

DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

In partnership with **FutureSmartCareers**



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2025

In the newsletter this month



**Study Options Fair –
Studying in
Australia & New
Zealand**



**University of
Cambridge Subject
Masterclasses &
applicant webinars**



**Barclays Bank
Apprenticeships –
2026 Entry**



**EY Summer 2026
Internship Programme**

News updates

UK Government news September 2025



An article that touches on the announcement that [Adult education, skills and careers is moving into DWP](#) and Jacqui Smith is now reporting into the DWP for adult education, skills and careers. As the DWP has a UK-wide remit whereas the DfE is England focused, this raises interesting questions around careers provision, which is devolved and delivered differently in each nation.

WONKHE article - Higher education mergers are a marathon not a sprint

WONKHE

A discussion of the announcement on Wednesday 10th September that the universities of Kent and Greenwich planned to merge [Higher education mergers are a marathon not a sprint](#), this insightful article from WONKHE considers the strategic direction and the finer detail around the proposed new multi university group. Read more [here](#).

Apprenticeships Work campaign' – The Edge Foundation



The Edge Foundation's '[Apprenticeships Work](#)' campaign is targeted at SMEs to encourage more small businesses to take on apprentices. Edge knows young people's interest in apprenticeships is growing, while employers are facing skills challenges that limit growth so are calling for Government to expand support for SMEs and opportunities for young people. Two new reports help form the campaign, which show the need to create a 'one-stop' apprenticeship application system and support SMEs through apprenticeship brokerage services and sector-specific advice.

CDI news: Gatsby Benchmark results 2024/25 published



The Careers & Enterprise Company has published [Gatsby Benchmark results](#) for the 2024/25 academic year, based on Compass returns from 4,863 state schools in England – the largest number to date and representing 94% of all schools and colleges. Highlighting further improvements in engagement and achievement of benchmarks and concerns around some benchmarks being harder to achieve than others and ‘uneven’ progress between different types of institution, the results make interesting reading.

BIMM to offer 3 new undergraduate courses for September 2026



The team at BIMM have recently streamlined their undergraduate offer to include 3 new courses for September 2026 entry: [BA \(Hons\) Music Production](#), [BA \(Hons\) Music Business, Events and Media](#) and [BMus \(Hons\) Songwriting](#). The 2026 undergraduate portfolio will cover the core disciplines of music performance, songwriting, music production, and the wider music industry – as well as joint honours combinations that allow students to build cross-disciplinary expertise.

Upcoming Events

Smallpeice Trust – Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme



Applications for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme for 16-18 year-olds are now open: [Arkwright Engineering Scholarships - Smallpeice Trust](#). Open to those currently in year 11, this prestigious scholarship supports high-potential students with a passion for engineering, offering mentoring, enrichment experiences, and industry connections that can help shape their future. Schools must be affiliated with Smallpeice Trust to apply.

Study Options Fair – Study in Australia or New Zealand



For students wishing to study their degree in Australia or New Zealand, [Study Options](#) is a vital resource. FREE to students and School and College staff, the service offers a great website, advice and an annual Fair, where students can meet representatives of universities in Australia and New Zealand and find out how to apply. This year's Fair takes place in London from 12pm on **Saturday 15th November**, register for your ticket [here](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

Green Careers Week 2025 – 3rd to 8th November



Ahead of Green Careers Week 3rd-8th November, [Green Careers Week 2025](#) we've sourced two of the best resources to support Careers staff and students with the preparation and planning for a Green Career. Firstly the UCAS Advisers Green Careers Week Guide, which showcases the ways in which your school or college can get involved and make an impact: [Green Careers Week Guide: 3 – 8 November 2025 | UCAS](#).

This [Finding a green apprenticeship Rapid Read](#) from the team at Amazing Apprenticeships answers questions around Green Apprenticeships, Net Zero and How to find Green occupations and Apprenticeships via Skills England and provides insights from current Green Apprentices working in a variety of different green roles about how the work that they do is supporting sustainability and improving the environment.

Getting ready for Higher Education guide – UCAS, August 2025



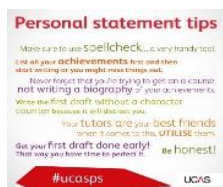
The team at UCAS have produced this informative guide to [Getting ready for higher education](#). With tips and on Studying, Managing Finances, Living away from Home, Diversity and friendships, Staying healthy, Looking after your wellbeing, Individual needs and Disability Support and International students Support, it's a comprehensive resource and one-stop-shop for students and parents/carers preparing for the move into Higher Education.

University of Cambridge: Applicant webinar series – June to December 2025



REMINDER: Students can still tap into many of the [University of Cambridge's Applicant Webinar Series](#) sessions for the 2025/2026 admissions cycle. Covering the Foundation Year programme, College registered assessments and Interviews, they should provide a fascinating insight for this year's Cambridge applicants. Book your place [here](#).

UCAS Advisers – Personal Statement toolkit



The team at UCAS have created this useful toolkit to help your students shine in their personal statement: [Personal statement toolkit | UCAS](#). Particularly relevant in the 2025-2026 cycle due to the new Personal Statement format for 2026 entry applicants, it covers the new Personal Statement questions, the expectations of what students should include in their answers, student resources and guides, classroom resources for staff and some FAQs.

FutureSmart Careers October 2025 Blog – Careers in the UK Finance Sector



This month, the FutureSmart Careers blog focuses on Careers in the Finance sector [Careers in the UK Finance Sector](#). Covering aspects such as Apprenticeships, Top Employers, useful subjects at Level 3 and Degree level and hotspots in the UK by location, the blog will prove a useful resource for students interested in a career in Finance.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Barclays Bank Degree Apprenticeships – September 2026 entry



[Barclays Degree Apprenticeships](#) are open for application, with opportunities in Tech, Risk and Compliance, Finance, HR, Retail Banking, UK Corporate Banking and Private Banking & Wealth Management available. A 3–5-year programme, with a competitive salary and a hybrid-working model, this should appeal to those interested in careers in the Finance sector. Find out more and apply [here](#).

BBC Apprenticeship applications – opening 21st October 2025



The [BBC Apprenticeship](#) applications open on 21st October. With opportunities in business, engineering, production, journalism or digital, there are pathways available for all. Committed to skills and talent development both inside and outside the BBC, the organisation is world-leading in the creative and technological fields. For more information and to apply, see: [Schemes on Offer | BBC Early Careers](#).

Retail Degree Apprenticeships with Morrisons



Retail Degree Apprenticeships with Morrisons are now open for application to the September 2026 entry programme. Partnered with the University of Bradford and University of Strathclyde to create tailor-made programmes to suit applicants, Morrisons won the prestigious Institute for Student Employers Award for Best Overall Emerging Talent Strategy 2023. With opportunities in Retail, Corporate, Manufacturing & Logistics available it offers a flying start to a Retail career. Find out more and apply [here](#).

RAF Apprenticeships – applications open



Apply now for an Apprenticeship with the RAF: [Apprenticeships | Royal Air Force](#). With a broad and diverse range of professions including aviation operations, engineering, hospitality & catering and IT, you can gain professional qualifications that will take you from Army to Civilian life and beyond. Students can find out more and apply [here](#).

Become a Pilot with EasyJet Careers



Become a Pilot with EasyJet. Thinking about becoming a Pilot with easyJet? If you love flying, have brilliant hand-eye coordination skills and the attitude to work hard and support the people around you, this might be the career for you! Aimed at 18+ students, with a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at Grade C or above, including maths, science and English. You can find out more about the medical requirements and how to build experience for application [here](#).

BA Future Pilots: Speedbird Pilot Academy



The British Airways (BA) **Future Pilots - Speedbird Pilot Academy** programme provides fully funded flight training for a select number of candidates. By removing the initial training cost barrier, BA are levelling the playing field and making a flying career more accessible to a much wider range of people. Integrated flight training courses are offered full-time and take 18-24 months to complete. Register [here](#) to be notified of 2026 entry application opening and deadline dates.

KPMG Apprenticeships – applications open



KPMG Apprenticeships are now open for application for 2026 Programmes across Audit, Tax and KPMG Business Services. You'll be supported to achieve professional qualifications, beginning with an immersive five-day induction. With dedicated study time, opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and the KPMG Digital Ninja programme, students can future proof their career in Finance. Find out more and apply [here](#).

AWE (Nuclear Security Technologies) - applications open 13th October 2025



Applications will open on 13th October for **Apprenticeships in Nuclear Security with AWE**. Offered at Levels 3 to 6, opportunities can be as diverse as Mechanical Maintenance Apprenticeship, Nuclear Engineering Degree Apprenticeship and Materials & Analytical Science Apprenticeship. You can Match to an Apprenticeship, hear from current employees and answer FAQs [here](#).

Cornwall Opportunities Bulletin – re-launch



Cornwall Council's - Economy and Skills Service, have re-launched their Apprenticeships vacancy list the Cornwall Opportunities Bulletin. This is the 19th of September 2025 version and there is a good mix of Level 2 and Level 3 options and unusual opportunities such as a Level 2 Equine Groom apprenticeship, as well as opportunities such as Hairdressing or Marketing. For more information about when the bulletin will be published and how young people can apply, contact Cornwall Council's Employment and Apprenticeship team.

October 2025 edition – Higher & Degree Apprenticeships listing



The latest edition of the Higher and Degree listing is due to be published this month, displaying vacancies from over 80 employers. A bi-annual publication, you can download the January 2025 listing at: [Higher & Degree Apprenticeships | Amazing Apprenticeships](#). To receive the October listing from Amazing Apprenticeships, [register here](#).

Summer of Gap Year Opportunities

EY Summer Internship programmes – July 2026



Summer Internship programmes are available at EY in July 2026 in the areas of Actuarial Life Insurance, Actuarial non-Life Insurance, Actuarial Pensions (all four-week programmes) and AI Tax Technology Transformation (six-week programme): [EY UK Student Recruitment](#). Find out more about the programmes, skills and qualifications you'll gain and how to apply [here](#).

Flying Fish Superyacht Steward course



Start your career as a Yacht Steward or Stewardess, on the Flying Fish training course: [Superyacht Steward Course](#). From the mandatory STCW Basic Safety Training to expert-led interior management and 5-star silver service skills, over 15 days you'll gain hands-on experience and industry insights. Based at Cowes, Isle of Wight and costed at £3,320, this is an investment for those interested in a career at sea. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

Adviser Live webinars from UCAS



[UCAS Adviser live](#) free webinars cover a range of topics to help you – including international updates, apprenticeships, and careers advice. With sessions such as Supporting Individual need (7th October), Adviser Reporting packages masterclass (15th October), Navigating UK HE with international students (11th November) and Guiding Late Applicants on 7th January 2026, you can register [here](#).

UCAS cycle – Upcoming dates October and beyond



As a reminder that a key [UCAS cycle](#) date is approaching, **15th October** is the deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge and most Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary courses. Hopefully everyone with an interest in Music Conservatoire applications noted the 2nd October applications deadline too. Whereas the Equal consideration deadline for undergraduate UCAS applications is **14th January** including for conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses.

University of Cambridge - Teachers and Advisers webinar series



Two dates for your diary from this cycle's University of Cambridge's Teachers and Advisers webinar series are: Application outcomes and supporting unsuccessful applicants on **12th November, 4:30-5:30pm** [book here](#) and Subject Spotlight: STEM Subjects on **10th December, 4:30-5:30pm** [book here](#).

CDI's Technical Education Resources Hub



The [Technical Education Resource Hub - Career Development Institute](#) is a one-stop-shop for information and resources aimed at career development professionals in England, to raise awareness of technical education pathways and qualifications reforms in this area. Covering What is Technical Education, Background to qualifications reform in England and the key themes, the hub is a useful resource for Careers staff in Schools and Colleges.

UCAS Teachers and Advisers Conference 2026



The [Teachers and Advisers Conference | UCAS](#) will be held on the 24th and 25th February 2026 in Birmingham. An essential event for professionals guiding students through post-16 and post-18 choices, this year's conference sessions will be grouped into: Managing UCAS applications, Strategic Planning for Careers and Progression and Insight into Action – Data and Policy. View the agenda, find out more and register for your place [here](#).

National Careers Week (NCW) – 2nd to 7th March 2026



[National Careers Week \(NCW\)](#) puts careers education at the centre of learning, connecting classroom learning to real life, raising aspirations, and opening doors to future possibilities. This academic year, National Careers Week (NCW) will take place from the 2nd – 7th March 2026. Find out more and access your resources in preparation at the [NCW One Stop Shop](#).

Get in touch

Helpline



Kyley Houghton, our Helpline Manager and our team welcome enquiries from schools, parents, and students. The helpline is staffed between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday at helpline@futuresmartcareers.co.uk.

FutureSmart Careers Apprenticeship Support



FSC now offers an Apprenticeship Support Package to schools and colleges. We have produced a suite of workshops and talks to include the best bits from the ASK programme, but with the added extras we feel are needed. The Apprenticeship support we are offering is 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.

If you would like to find out more about this service or book in a meeting to discuss further, please click on the link to complete the form: [Apprenticeship Support - Expression of Interest Form](#)

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 or:

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We'd love to hear from you!

