



Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams

The GCSE mock exams finished last Friday with students having now had a double taste of sitting their exams under realistic exam conditions helping them to fully prepare for the exam season in the Summer term. Students hopefully put into place the skills and advice given to them post Year 10 mocks, during PSHE lessons last year and at the Study Skills & Revision Techniques session that took place at the start of the month. Results day on Wednesday 17th December will tell...

Year 11 16+ Options

All Year 11 students should be thinking hard, making decisions and applying for the courses they may wish to pursue in their next steps after Year 11. They have already had an information assembly reminding them of the process and the information slides can be found on their google classroom and [here](#).



Students can (and should) choose more than one course to apply for. Indeed, they should be keeping all their options open at the moment. If they apply for Sixth Form and a college course they can turn the one down that they don't want when they get their results. All of this is explained to them, but...! Students wanting to apply for an apprenticeship MUST apply for a college course until an apprenticeship place is secured.

One of the most important points to note is that students need to know their predicted grade/level in their final exam as they need to be realistic when making their choices for next year. They should aim high in the hope that they will do as expected or better in their exams but also have a back-up plan in case things don't work out so well.

I cannot stress the importance of the mocks not only for helping to improve grades but that these will also be used as their predicted grades when applying for College/6th Form/ work and training.

Final call for all Former Fearnhill Students - we still need you!

Did you once walk the Fearnhill corridors, learn in a Fearnhill classroom and wear a Fearnhill uniform? Then I would love for you to get in touch! We need former students to join us to share their career stories to inspire our current students. Continued on page 2.



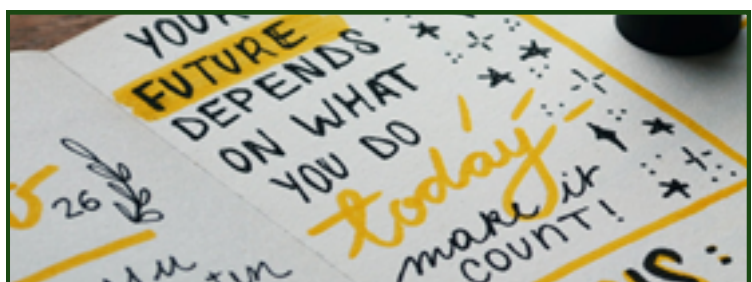
Year 9 Options

Year 9 students will kick off the options process in the new year. This is an important time for them to navigate the next steps of their education moving from key stage 3 to 4. More details to follow in January.



Ms Balchin, Careers & PSHE Lead

Look out every fortnight
for new features -
all things career related!



Services for Young People



Opening hours

Tuesday and Thursdays, 11am-5pm

Christmas 2024

Last day open 24th December 2024, reopening 2nd January 2025.

At the Services for Young People 11-5 Project at Letchworth Young People's Centre, young people can access free and confidential information, advice and support on the following topics from trained SfYP Advisers and Youth Workers:

- * Jobs and careers
- * Training & apprenticeships
- * Education & exams
- * Youth work projects
- * Health & relationships advice
- * Personal safety
- * Drugs & alcohol use
- * Benefits & finances
- * Housing & homelessness
- * Improving resilience, self-esteem & confidence
- * Independent living skills

Contact us

Young people can drop in or contact the Services for Young People North Herts Team to make an appointment. Making an appointment in advance will ensure you don't have to wait to be seen. As well as face-to-face, phone and video-call appointments are also available.

Tel: 01438 843340

Text: 07860 065178

Email: SfYP.northherts@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We Need You!

Calling all Former Fearnhill Students - we need you!

Did you once walk the Fearnhill corridors, learn in a Fearnhill classroom and wear a Fearnhill uniform? Then I would love for you to get in touch!

We need former students to join us to share their career stories to inspire our current students. It doesn't matter what your journey has been since leaving school, we'd like to represent a wide cross-section of careers that might be available to our students. If you'd like more information on how you can be involved in our careers event on Friday 13th March, please email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk.

I am excited at the prospect of seeing some familiar faces!
Spread the word!

CALLING ALL FORMER FEARNHILL STUDENTS... WE NEED YOU!



Ms Balchin, our Head of Careers, would love former students to share their career stories to inspire our current students.

It doesn't matter what your journey has been since leaving school - bank manager or basketball player, barista or barrister - come and let our students talk to you about your career path.

If you'd like more information on how you can be involved in our Careers Event on Friday 13th March 2026, please email:

admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Special Mention - December

Well done to all Year 11 & 13 students for the way they conducted themselves throughout the mock exam season! It can be a daunting experience but our students were exemplary in the way they dealt with the pressure.

I hope the mock grades reflect the work that went into preparing for these. If you aren't happy with the outcome - there is still time to turn things around.



Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

Apprenticeship Interview Tips

There are fewer things more stressful than an interview (driving test and moving house probably trump it), but there's no need to worry about it, if you follow these simple steps and prepare, prepare, prepare! You only get one opportunity to make a good first impression, so you need to be well prepared for the apprenticeship interview.

1. Do your homework

Fail to plan, and you plan to fail. You are certain to be asked specific questions about the company, so make sure you've done your homework. You can find useful information on their company website, look for details about the company culture, their mission and values. You could also speak to someone who already works there, or even try Googling the company and see what comes up. Also take a look at the latest developments in the industry so you can converse with confidence.

2. Plan your route

Where are you going for the interview? Is it the employer's headquarters? Figure out how you will get there on the day, so that you don't have to worry about getting lost. It might even be a good idea to visit the location ahead of your interview if it's not too far away, to time how long it'll take you to get there. On the day you should allow extra time for any unexpected delays and get everything you need to take with you ready the night before.



3. Know what to expect on the day

Interviews can be more complicated than they first appear, depending on the employer. Some still do them one on one, on a single day, and then make their decision. Others prefer two interviews; the first to whittle down applicants from a long list, the second to make their final decision. Some employers even meet their applicants all at once, to see how you would react in a group setting. Find out what the format of the interview will be when the employer first gets in touch. Knowing ahead of time will make it easier for you to prepare.

4. Prepare your answers

Although there is no set format that every job interview will follow, there are some questions that you can almost guarantee will be asked. You should prepare answers to questions about your personal strengths and weaknesses, as well as being able to explain why you would be the best person for the job and why you want to work for them. You can't predict what questions you'll be asked, but you can guess and plan general answers that can be narrowed down on the day. The less you have to improvise, the better, so practise potential questions and likely answers on your own or with a parent or teacher and always have examples ready to support your answers.

5. Look smart

Appearances shouldn't matter, but the plain fact is that you are often judged before you've even uttered a word. Make sure your shoes are clean, your clothes fit correctly and that your accessories are subtle. Dressing one level above the job you're applying for shows a desire to succeed. Don't be afraid to seek a second opinion about your outfit choice from a friend or relative.

6. Things to bring with you

You may need to bring a portfolio of work, a passport to prove you have the right to work in this country, or your CV. Check and make sure it's out and to-hand the day before, so you won't forget it.

7. Keep calm

Good preparation is the key to staying in control. Getting a good night's sleep before the interview will help you feel fresh and motivated. You're going to be nervous, accept this and move on. Shake the hands of everyone present when you arrive, and keep it natural. No one maintains eye contact all of the time, so just meet their gaze when they're speaking, and when you are. Speak clearly, smile and remember that your interviewers are just normal people. If it helps, ask for a glass of water. Remember the three Cs: Cool, calm and confident!

Apprenticeship Interview Tips continued

8. Listen

From the very beginning of the interview, your interviewer is giving you information, either directly or indirectly. If you are not hearing it, you are missing a major opportunity. Good communication skills include listening and letting the person know you heard what was said. Observe your interviewer, and match that style and pace.

9. Watch your language

Keep things professional, no matter how comfortable the interviewer makes you feel. Be aware of any inappropriate slang words or references to age, race, religion, politics, or sexual orientation - these topics could send you out the door very quickly. Also, telling the interviewer more than they need to know could be a fatal mistake, so try not to ramble. Preparing your answers in advance will help you with this. Your attitude plays an important role, so try not to be over-confident as there is a fine balance between confidence, professionalism and modesty.

10. Show interest

You should always have some questions for your interviewer to demonstrate your interest in the position. Prepare a minimum of five questions, some which will give you more information about the job and some that delve deeper into the culture and goals of the company. Good examples of questions could include: What are the main responsibilities of the position? What can I expect from you in terms of development and support? Do you offer a pension? Do you organise socials for the staff? Try to avoid questions about pay and benefits if you can.

For more information on the interview process, take a look at our section on apprenticeship applications.

<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/how-do-you-prepare-for-an-apprenticeship-interview/>

Jobs + Careers

JOBS+CAREERS



Built on the heritage of publishing indispensable job seeking and career building advice for over 13 years, Jobs & Careers is the ultimate recruitment and training guide boasting to active job seekers with expert advice on how to succeed in getting that job and taking the next step on the career ladder.

Jobs & Careers advise the most self-motivated, career-minded and proactive job seekers across the country through in-depth coverage and advice for: school leavers, students, graduates, the unemployed, those leaving the army, those going back to work, single parents, people facing redundancy, temps, contractors, part time workers, those looking to leave their job and change careers.



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Key Word/Phrase of the Fortnight

AUTOMATION



**THE USE OF EQUIPMENT
TO PERFORM A TASK OR
A JOB.**

Obscure / Obsolete Job Titles



aperer

A domestic servant responsible for washing and storing household linen, such as tablecloths.

Apprenticeship FAQs

With more than 600 options, you're spoilt for choice in your search for an apprenticeship

There are more than 600 apprenticeships profiled here. They're organised by sector to make it easier for you to find which ones may appeal to you, as well as school subject, skill and interest, salary band and level to simplify selection further. Where two apprenticeships appear similar, it's probably because they're offered at different levels, with one representing an entry level position and the other designed to train you for management responsibilities.

Any questions please [contact us](#).



[Legal
Apprenticeships](#)

Unifrog's Apprenticeship Fair

This event is to inspire students to consider a broad range of apprenticeships at our virtual apprenticeship fair on
Wednesday 11th February 2026!

Students will gain expert advice on how to find the right apprenticeship for them and apply successfully in live sessions with top employers including the BBC, Aldi, and Unilever. The fair is free for all students and ideal for Yr 10-13, making it easy for students across these year groups to connect with a diverse range of employers. Students are welcome to drop in for just one or two sessions, or they can stay for the full fair.

From understanding apprenticeships to learning what it's like to work in different industries and acing your application, this fair is a great opportunity to explore your options and get your questions answered by the experts. Join live sessions with employers from across the UK and speak directly to their representatives to achieve your dream apprenticeship!

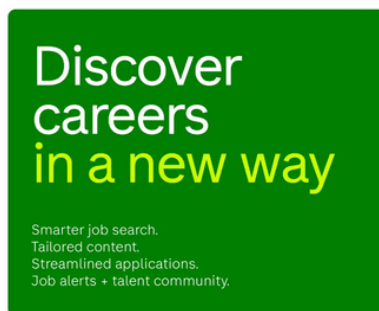
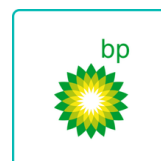
There is a full schedule planned, so sign up now to learn all about the world of apprenticeships.



Employer of the Week

Every issue of Careerfile, we will be bringing you an 'Employer of the Week!'

As a leading global energy company with a presence in 61 countries, BP's purpose is to deliver energy to the world, today and tomorrow.



Whether you're just starting out or ready for your next big move, you're in the right place to explore an exciting career with bp.

Take your career somewhere new

About bp

Your talent. Your skills. Your big ideas (and even bigger dreams). We know you have a lot to give. So we'll make sure you get a lot in return. From next-level experiences to global impact. From inspiring teammates to exceptional support. Across the bp landscape, we're home to a range of brands across many areas of our industry.

We are one of only a few companies that can deliver energy at global scale through a decades-long energy transition. Delivering our strategy sustainably is fundamental to achieving our ambition to be a net zero company by 2050 or sooner. It's an exciting time to join bp. Challenging projects? You'll have them. Support that actually supports you? We pride ourselves on it. From wellbeing programmes to mentorship and career growth opportunities, we aim to ensure you can thrive – in work and in life. Ready to build your future with us?

We will be recruiting apprentices for 2026 start dates

Here's Georgia with a day in her life as a bp apprentice: <https://youtu.be/sZmfHmUAorM>

[click here for bp Apprenticeships](#)

Want to learn more about our global operations and energy transition strategy? Visit bp.com.

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The Graduate Job Market & Degree Apprenticeships

Here are some key resources on the graduate employment market and degree apprenticeships, which I hope will be of interest to Sixth Form students and their parents/carers.



High Fliers Research produces The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers book and The Sixth Formers' Guide to Degree Apprenticeships - and compiles The Sunday Times Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers too.

The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers

Produced annually, The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers showcases the UK's most sought-after and prestigious employers of new graduates.

The 200-page book includes the latest assessment of the graduate job market, details of the graduate vacancies offered by employers in fifteen different industries & business sectors - and which individual universities the country's top employers target for their graduate recruitment.

The new 2025-2026 edition of the book is available now.



The essential guide to degree apprenticeships

Your free 120-page guide to how degree apprenticeships offer a debt-free alternative to a traditional university degree – for sixth form students and parents/carers.



The Sunday Times Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers

The Sunday Times Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers recognises the UK's outstanding apprenticeship employers - and the new 2025 rankings were launched in a 90-minute TV programme, specially-produced for schools & sixth form colleges.

Coverage of the rankings in The Sunday Times included profiles of the country's top apprenticeship employers, apprentice case studies, and a guide to the different levels of apprenticeships available across the UK.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 17th December

Year 11 Results Assembly

Monday 12th January

Tuesday 13th January

Year 8 Careers Event

Tuesday 6th January

Year 11 6th Form

Subject Taster Day P1-4

Wednesday 14th January

Year 11 Parent IAG Online

Thursday 8th January

Year 13 Parents Eve

Thursday 15th January

Yr 11 Period 6 starts

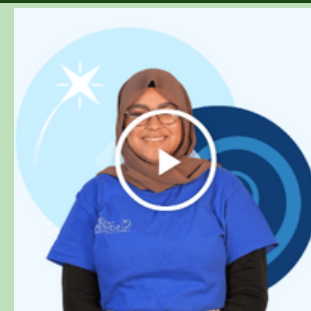
Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

Medic Mentor

Real Students. Real Journeys. Honest Reviews.

Pursuing your dream of becoming a doctor may feel overwhelming, but remember that countless successful doctors have faced similar challenges and doubts. Believe in yourself and your abilities, focusing on your strengths and passion for medicine. Medic Mentor and its community of supportive students and mentors are here to guide you. Embrace the journey, knowing that success comes from resilience and learning from setbacks. Trust in your intelligence, drive, and passion, taking it one step at a time and seeking support when needed. Never lose sight of your dreams, for you have what it takes to achieve them.

The Medic Mentor website has numerous videos of med students sharing their journey. Mehzabeen is in their 3rd year at Barts & the London. Click [here](#) for Mehzabeen's story.



MEDIC MENTOR
YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

Subject of the Month - December

 Note down at least one thing you think you know about these subjects.

YR 7 Drama and theatre studies

1. Stage combat and animal studies are two of the modules. Which of these sound the most interesting to you, and why?
2. What skills might be useful for studying this subject?
3. How might English, drama, and law A levels prepare for this degree?
4. What extracurricular activities could you do to support future studies in drama and theatre studies?

YR 8

Anthropology

1. What might be the benefits of being the president of a university society (extracurricular club)?
 2. What skills and qualities do you think someone studying this subject should have, and why?
 3. It's good to 'have an active interest in the world around you' – how could you demonstrate this?
- Do you think you'd enjoy studying this subject? Why or why not?

Unifrog's 'Career of the Month' and 'Subject of the Month'! Students can log on to Unifrog and watch a video interview with a professional or university student and answer reflection questions.

Music YR 12

1. Does the typical day of a music student meet your expectations? Did anything surprise you?
 2. How would you handle challenges like disagreements or personality clashes in a group?
 3. How would you balance academics and extracurriculars like orchestra at university?
- What do you think of the advice to 'always try and say yes' to opportunities?

Education

YR 9

1. Some students prefer to complete uni work during their timetable gaps, rather than at home. What's one potential benefit and one downside of this approach?
 2. What benefits are mentioned about school placements?
 3. Some courses have no exams; instead, you use notes to complete essays. Does this appeal to you? Why or why not?
- How could you prepare to study this subject?

YR 10 Ophthalmics and optometry

1. 'People's eye sights are in our hands'. Is this the sort of responsibility you would like in your career? Why or why not?
 2. Other than at an opticians, where could an optometrist work?
 3. What have you learned in school that could be useful for this degree?
- What are some steps you could take now to explore this subject more?

Pharmacy and pharmacology

YR 11

1. Where could studying this subject take you in the future?
 2. If you could ask anything about this subject, what question would you ask?
 3. What skills or knowledge from your school subjects are most relevant to this subject?
- What challenges are mentioned about the degree? How do these challenges affect your interest in pursuing this subject?

YR 13

Modern Middle Eastern studies

1. What skills or knowledge from your school/college subjects are most relevant to this subject?
 2. Where could studying this subject take you in the future?
 3. What challenges did Pierre mention about the degree? How do these challenges affect your interest in pursuing this subject?
- If you could ask Pierre anything about this subject, what question would you ask him?

External Opportunities

LOCKHEED MARTIN

FREE Live Virtual Careers Talk
Understanding Future Career Pathways with
Lockheed Martin UK

Thursday 29th January 2026, 6pm - 6.45pm

The people of Lockheed Martin are critical to our success as a business and our customers rely on their skills, knowledge and passion.

Whether you're looking for apprenticeship opportunities, work experience, or graduate programme information, join us to learn more and hear from our current graduates and apprentices as they share their experiences.



Register HERE



Lisa Jiggins
Early Careers Lead

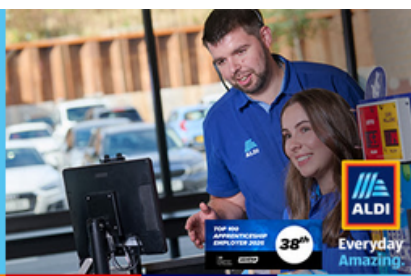
THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS
GOOD CAREER GUIDANCE



Students are advised to check their school email accounts weekly, if not daily! Careers information and opportunities are sent regularly and we wouldn't want them to miss the deadlines.

These are copied to parents/carers as well for reference. A few of these opportunities are listed here.

"I wanted a job.
Aldi gave me a career.



DISCOVER CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF ART TASTER DAY

12 February 2026
23 April 2026

BOOK NOW



Store Apprenticeships

Earn while you learn with the Aldi Store Management Apprenticeship Programme. Get real experience, real support and a real...

Aldi Recruitment UK

READY TO START YOUR CAREER AT THE BBC?

Whether you're a school leaver, graduate or looking to start something new, you'll find everything here about the early careers opportunities we offer to give you a head start into a career you'll love. Applications are now open!

Follow us [@BBCGetIn](#) on Instagram and [@LifeAtTheBBC](#) on TikTok for up-to-date news and to find out more about what working at the BBC is like.

You can get an idea of the apprenticeships on offer by looking at [FIND YOUR SCHEME](#).

If you're aged between 16 and 18, you can apply for one of our ['GET IN' TASTER EXPERIENCES](#).