into the profession.

A government consultation on a draft version of the standard for degree-level nurse apprenticeships closed in September. But responding to the consultation at the time, the Royal College of Nursing warned of the "serious risks" of how quickly the plans were being drawn up.

Source: <https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/education/nurse-apprenticeships-to-begin-in-september-2017/7013196.article>

Where are they now? - Toni Lesi



“

My degree opens up the opportunity to explore vast areas of economics, finance, business and more...

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1. When did you leave Gordon's and what do you do now?

I left Gordon's in the summer of 2015 and I have just completed my first year in the University of Nottingham. I am looking to achieve a Bsc in Economics by 2018. I chose economics because it was the subject I enjoyed the most during A-levels, and it is a degree that does not limit my career path after university.

In September 2016, I have been given an amazing opportunity to teach at a school for children with disabilities in Manali (India), built by CAREducation trust, a charity which focuses on providing education in less privileged areas. As a result of this I'm eligible for a Jack Petchey Foundation grant and they require a referee which they suggested to be a school teacher.

2. How is university/the degree going?

The degree is going really well, it is very different to A-level economics but after my initial shock in terms of workload and content it's going smoothly now. I love my university and adjusted immediately to life here in Nottingham.

I live basically next door to Jack so I see him all the time, going to lectures together and helping each other with work. James lives nearby too so I see him regularly, as well as Grace.

3. How does university life compare to school life?

University life is what you make it as you basically choose the hours you want to be productive whereas at school there is a structure you have to follow. However, it is possible to lose focus and be very stressed towards exams since no one chases you up like in school. So as long as you find yourself a balance, university life is so much better than school life.

4. What are your plans for the future?

My plans for the future are to get a job in wealth management, however my degree opens up the opportunity to explore vast areas of economics, finance, business and more and so I hope to study a few modules based around development economics next year as I have an interest low-income countries. Therefore, with that I could find myself going into the public sector after I graduate so I am currently unsure of what I want to do.

Next February after my January exams I'll be spending my second semester on the Nottingham campus in Malaysia which I am very much looking forward to.

5. What advice would you give to pupils who are considering university?

I am definitely glad I chose to go to university because having spent one year here I would call in an invaluable experience. Being surrounded by my like-minded individuals on my course and all the different students I meet with the same hobbies and interests as me in the different societies I get to join is great. You can pursue practically anything you want at university and more times than not it is cheaper than if you were pursuing that interest outside university so university is definitely something I'd advise to strongly consider.

Applying to Uni - My Story: Sophie Benson

First Thoughts

When I began Year 12, I was completely set on not going to University. The job I wanted didn't necessarily need a degree and I didn't see that it was worth the money and the stress of getting great exam results. However, towards the end of Year 12 I started to consider that University was the option for me, it would be a great experience and I'd end up with a degree to be proud of, so the positives outweighed the negative of money and a bit of stress.

I was unsure what I wanted to study - I switched between film studies and media, but was sure I wanted to study something. I made my decision by looking at the typical job opportunities at the end of the course. I loved the idea of journalism, so decided I would pursue media. This final decision only came to me during the summer after Year 12, so I was pretty late, but I don't think it matters as long as you're sure.

Looking at Universities

I wasn't the most organised or motivated when it came to visiting Universities. But I soon learnt how important it is to visit them. It's strange but seemingly unimportant things can really alter your opinion, and if you don't feel right about the Uni straight away, then it's not the one for you.

One Uni I liked the look of was Royal Holloway; I liked that it was not too far from home in case I missed my family, I also thought the buildings looked beautiful, but I made the mistake of not reading into their media course. It was not at all what I thought; it focused primarily on film making and computer science, not journalism. From this experience I realised how important research was and started to look for media courses that contained more journalistic features, rather than a practical based course.

I soon found Cardiff University; it looked nice, the city looked interesting and historical, and it had a course that was perfect for me. I booked an open day and drove down with my parents. It felt really comfortable, which was an immediate bonus. We went to a scheduled talk on the course, and the whole time I felt interested and engaged with what it had to offer. As a result I chose to apply to Cardiff University. I didn't visit any more Universities, but I strongly recommend you visit as many as you can as first impressions can have a huge impact. Keep in mind that you will be living there for the next three years of your life.

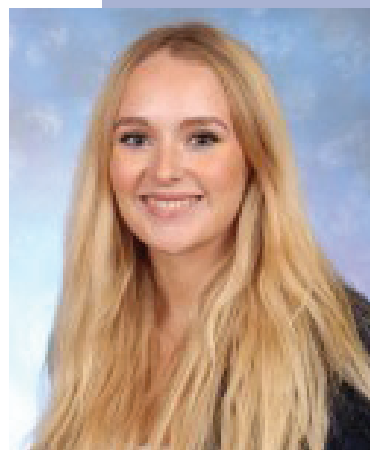
Personal Statement & Choosing my Top Five

When I first started my personal statement I had a pretty good idea of what I wanted to say. But, I still wasn't sure which Universities to choose as my top five; I knew I wanted to go to Cardiff more than any, so chose two courses there. I also decided to choose the University of Surrey due to the fact it was close and had great reviews. Then I chose two back-ups with the course I wanted but lower grades, just in case something went wrong in summer.

When I did my first draft of my personal statement, I wrote lots about media in general to show my knowledge, but after I had a teacher look through the whole thing almost half of my statement was either cut out or changed and I was told to add much more about myself and my achievements rather than the subject.

It took about three drafts to be happy with it, but along the way I learnt to really try and sell myself and prove why I would be worth giving an offer to. After this teacher was happy, I went to another teacher to get a second opinion; they changed a lot too, and told me to add more about what makes me a great student. I went back and forth, changing little things, it was frustrating as I was eager to send it off, but I knew it had to be perfect, so it was worth the struggle. I advise you make sure you're completely happy before you send it, because if not I guarantee you'll regret it.

When I finally sent my personal statement, I was nervous and excited; it was daunting knowing it had now been sent and the situation was now out of my hands. By the end of this journey I was pleased with myself; I had worked hard to get my personal statement done, and I learnt to be resilient if I want to do the best I can.



“

If you don't feel right about the uni straight away, then it's not the one for you...

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Government backtracks on promise

Calls have been made to oppose a five-year freeze on the £21,000 income threshold at which student borrowings must be paid back, despite a pledge when the scheme was launched that the £21,000 figure would be raised each year in line with average earnings. The £21,000 threshold was supposed to rise from 2017 – now, it won't!

When the changes to student finance were announced in 2012, it was repeatedly stated by the Government that the £21,000 threshold would rise in line with average earnings in April 2017. In November 2015, it did a U-turn, saying the threshold would be frozen until at least April 2021.

Consumer expert Martin Lewis said "This is about how young people can trust politics, when people can retroactively change a contract, if they are lied to in contract? It is an absolute disgrace."

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/nov/22/student-loans-fight-over-disgraceful-freeze-on-income-threshold>



A captive audience to hear about running a business with James Thompson from Spokes of Bagshot



THE COST OF A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION – THE FACTS

Now the Year 13s have applied to University, it's time they turn their attention to finance. Repaying the loan is one of the key areas that puts many off University. However, there are several misconceptions about financing a degree. Courtesy of moneysavingexpert.com, we will demystify the minefield...

1. Don't confuse the cost and the price tag

What matters is how much you have to repay – and that's a completely separate number from the total amount of tuition fees, maintenance loan and interest, because it all depends on what you would pay. What you repay depends on what you earn after University. In effect this is, financially, a 'no win, no fee' education. Those who earn a lot after University will repay a lot. Those who don't will repay little or nothing.

2. You don't need the cash to pay for University

It isn't a case of 'pay up or you can't go'. Once your application has been processed, tuition fees are automatically paid by the Student Loans Company. There is also a loan for living costs too. Full-time students only need to start repayment at the earliest in the April AFTER they graduate (or leave), no matter how long their course is.

3. You repay 9% of everything earned above £21,000 – earn less and you don't repay

Once you finish University, you only repay when you're earning above £1,750 a month (equivalent to £21,000 a year) and then it's fixed at 9% of everything you earn above that.

4. After 30 years, the remaining debt is wiped

You stop owing either when you've cleared the debt, or when 30 years (from the April after graduation) have passed, whichever comes first.

5. No debt collectors with student loans

All student loans since 1998 have been repaid through payroll, like income tax. This means, once you're working, your employer will deduct the repayments from your salary before you get it. So the amount you receive in your bank account each month already has it removed.

6. Many people earning over £21,000 will never pay it all back within the 30 years

It looks likely only those towards the higher end of the income scale (around £200k) will ever repay all of what they borrowed,

plus interest. In this case, what you borrow is irrelevant – you'll just keep paying each month until the 30 years point.

7. Almost all Unis charge £9,000

When it first came into play in 2012, the idea was that there would be some expensive degrees and some cheap degrees, charged between £6,000 and £9,000. Now, almost all Universities for full-time students charge £9,000 and it's likely they're going to be allowed to increase with inflation.

8. You can borrow for living costs too

Full-time students at the start of their course can also take a loan to pay for living costs, e.g., food, books, accommodation and travel. This is a maintenance loan, and is usually paid in termly instalments to the student's bank account. The loan is repaid in the same way as the tuition fee loan.

9. Grants were replaced by larger loans for 2016/17 starters and beyond

In the 2015 Budget, the Chancellor announced that from the 2016/17 academic year, maintenance grants would be scrapped, so all maintenance money now comes in the form of a student loan.

10. Student loans **DO NOT** go on credit files

When you borrow from a bank for a credit card, loan or mortgage, to evaluate whether they'll make money from you, lenders look at three pieces of information – your application form, previous dealings with you and, crucially, your credit reference. Most financial transactions and credit relationships are listed, but student loans are not.

11. Beware paying tuition fees upfront, it could leave you worse off

Many parents save up to avoid their children getting into 'debt' or borrow money themselves so their children won't need to. That's a petrifying thought, a student loan is the 'best' form of debt you'll ever get. The interest is relatively low and you only need to repay it if you earn enough.

12. The highest earners aren't the highest payers

This quirk happens because seriously high earners pay off so quickly they have less time to accrue interest.

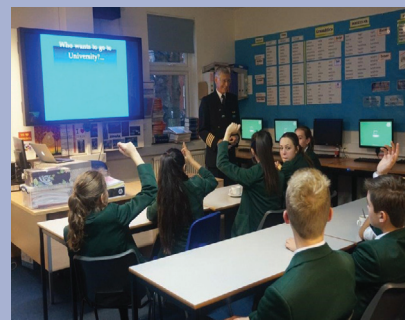
To find out more visit <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes#multiThree>

APPLYING TO UNI - MY STORY: JAMES HOWARD

In late April, I started to become aware of 'open days' at Universities across the country. Before this, I had already looked at some online prospectuses and gathered a certain idea of what course I wanted to study. At my work experience, I spoke to interns who were there to try and get a job after their studies. They told me they had to get at least a 2:1 degree to guarantee the job. I enjoyed this work experience so much that I now want to pursue a career in finance and so must go to University.



I applied to some open days on their websites. I applied in early May and saw that some of the subject talks were fully booked already. Usually, you just put your details and subject you are interested in, then receive emails with further instructions on what to do on the actual open day. When arriving at the open day, I had to go to the register area and sign in, as well as receive



Pupils hear about a career in aviation with former helicopter pilot, Lorimer Burn.



Halls of residence for new undergraduates at Bristol University

tickets for the subject talks I had booked in advance. After going to several subject talks, they all became a bit similar and generic, so don't worry if you can't attend a few. Some will have campus tours but will have the option of a self-guided tour. The best part of the open days was the accommodation tours. These are a must if you decide to attend an open day. All the universities gave me leaflets with pricing (for both catered and self-catered) whilst looking around. As I started to look around more universities, e.g. UCL, Bristol and Leeds, I became drawn to more of a city-based campus. Having a look at the closest town/city is important, as this is where you'll be most likely to share a house with your friends in the 2nd and 3rd year.

“ *Having a look at the closest town/city is important* ”

I then started to write my personal statement at the end of summer. I found that some universities gave some guidance on how to write it and what to put in it, e.g. LSE said it should be 75% academic-based. Before I started, I wrote down all the things I wanted to put into it and then started to construct it. I then finished it at the end of the first half term – after countless drafts and checks.

I gave it to several different teachers to check and finally submitted my UCAS application. After submitting it, it went to Mrs Radford for her to check but she had to send it back to me twice as there were errors in my application (e.g. inaccuracies in inputting of results). After sorting this, she sent it off to the universities.



The attractive city University of Leeds

WHAT'S ON?

SPRING TERM 2017

Y9 Tomlinscote Career Fair
Tuesday 7 February 2017

Y10 STEM Speed Dating
Thursday 9 February 2017

Gordon's School Careers Fair
Thurs 9th March 6-7.30pm

Career Industry Talk: A Career in Computing
Tuesday 10 January 2017

Career Industry Talk: Apprenticeships
Tuesday 24 January 2017

Career Industry Talk: A Career in Psychology
Tuesday 7 February 2017

Career Industry Talk: A Career in Healthcare
Tuesday 21 February 2017

Career Industry Talk: A Career in Fashion Photography/Glass Making
Tuesday 7 March 2017 and Tuesday 21 March 2017

All career talks take place during period 7 in Windsor 1. Tickets can be collected from reception up to two weeks in advance of the event.

STUDY IN THE USA

Pure Potential work with companies and organisations to bring you fantastic opportunities to help you with your future university and career options. This opportunity is for Year 12s who are considering studying in America.

The Sutton Trust and the US-UK Fulbright Commission are inviting applications for this once-in-a-lifetime higher education experience in the USA.

The Sutton Trust US Programme helps British state school students apply to American universities through support, advice and a one-week summer school in the USA.

It is free to take part in the programme. We have over 200 alumni, accessing \$50 million in funding from US universities. Why not join them?

To be eligible, students must:

- Be in Year 12 (England and Wales), S5 (Scotland) or Year 13 (Northern Ireland)
- Attend a state school or college
- Have excellent GCSEs or S4 qualifications
- Not hold US citizenship

We welcome applications from students who are:

- Interested in US culture and higher education
- From a low income family
- In the first generation of their family to go to university

The student application deadline is 11:59 pm on 22 January 2017, and school references must be submitted by 11:59 pm, 24 January 2017.

For more information and to apply visit:

http://us.suttontrust.com/?utm_source=purepotential&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Fulbright_Promo_2017

Job Vacancies

GSK IT Apprenticeship

GSK are a science-led global healthcare company that researches and develops innovative Pharmaceuticals, Vaccines and Consumer Healthcare products. Our challenging and inspiring mission is to enable people to do more, feel better and live longer by developing innovative products and improving access to healthcare for patients around the world.

Wage: Competitive salary

Working week: Usual hours of work are approximately 37.5 per week, however your working pattern depends on your area.

Total hours per week: 37.50

Apprenticeship duration: 3 years

Possible start date: 01 Aug 2017

Apprenticeship level: Higher Level

Positions: Three available



Our IT apprenticeship programme provides you with the opportunity to work with and gain an in-depth understanding of world-leading technologies used throughout GSK. We use technology as part of our strategic journey to deliver life enhancing healthcare that enables people to do more, feel better and live longer. The role of IT is key to ensuring business success, allowing us to make a difference to the lives of our patients.

What will this apprenticeship offer me?

Our three year IT apprenticeship offers you the chance to obtain nationally recognised qualifications whilst gaining valuable, paid work experience. Our apprentices work towards completing a Level 4, higher apprenticeship.

What does an IT apprenticeship involve?

You will be aligned to one of our main IT functions, combining on-the-job learning with a programme of training and development. Your role may involve:

- Improving business processes
- Supporting Manufacturing processes and technologies
- Developing new applications
- Designing new ways to use IT services
- Testing new systems

For further information and to apply visit: <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/-32366>

National Audit Office – School Leaver Programme

The National Audit Office (NAO) scrutinises public spending for Parliament. Their public audit perspective helps Parliament hold government to account and improve public services.



National Audit Office

The NAO have an exciting school leaver programme for Year 13s looking for professional accountancy tuition and on-the-job training, leading to a qualification as a Chartered Accountant. If you know of any ambitious Year 13s, please forward this email to them and their parents.

Highlights of the school leaver programme;

- A starting salary of £18,000-£23,000 which will increase year-on-year to £30,000-£36,000 in the final year subject to passing exams
- Formal training courses covering the latest accounting and auditing techniques with the ICAEW
- Comprehensive support network, including managers who will provide support and a NAO 'buddy', a more experienced trainee, who will be on hand to answer any questions during those first few months
- After qualifying you could be offered a job as an Audit Principle earning £40,000-£50,000 per year

To find out more, please visit: <http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/news/article/270/national-audit-office-what-s-it-like>