



### In the newsletter this month



Smallpeice Summer Courses



Channel 4 Training Programmes



Virgin Media O2 Cyber Security Apprenticeships



2024 University of Oxford Career Guide

### News and articles

#### UCAS introduces initiatives to break down barriers for prospective applicants



UCAS has announced a package of initiatives aimed at students who may overlook university due to financial concerns or doubts about meeting entry requirements. The initiatives include scholarships, grants, or assistance to alleviate the financial burden for prospective students. Additional workshops, advice sessions and online resources could also be provided to help students understand entry requirements and the pathways to higher education more clearly. Read more [here](#).

#### Leading universities opt for Maths Admissions Test



Durham University, London School of Economics and the University of Warwick are now using the multiple-choice Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA) for 2025 entry, joining Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge. The test will be used for Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Computer Science and Data Science courses. The test is part of a collaboration between Cambridge and Imperial College to simplify admissions for science, engineering, and mathematics-based degrees. Read more [here](#).

#### Could job titles become a thing of the past?



Some firms are now shunning job titles in favour of skills, capabilities, and experiences to create greater transparency and agility within their workforces. This model of work, also referred to as holacracy, supports the concept of prioritising skills over jobs, embracing it as the new currency of work to create more transparency, autonomy, and agility. Read more about this shift [here](#)

## Apprenticeship Levy a waste of money says British Retail Consortium



Firms with a wage bill over £3m pay an Apprenticeship Levy of 0.5% of their annual payroll to a government fund to aid smaller firms to hire and train more young people. Retailers including John Lewis, Tesco, and M&S are now calling for a significant overhaul of the levy, calling it a “complete waste of money” and saying that it is an extra cost when firms are already grappling with increases to property bills and wages. Read more [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### BIMM’s upcoming events: - 15<sup>th</sup> May onwards



BIMM are holding several events during summer term starting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 with a Virtual Undergraduate Open Evening, book [here](#), followed by the virtual Day in the Life of a Music Producer on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. [Behind The Desk: A day in the life of a Music Producer](#) and three in-person Undergraduate Open days in June (Bristol 8<sup>th</sup>, London 15<sup>th</sup> and Brighton on the 22<sup>nd</sup>) See [BIMM Open days - reserve your place](#).

### C4 Content Creatives apply by 19<sup>th</sup> May



Channel 4 are inviting applications for their ContentCreatives training and placement programme. Professional training from SharpFutures, followed by a placement with a creative firm in West Yorkshire or Manchester you'll gain hands-on experience over 16 weeks. Register [here](#).

### Medic Portal Webinar- 30<sup>th</sup> May



The Medic Portal offers free webinars to help with the application process for Medicine (including UCAT and Preparing for Interviews). They are offering a Pathways to Medicine webinar at 6pm on 30<sup>th</sup> May, for those who haven't yet secured a place: [Get into Medicine | Free Webinars & In-Person Events - The Medic Portal](#).

### UK University and Apprenticeship Fair - Oxford Brookes - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024



The UK University and Apprenticeship Fair is at Oxford Brookes University on [12th June](#), the University of Portsmouth on [19th June](#) and Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol on [4th October](#) Universities and employers will be on hand to provide the information on personal statements, student finance and apprenticeship applications and more.

### SmallPeice Virtual Engineering Challenge- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024



Monday 17 June 2024 is Smallpeice's final STEM Session of the year – The Solar Tower Challenge is for homeschooled and school-educated students in Years 8 and 9 across England and Wales, S2 and S3 across Scotland and Years 9 and 10 across Northern Ireland. To join online for this free, virtual event, book [here](#).

## Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineers Fair 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June



The Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineers Fair is taking place from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of June. The event will include hands-on activities, careers panels, and workshops. The Big Bang Fair is open to schools in half-day sessions. Schools can register for the morning (9am-12pm) or afternoon (1pm-4pm) sessions. To book click [here](#).

## Smallpeice Trust STEM Engineering summer courses



The Smallpeice Trust are offering STEM summer courses (some funding available but eligibility criteria apply) including an opportunity for Year 10s to learn more about Agri-Tech Engineering at Harper Adams [Agri-Tech Engineering 2024 \(residential\) \(smallpeice-trust.org.uk\)](#), and a virtual Engineering course for Year 8 and Year 9 students. Find out more at: [Engineering Experience - OPITO \(Virtual\) \(smallpeicetrust.org.uk\)](#).

## Recommended Websites & Resources

### Oxford Career Guide



The 2024 University of Oxford Career Guide is now available. This provides information on employability skills, networking and application advice. To find out more see: [The Oxford Guide to Careers 2024](#).

### MoneySavingExpert decodes Student Loans

# MSE

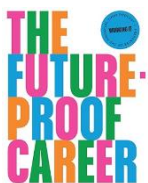
Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert, in association with the graduate website [www.prospects.ac.uk](#) has explained Student Loans in a recording which you can access [here](#).

### Toughest ever job interview questions with answers



Being interviewed for a job can be intimidating and preparation is essential. You should research the company, decide on what you are wearing and rehearse your journey. You should also think about the questions you might be asked. Adzuna found some of the toughest questions and provides some advice on how to answer them [here](#).

### The Future-Proof Career book



This recently launched book by Isabel Berwick reflects on how we might Future-proof our career planning: "The Future-Proof Career: Strategies for thriving at every stage", covers topics such as the four-day working week, bridging the workplace generation gap and achieving workplace equality: [The Future-Proof Career: Strategies for thriving at every stage - Isabel Berwick](#).

## Spotlight on: Business Management and Marketing



Recent queries to our helpline have shown student interest in Entrepreneurial or Marketing careers. Check out some of the resources we have shared: [Secret Leaders](#) ; [Harvard Business Review - The Latest \(hbr.org\)](#) ; [London School of Economics and Political Science](#) - videos and podcasts on worldwide issues [Marketing Week](#) ; [Smart Insights](#).

## Higher Technical Qualifications explained



The team at Amazing Apprenticeships have created a useful information page about HTQs to demystify these newer qualifications for teachers, parents and students. For more information, including links to webinars, view their page [HTQs - Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

## The Parent Perspective Podcast



“The Parent Perspective” – is a podcast series, with careers advice and guidance to keep parents and carers informed about how apprenticeships can offer a route into a wide range of careers by studying for qualifications whilst working. Listen [here](#).

## Student Breakthrough's “Be your Best” this exam season



Following on from The Students Breakthrough's Sam Moinet's partnership talk with Notgoingtouni in May 2023 he produced this flip book to allay any exam stress students may be feeling this summer exam period. You can access the flip book “Be at your Best” [here](#).

## Apprenticeship Opportunities

### Schneider Apprenticeships



Schneider have a range of technical Engineering related apprenticeships on offer, including this Level 6 option for those interested in Building Services Design within the construction industry: [Digital Energy Engineer Degree Apprentice \(Building Services Design\) at Schneider Electric](#)

### Experian Apprenticeships



The credit score company are offering an interesting Level 3 Paralegal apprenticeship and a Higher Apprenticeship in Project Management in Nottingham. For more information see: [Paralegal Level 3 Apprenticeship at Experian](#) and [Project Management Higher Apprenticeship at Experian](#)

### Virgin Media O2



With cyber-attacks, fraud and data breaches on the rise, the Computing and Information Security industry could be worth some real consideration. This higher apprenticeship in Cyber Security may be of interest: [Cyber Security Higher Apprenticeship at Virgin Media O2](#)

## For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Departments

### CDI Conference for Careers Leaders



**The National Careers Leaders Conference 2024:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, at the University of Derby, £120 to CDI members. Keynotes include: Gatsby Benchmarks 10-year review, The Experience of the 2023 Careers Leader of the year and Making Careers Programmes meaningful for Life – through Education, into Work and Beyond. For further information and to book, click [here](#).

### Queen Mary Careers Day



QMUL's London event on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 has planned a fascinating day, with topics such as UCAS Admissions Reform, Preparing for Interviews, Degree Apprenticeships and Embedding Careers in the Curriculum. You can book [here](#).

### Cambridge Teachers and Advisers Conference



The University of Cambridge will hold their annual Teachers and Advisers' Conference in July 2024. Past sessions have included: subject talks, the application process (including the reference process) and an interview example session. Sign up to their newsletter [here](#) to receive booking and session information notifications nearer the time.

### The CDI's Recruitment and Retention Campaign



The CDI ran a Recruitment and Retention Campaign, with a particular focus on the issues in England. With research showing 23% of careers staff likely to leave the profession by July 2024 (the main reasons include retirement, pay, rewards and progression prospects) the full Careers England report makes for interesting reading. For more about the CDI's campaign and research, as well as the report, see: [Recruitment and retention campaign - Career Development Institute \(thecdi.net\)](#).

### REMINDER: National Apprenticeships events – Oct 2024 to Feb 2025



Events will be taking across the UK to bring school and college students, parents, together with Top UK employers, universities, colleges and training providers. Events provide the opportunity to discover more about the career options. With the events in North and South London in October and November and Cardiff in February you can book to attend as an individual or send a school group. Find out more [here](#)

## 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](mailto:helpline@futuresmartcareers.co.uk).

## Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at [enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk) or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

We'd love to hear from you!

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