



Careers at QEGS

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first Careers newsletter, aimed to provide a single point of reference for all Careers Information and Guidance activities. We hope that you find this information valuable and that it helps you and your child keep track of all the exciting opportunities open to our students.

To introduce ourselves and our roles at QEGS, a warm welcome from Mrs Leech and Mr Carruthers who joined the school in September. Mrs Leech, as a member of SLT and the Careers Lead, has a key role in overseeing careers across the school. In the role of Careers Advisor, Mr Carruthers can support students on a more one-to-one basis to plan and explore their next steps, whether that's applying for university, apprenticeships, college or employment.

In each newsletter, we will have a section outlining opportunities for parents to support our careers programme, through helping us with mock interviews, careers events or talks. This will change each newsletter, but any support would ensure we can offer meaningful career based events for the students of QEGS.

We have divided this newsletter by year group to share new opportunities and pass on information about upcoming events.

Parental support for future events

- We are hopeful that some parents will be able to offer their support with careers based activities over the coming months, more details will follow in due course, but if you do think you can support with events such as the Year 11 mock interviews, meet the professionals opportunities or offering advice or talks about the world of work then please do get in touch, please contact Mr Carruthers in the first instance. dcarruthers@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

Careers Highlights this half term

- Year 8 learned about careers within the NHS and progression routes, through an interactive performance which covered information regarding BTECs, T-Levels, Apprenticeships and A-Level and linked to different NHS roles.
- The school has recently purchased a license for an online careers platform called Unifrog, which will allow students, parents and school staff to access a range of careers resources and labour market information. This will be rolled out in the next few months.
- Year 11 had an assembly delivered by Carlisle College who shared information about their vocational courses, T-levels and Apprenticeships, they also heard a presentation from the Sixth Form at QEGS so they can make a comparison between different routes.
- A dozen students across Year 11 and Year 10 learned about careers in Cyber Security by attending the "Cumbria Crak" competition against other schools.
- Year 11 students have participated in a 'Making a good first impression' workshop during PSHE time, as a starting point for their practice interviews in January, they also looked at this as part of their Life Skills course in October.

- Students from Year 11 explored a range of Post-16 progression options at the Eden Skills Fair, held at Penrith Leisure Centre.
- In Year 13, twenty eight students met the early UCAS deadline, applying for courses in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, as well as courses at Oxbridge and highly competitive Conservatoires.
- Year 11, 12 and 13 students who are unsure about their next steps have been offered one-to-one careers support to help them explore their options, these meetings are ongoing this term.

Information about upcoming Events

Year 10

Work Experience runs from the 10th to the 14th June 2024. Further details will follow regarding the arrangements for this, below are some opportunities open to Year 10.

- **Sellafield Engineering work experience opportunity**

A five day programme at their Cleator Moor site for six students. Students will need to make an application, and can email coe.workexperience@sellafieldsites.com with their school name, year group and work experience dates to ask for an application form.

- **Gretna Green Group work experience opportunity**

If you are looking for a work placement during the work experience week in any of the following areas, please email Hollie Higgin at Gretna Green Hotel Group (hollie.higgin@gretnagreen.com) to discuss your interests.

- Marketing/Social Media/Website/Digital
- Wedding Hosting
- Finance/Buying/Sales
- HR
- Maintenance
- Reception
- Housekeeping
- Restaurant
- Retail
- Maintenance

Even in Year 10, it's never too early to start exploring future progression routes. You may be interested in some of the up-coming college and apprenticeship open events happening within our area.

- **College open events in November to explore options in vocational courses, T-levels and apprenticeships**

Kendal College: Thursday 16th November 16:30 - 19:30, you can book a place through this link: <https://kendal.ac.uk/visit> Kendal College also offer A-levels.

Carlisle College: Wednesday 22nd November 4pm - 6.30pm (directions available on their website: <https://www.carlisle.ac.uk/>).

- **GEN2 Open Evenings**

To find out more about the upcoming apprenticeship opportunities available with GEN2, they have several Open Evenings happening over the next few months between 4.30 and 6.30pm. You can find

out more information and book your place through their website (www.gen2.ac.uk), the dates and locations for the events below:

14 November – Lillyhall, Workington
15 November - Ulverston
16 November - Carlisle
27 February - Ulverston
28 February - Carlisle
29 February - Lillyhall, Workington
30 April - Carlisle
1 May - Lillyhall, Workington
2 May - Ulverston

- **Apprenticeships & Degree Apprenticeships with Sellafield for 2024**

Applications for apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships with Sellafield Ltd open on Monday 6th November 2023, and close on the 11th February 2024.

They are holding an open event on Saturday November 11th at their Energus site at Lillyhall, please use this link to find out more about the event and how to book a place:

<https://careers.sellafielddsite.co.uk/graduates-placements/apprentices/event-info/>

Information on their apprenticeships and application process can be found here:

<https://careers.sellafielddsite.co.uk/graduates-placements/apprentices/application-process/>

Careers-Pilot careers information

To help you and your child explore all their options after school, Careers Pilot provide lots of impartial information on post-GCSE options, including T-levels, apprenticeships, A-levels and vocational qualifications. Through their website you can also explore careers linked to specific subjects.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

Year 11

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T-level Qualifications

T-levels are a new(ish) qualification and one option after completing GCSEs. A T-level is a level 3 qualification, similar to A-levels, but combines work placements alongside academic study in one area. You can find out more through this website: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students>, and explore T-levels as one possible route after Year 11 through local colleges within Cumbria.

Finding apprenticeship vacancies

If you would like to look for apprenticeship vacancies, two useful websites are below which allow you to search for both local and national opportunities.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://targetapprenticeships.co.uk/apprenticeships>

Year 12

Year 12 Work Experience runs from the 10th to the 14th June 2024, details will follow later in the year regarding arrangements for this.

- **Sellafield Engineering work experience opportunity**

A five day programme at their Cleator Moor site for six students. Students will need to make an application, and can email coe.workexperience@sellafieldsites.com with their school name, year group and work experience dates to ask for an application form.

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Not-going-to-Uni

The *Not Going to Uni* site helps young people explore the range of opportunities available to them after sixth form, including current vacancies through apprenticeships, school-leaver programmes and work-based training. Please use this site to search for vacancies and opportunities nationwide:

<https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/opportunities>

UCAS Parents Guide

UCAS have produced an informative guide for parents which covers key jargon, key dates, information on students finance and how to write a personal statement. You can download a copy using this link:

https://files.unitasterdays.com/downloads/UniTasterDays_Parents_Guide_to_University_2023_2024-accessible.pdf

Martin Lewis – Student Finance for parents

Martin Lewis has produced a useful overview of the new Plan 5 Student Finance system.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-england-plan-5/>

University open days

It's never too early to start your University research, and open days are a particularly useful tool to help you decide whether university is right for you, and which course you may wish to study. To find upcoming open days please use this link: <https://www.opendays.com/>

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Year 13

Accountancy apprenticeship with Armstrong & Watson

The 2024 AAT and ATT apprenticeship vacancies with Armstrong and Watson are now live:

<https://www.armstrongwatson.co.uk/careers>

They are looking for school leavers with three A-levels at Grade C or above. Information about the process can be found on the link above – if you need any extra support please speak with Mr Carruthers.

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Thank you for taking the time to read our first careers newsletter, will continue to promote events and opportunities using Edulink as they arise.

Best wishes,

Mr Carruthers and Mrs Leech