

This is the final careers newsletter this year and once again is full of ideas to keep you busy. There are still essay competitions open, volunteering opportunities to apply for and many businesses are starting to support work experience placements once again. With this in mind, I have included a short guide to making a professional approach to an organisation you'd like to do work experience with. There are also some new tech courses and a focus on law in this issue. Do have a look through and follow the links for anything of interest. Copies of all this years' newsletters are available on the school website for reference.

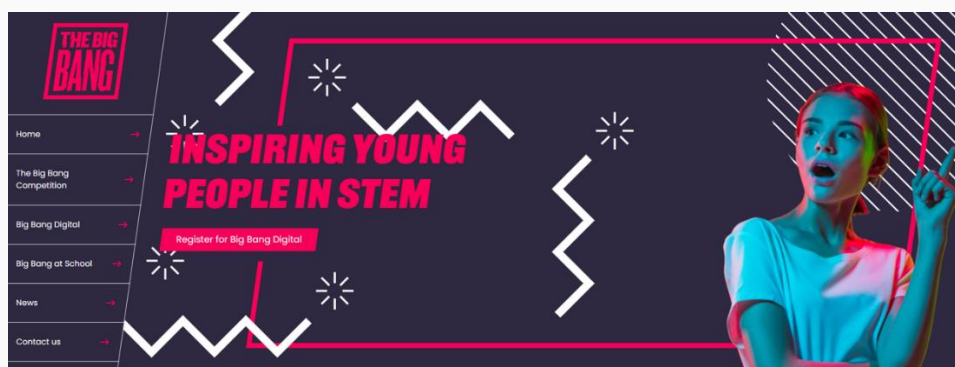
Have a wonderful summer!

Rebecca Auterson

Head of Careers

22 June 2021

Big Bang



The Big Bang Fair has gone digital for 2021. Year 7 will be taking part live on Thursday, hearing from speakers working in the rail, space and aviation industries as part of the 3 day digital programme. We won't have time to enjoy all the resources available in school, but you can catch up on everything at <https://www.thebigbang.org.uk/>.

Students in all year groups are encouraged to take part in the next Big Bang Competition - a wonderful chance to explore your own STEM idea or project, individually or in a team. The top projects will be showcased this time next year, so now is a good time to start thinking about what most inspires you! If you want to see what previous winners have worked on, and get some top tips too, then search 'Big Bang Competition' on YouTube.

Engineering Insights



Ursula Burns

Became first African American woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company



Dame Stephanie Shirley CH

Became a pioneering technology entrepreneur, philanthropist and icon for gender equality



Professor Sue Black

Became a Professor of computer science and technology after leaving school at 16 and fleeing an unsafe home

3 ENGINEERING HEROES

Another inspiring set of STEM resources is being released this week by the Royal Society of Engineering in conjunction with [BecomingX](#) and Amazon. Watch the short films [here](#) to learn about 3 amazing women and find out if Engineering might be the career for you too!

Volunteering



St John's Ambulance - NEW Vaccination Volunteers needed NOW!

The vaccination programme is rapidly accelerating activity in the face of a new surge in infections, which means that we need extra volunteers in your area as soon as possible, so that St John can give the NHS the support it so urgently requires. And that's why we're reaching out to you to see if you would be interested in volunteering with us.

The need is for Vaccination Care Volunteers who provide critical support to the national vaccination programme by **supporting, directing and caring for people as they come for their vaccinations**. There are opportunities to be trained in, and volunteer for, this vital role across fifteen different vaccination sites in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

The on-line training is supplemented by a four hour face to face training course which is available at Spalding, Lincoln, Newark and Calverton (just outside Nottingham).

The vaccination sites available for you to volunteer at are in or near: **Lincoln, Boston, Spalding, Newark, Mansfield, Bulwell, Hucknall, Arnold and Nottingham, as well as other sites in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and England in general.** In Lincs & Notts we

need dozens of volunteers seven days a week and hundreds on some weekends.

Anyone 16 years old and over can apply; this would be an ideal opportunity for 16 to 21 year olds in school and university holidays to enhance their curriculum vitae and build on vital life skills and confidence.

Please log onto the application portal to start your application via this

link <https://vaccinationregistration.sja.org.uk/register> - please ensure you choose

the **Vaccination Care Volunteer Role only**.

Careers Talks



Future Careers in Healthcare Technologies

7pm, Thursday 24 June

[Book your place here](#)

At a recent Careers Advisers Conference, I was amazed to learn about the incredible work being undertaken by students at KCL as part of their undergraduate degrees and I am delighted the team at KCL have found time to share their experiences with you too! Come and find out more about biomedical engineering, healthcare robotics, medical imaging and artificial intelligence in medicine and industry.

In this session Professor Kawal Rhode and current students from the [School of Biomedical Engineering & Imaging Sciences](#) at [King's College London](#) will explore:

- **Why now is the time to consider studying for a career in biomedical engineering**
- **Latest developments in the cutting-edge field of healthcare technology and medical research**
- **Entry requirements, areas of study and future career opportunities**

- **Personal experiences from current Biomedical Engineering students**

The talk will be followed by a Q&A session

Please note this event is aimed at students, parents and teachers keen to know more about study and career opportunities in the cutting edge field of healthcare technology and medical research. Please share with others you know - although Nottingham High School are co-hosting the event with KCL, students from any school are welcome to join.

CVs and Employer Correspondence

What do Employers Want in a CV?

Researchers at Keele university have pulled together a report on the ideal CV based on questioning 41 organisations. You may already know some of the recommendations - 2 pages max; write in the first person; no spelling or grammatical errors please (see a quote from one employer below) but some findings might surprise you; please don't include a photo!

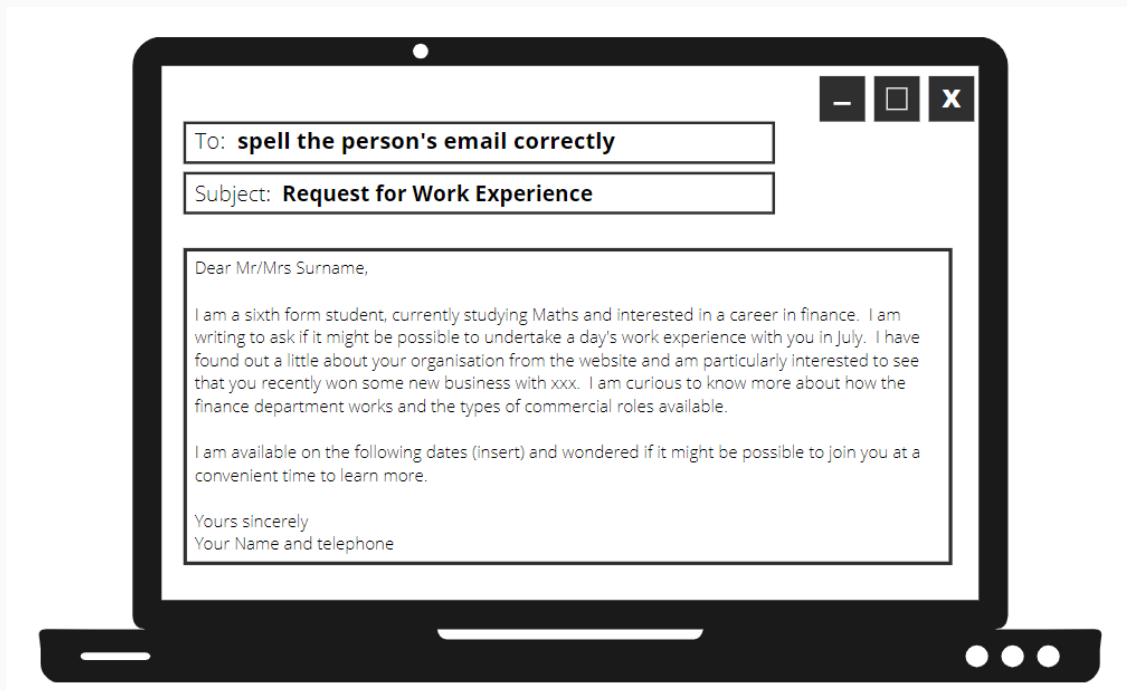


"A typo shows that the person is not really that organised or that prepared... it's definitely a huge negative if I see mistakes like that."

If you are sending a CV to ask for work experience, then your covering letter or email should be just as accurate and formal. You should lay out an email in the same way you would a formal letter and don't forget to attach your CV. Don't rely on the auto-spell checker for email; get a friend to read an important email before you send it.

In the current climate you are likely to have the most success if you don't ask for too much! Perhaps enquire if the firm could invite you along for an afternoon or morning to find out more about their work. You may find that once they've met you for a couple of hours, they are then able to offer something more substantial.

Always research the firm before sending a letter to them. It shows you have a real interest in what they do if you mention something that intrigued you from their website or a news report on the firm.



Do



- use formal language
- write to a named individual
- get someone to check for typos
- remember to attach your CV
- research the firm and refer to something that interests you
- state the date(s) you would be available
- say when you will follow up and then ring/write when you have said you will

Don't



- use emojis
- use txt slang or lower case 'i'
- accidentally keep a reference to a different firm in your cover letter or email (easily done when you are sending lots at once!)
- include a photo on your CV
- include all your personal information when writing online - an email and mobile is sufficient

Amrita (year 12) recently emailed local online Pharmacy firm, UK Meds, and was delighted to get a response including the chance to spend a day at the pharmacy. UK Meds had not ever offered work experience, so a short taster session was agreed for half term as a starting

point. The [OCR Guide to Work Experience](#) was helpful for both Amrita and the UK Meds staff in setting up expectations for the day and ensuring things ran smoothly.



Amrita comments, "The pandemic has affected everyone and with government guidelines constantly being changed, there has been a lot of hesitancy and uncertainty amongst firms and companies who would normally offer work experience. Luckily, I was able to fix some first-time work experience with an online pharmacy firm. Within a week of emailing the firm, we had agreed a date for me to spend a day at their pharmacy.

After researching the firms' initiatives and goals, I was amazed to find out how they managed to operate during lockdown. Being an online pharmacy allowed their customers to get essential products delivered to their homes without the need for physical contact. On the day of my experience, I was welcomed by the friendly staff and reassured with the safety procedures in place. By chatting to staff I was able to get a much better stripped-down reality of the pros and cons of becoming a pharmacist. In addition, I learned about various types of pharmacy, as well how a career in the pharmaceutical industry will advance in the future. I was excited to hear about the firm's passion for youth employment, and how young people inspire new ideas to improve the way their pharmacy service is run. At the end of my initial experience day I accepted a 4 week placement for the summer. Reflecting back, I feel very lucky to have been offered this opportunity to work with such a supportive and honest team.

I hope my experience encourages other students to keep researching and expanding their networking skills, which in turn could open up new opportunities."



Holly in Year 11 was able to spend half term on work experience at a GP surgery. She says: Over half term I spent a week in a GP Surgery where I shadowed numerous doctors and nurse practitioners. The week was incredibly interesting and it really solidified my decision to hopefully study medicine at university. During the work experience the doctors let me get involved in the consultations and I learnt a lot. Also, I got to experience the reality of the GP Surgery, for example the sheer demand for appointments and how Covid has affected the running of the practice.

Focus On Law

As part of the Community Action scheme, Alex in year 9 has been helping the Careers Dept this term, researching routes into Law and interviewing sixth form students who are planning to apply to study Law at university. Enjoy reading his newsletter below.

If you've been unable to attend all the Law talks we've had this year then you can [watch the recordings here](#) (you'll need to use your school email address to log in). With grateful thanks to our speakers who were happy for us to record their sessions!

- Shruthi Madhusudan (ON), Law student at KCL (hoping to specialise in Commercial Law)
- Fergal Duggan (ON), Solicitor (range of clients including Facebook)
- Tor Butler-Cole, Barrister, Judge and QC (Medical Ethics)
- Sam Karim (ON), Barrister, QC and Advocate (various disciplines incl commercial, medical)
- Dr Alex Tomkinson, Chartered Patent Attorney (works across a wide mix of STEM disciplines)

GETTING INTO LAW

By A.N



Becoming a Lawyer

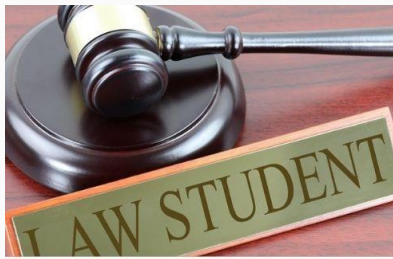
To become a lawyer you do not need specific GCSEs or A-levels, leaving you free to study what you're interested in and get a wide field of knowledge. At Uni you can choose to study and get an LLB (a qualifying law degree) or if there is something that you want to study and are especially interested in (for example history or classics) you can take a one year graduate diploma or law conversion course after your undergraduate degree. At this point the decision if you want to be a barrister or a solicitor. If you want to be a solicitor then you will need to go through a legal practice course and then undertake a training contract with a firm and pass a professional skills course. However if you want to be a barrister then you will need to go through 3 stages of training, the academic stage which is getting your law degree, then you need to pass the vocational component which is passing the bar and then a pupillage which is like work experience.



Types of law

There are many different fields of law from human rights to shipping law or criminal law to employment. This wide range of options makes a legal career one of the most flexible and versatile. However the main choice to make in a legal career path is whether to become a barrister or a solicitor. The difference is that a barrister is the one who prepares the case and presents it in court whereas the solicitors are the ones who deal with contracts and wills giving private legal advice and dealing with lawsuits and other legal documents like patents.

<https://www.law.ac.uk/employability/legal-practice-areas/>



ON THE LAW PATH

Jacob is currently in year 12, studying History, Geography and Psychology. I asked about his interest in law and how he chose his A-level subjects.

Alex: Why do you want to get into law?

Jacob: I was never sure about what I wanted to do after I left school and so a teacher suggested I investigate Law as a potential path, as they thought it would suit me. I then proceeded to do a little background research and found two books which really intrigued me and inspired me to pursue law. I would really recommend anyone thinking of doing law to read *The Secret Barrister* and *What about Law*.

Alex: What aspects of being a lawyer most interest you?

Jacob: The prospect of being able to work with issues that are of constant debate and are at the heart of public interest really interests me. The field of law is so broad, and I think it would be amazing to work in a field which is constantly evolving and would give me the opportunity to represent clients and potentially make a mark on society.

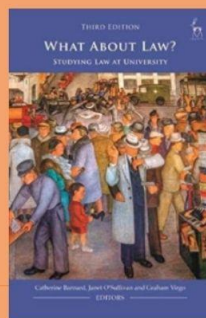
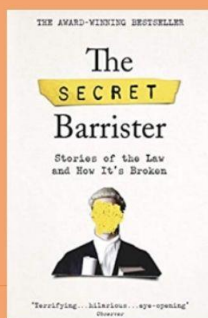
Alex: What field of law do you want to work in?

Jacob: I am not completely certain, but becoming a solicitor in the field of corporate law would give me the opportunity to work with national and international clients in high profile business cases.

Alex: How did you choose your A-levels and do you think they will be helpful for studying law?

Jacob: There are no required A levels for studying law at undergraduate level so I picked the subjects I enjoyed the most at GCSE and was good at. An essay subject is recommended, so I took History as it involves a 4,000-word coursework element and a multitude of essays in the actual exams. Geography and Psychology also involve essay writing, but on a lesser scale, so the main reason behind choosing these was enjoyment, plus the chance to try a new subject with Psychology! I am learning about some elements of Law in Psychology, such as the influence of memory on eyewitness testimony.

Find out more



Web:

- www.lawcareers.net
- www.allaboutlaw.co.uk

Books:

- *The Secret Barrister*
- *What About Law?*

Radio 4: Law In Action - also available on BBC Sounds

Short Courses

Firetech

**THE UK'S FAVOURITE
TECH COURSES FOR
KIDS AGES 8 TO 17**

Fire Tech is the leading choice in tech education for kids. With over 8 years of experience, we've already offered online courses to over 80,000 students around the world.

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ONLINE & IN-PERSON

[Firetech](#) run a huge range of tech courses for anyone aged 8-17, both online and in-person, as well as mentored work experience opportunities for students age 15+ in Video Game Design and Creative Design. Check out their website [here](#). You can get a 10% booking discount on courses using the code: **NHH10**.

skillsgap™



Nottingham-based SkillsGap are launching a new range of summer tech workshops on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for 15 - 19 year olds:.

- AI in Medicine
- AI in Finance
- AI in Science
- Robotics and Space

The online workshops are 3.5 hours long and cover everything from the basics of AI or Robotics to the unique job opportunities in each sector. Students will also get a chance to try a hands-on practical exercise, and put questions to a panel of industry experts. The week-long course provides an opportunity for more in-depth study, with plenty of practical experience, an industry-style project and up-to-the minute careers information.

For more information please visit: <https://www.skillsgap.tech/>

Competitions



If you haven't found time to enter the competitions from the last newsletter, don't worry! The following all have July or August deadlines, so you still have time to craft your essay and send it in!

THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION: deadline 30 June, junior and senior categories

TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE: Year 12 Essay Competitions

Click links for full instructions and details of prizes.

- [Gould Prize for Essays in English Literature](#) (1 August deadline)
- [Linguistics Essay Prize](#) (2 August deadline)
- [R.A. Butler Politics Prize](#) (2 August deadline)

ST HUGH'S OXFORD: open to years 12 and 13; you don't have to be studying Latin or Greek to enter the Classics prize; submit essays by 30 July. Click links for further details.

- [Mary Renault Classics Essay Prize](#)
- [Julia Wood History Essay Prize](#)

THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION: Two competitions, both open to anyone under 19 - [the Gladstone Prize](#) and the [Sam Hood Translation Prize](#)

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: [Dorian Fisher Memorial Prize](#) currently open to sixth form students. Deadline 30 July. You do not need to be studying Economics to enter.

ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY: [The Young Economist of the Year Essay Competition](#) is open to all year 12 and year 13 students. Students do not need to be studying economics to be able to enter. Entrants do not have to be members of RES. Deadline 25 July 2021.

Virtual Work Experience



Springpod have just released their August programmes. There are online work experience in a really wide range of industries, so have a look and sign up for the one that most interests you.

<https://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience>

Kate (year 12) recently completed the Marketing Work Experience course and says:

"it was a really good way to get a flavour of this career, with lots of interactive activities taken from real life scenarios to inspire you. My biggest hope now, is to get in-person work experience. I can apply more confidently, as I know much more about marketing".

Gauri (year 10) applied for the Finance work experience and says:

"It was an informative work experience, and I loved the talks from experts in the field, so I would recommend it to others. However, the tasks are quite time consuming if you want to complete them to a good standard so make sure you have enough time to spend on the experience when signing up."

Latest Stats

These figures for 2021 come from [High Fliers](#), who report annually on the Top 100 Graduate employers. Click the link for detailed information and to download the reports.



32%

of graduates in 2020 were
employed by firms they had
done **work experience** for



£30,000

average **starting salary** for a
graduate (unchanged for 6 years)

40

average number of
applications received for every
graduate job advertised (up by
1/3)

3,000

18 year olds go straight from
school to a **higher or degree**
apprenticeship (out of 82,000 such
apprenticeships offered in total).
A further 3,000 start an
apprenticeship after a gap year.



Civil Service

The **Civil Service** has been voted the UK's number one graduate employer in **The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers** for the third consecutive year in 2021.

Since the launch of the awards in 1998, only three employers have held the accolade of *Graduate Employer of the Year* – **Accenture** (1998-2002), **Civil Service** (2003, 2019-2021) and **PwC** (2004-2018).

The new 2021-2022 edition of the Top 100 website & directory will be launched in autumn 2021.

