

CAREERS UPDATE

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

CAREERS THIS WEEK

YEAR 9 EMPLOYER CHALLENGE - 5th OCTOBER

Next Monday, our Year 9 students will take part in an exciting employer challenge led by former student **Zara**, now a **Sustainability Officer at Collins Construction**. Zara will introduce students to the growing importance of sustainability and explore how it plays a vital role across a wide range of careers—not just in construction, but in many different industries.



During the day, students will work in teams to solve a genuine workplace challenge set by Collins Construction. Supported by their Period 3 teachers, each team will develop and present their ideas in class. The winning entry from each class will be judged by Zara and the Collins team, with the overall winners earning the opportunity to visit the workplace and see the industry in action.

This employer challenge forms part of **Modern Work Experience** — our approach to giving every student meaningful experiences of the workplace throughout Key Stage 3 and 4.

Rather than relying solely on traditional work placements, Modern Work Experience includes those as well as employer-led projects, workplace visits, virtual experiences and other opportunities to build employability skills. For **Year 9**, this challenge also contributes towards their statutory five days of workplace experience. Following our recent student voice survey, we know that **1 in 6 of our Year 9 students are interested in careers in construction or sustainability**, making this a valuable and inspiring opportunity for the whole year group.



Please email me if you have any questions
ahollinshead@wrotham.kent.sch.uk

CAREERS ADVICE

Interested in Creative Careers? Then you should meet Eric!

The Eric App collates lots of different opportunities, from competitions to work experience and you can filter for your interests.

The meet-eric website has a whole library of recorded talks with people working within the creative sector. Brand new is their createch talks from last week!

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

What is Modern Work Experience?

Here is a video from the CEC that is specifically for parents and carers, and explains why Work Experience has changed from the traditional 2-week placement.

We're making our guides for each year group. Year 10's is here.

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OPPORTUNITIES



All ages: World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10. These dates commemorate two events:

- October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration
- October 10, 1967: The signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.



All ages: In this session, NASA Flight Controller Amy Dill will be talking about her experience at Mission Control, what it's like to help astronauts while they are in space, the role of rockets, and what skills are needed to work in the space sector.



All ages: Astro Pi Mission Zero is a free, beginner-friendly challenge from ESA and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. In under an hour, participants write a short Python program that displays an image or animation on an Astro Pi computer aboard the International Space Station. The program also reads live data from the Astro Pi's colour and luminosity sensor to set the background colour, so the artwork responds to real conditions in space. No previous coding experience is needed, and no physical kit is required.



Year 9-13: Space - the final frontier, now closer in reach than ever before. Companies worldwide are looking to the skies with the hope of exploring, and being one of the leading stars in the space sector. But, what do they need to get there, and how does the Civil Aviation Authority come into this? Join this Sprint with the Civil Aviation Authority, and use your skills to understand the process of preparing a spacecraft launch licence application, and, with the help of expert professionals, you'll understand key aspects around exploring space.



Year 11-13: In this captivating Subject Spotlight, Paul Sant presents: Computer Science: Space explanation, AI and beyond. He explains what computer science is, fundamental skills for a computer scientist and how computer science has revolutionised industry. Paul then talks about why AI is the future for learning, considers the failings of AI, and discusses the impact of AI on society in the modern age. Paul discusses the role of computer science in the fascinating case study of the Mars Rover, which failed and crashed in 1999.

If you join any of these, please email me to have it added to your career records ahollinshead@wrotham.kent.sch.uk

JOB OF THE WEEK



Planetary
Scientist

A planetary scientist studies the origin, evolution, and physical characteristics of planets, moons, asteroids, and other bodies in the solar system. To access this role, you often need to earn an undergraduate degree in physics, geology, astronomy, chemistry, or planetary science. You will need strong abilities in mathematics, computer programming, data analysis, and scientific problem-solving.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The UK space industry directly employs around 55,550 people, with employment growing by nearly 7% in a single year (2022/23).

When supply-chain and wider supported jobs are included, the sector supports around 137,000 UK jobs.

Source

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OPPORTUNITIES



Year 10-13: The UK Parliament Work Experience programme is ideal for students who want to gain more experience in the world of work. This programme is delivered remotely via Waypoint, a platform provided by SixtyLearn, enabling more young people to gain insight into careers at Parliament. This programme gives you the chance to explore Parliament as a workplace, try realistic tasks inspired by real roles and get personalised feedback.



Free webinar for **Year 12 and 13 students** and parents: What Top Universities Are Really Looking For. Former Head of Careers Kate Grace will discuss how admissions tutors read personal statements and what builds a truly competitive application. It runs Wednesday, 30 September, from 7 to 8 pm. Slides and a replay will be sent to everyone who registers.



Sixth form: There are lots of degree apprenticeships opening over the next 2 months, and top employers are being very helpful and offering insight events for their offer, including work experience.

- If you are interested in applying for the RPC Solicitor Apprenticeship and would like to find out more, you can attend their virtual insight evening which will run from 5 pm – 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14 October 2026.
- Deloitte will be talking about their audit, assurance, tax, tech and consulting work, with insights into **work experience and their apprenticeships**. Wednesday 7th October, 5-6:30pm.
- Clifford Chance, the international law firm has an online insight event on Friday 9th October 5-6:30pm specifically for students considering a career in law (via apprenticeship or university). They will also talk about opportunities for in-person events.

HELP

Year 11-13: Want to know about degree apprenticeships and how they work? The South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network is hosting an online insight session on Thursday 8th October 6-6:45pm. Parents and Carers are welcome.



Year 10-13: The National Cyber Force is a partnership between defence and intelligence, responsible for operating in and through cyberspace to counter threats, keep the country safe and to protect and promote the UK's interests at home and abroad. By joining this insight event on Tue 20th Oct 4:30PM - 6:30PM, you'll learn about how you can get involved in vital work to keep the country safe.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

AstraZeneca is a global pharmaceutical company that researches, develops and produces medicines used by patients around the world. Young people interested in science don't have to become doctors: its early careers opportunities cover science, engineering, manufacturing, digital technology, data and business. UK routes include apprenticeships, work experience, undergraduate placements and graduate programmes, offering different ways to begin a career within healthcare and life sciences.

UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

LSE is a specialist university focused on social sciences. Courses cover areas including economics, politics, law, geography, international relations, sociology, management and finance. Its central London location creates opportunities to engage with businesses, government, charities and international organisations. LSE could particularly suit students who are interested in understanding how society, politics, economics and organisations work and enjoy discussing important global issues.

If you join any of these, please email me to have it added to your career records ahollinshead@wrotham.kent.sch.uk