

Welcome to issue 5 of the Welling School Newsletter which will provide information on education opportunities after post 16 and post 18, work experience placements and employment opportunities in the local area. This is a monthly newsletter and if you have any queries about the topics covered then please contact the Careers Lead, Jas Sanghera:

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In this issue:

- Work Experience
- Army Experience
- University Talks
- Job of the Month

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

Year 13 went on a week's work experience at a placement that was relevant to their future career aspirations. Examples of the range of placements experienced ranged from Pharmacies, Schools, Hospitals, Hotels and Law firms.

The students took a lot from the week including self esteem, confidence, insight in the industries that they aspire to work in and of course the realisation of the hard work, skills and knowledge that will be required to help them reach those goals.

Of course, work experience is only possible if the employers volunteer their time and personnel to make the experience a valuable one for the students and we would like to thank those employers for their input. The employers have also been in touch to congratulate our students for the successful placements and one employer wrote in to provide feedback:

I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know how wonderful your students were at our school for their work experience. They are all behaved wonderfully and were such a great help in the classrooms. They were on time and couldn't be more helpful, polite and they behaved in a very mature manner. They are a credit to your school.

- Hook Lane Primary School

ARMY ELITE DAY

The year 12 students had an a Army Activity Day on the first day of the term!, The students were given the opportunity to work with the Army personnel to complete team building activities and just as importantly, got to meet and work with students that they will be studying alongside for the next two years.

The students learnt a lot about themselves and about their fellow students and seemed to have really enjoyed their first day at Welling school sixth form.





MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY



Year 11 students will be focusing on their upcoming PPe exams and to inspire them we had the students thinking about life after year 11 and whether they wanted to go to University. Therefore, we invited the Education Liaison and Outreach Officer (post 16) from Middlesex University to give students a taste of what university life could offer them.

CAREERS INTERVIEWS

To help prepare year 11 and 13 for the next stage of their career, they will receive an independent career meeting with a careers adviser. To help them prepare for this meeting, here is some helpful information:

What is the role of a careers adviser?

Their job is to help you find out about and understand the options and opportunities available to you when you complete year 11 or 13, as well as your thoughts and ideas for the future.

What is the discussion about?

This is your discussion and to help you identify what will be most helpful to discuss, the career adviser will ask you lots of questions in the beginning. If you have something you would like to find out or discuss, then do suggest this.

How can a career discussion help me?

The career adviser will also help you weigh up your thoughts and understanding as to what are the best choices for you. This will help with your long term decision making and moving forwards with a plan. The career adviser will help you identify actions and tasks that you can start doing now to help you move towards your goals. After the meeting the career adviser will provide you with a career action plan which is a summary of what you discussed as well as any identified actions moving forwards.



CAREERS INTERVIEWS

Things to consider before your careers discussion year 11...

- Do you have any career ideas? If so, what? · What are you thinking of doing after year 11? What do you know about college and sixth form? Apprenticeships?
- What do you know about the different qualifications available after year 11? · What are your predicted grades? Are you meeting these?
- How are you getting on in school? · What subjects do you enjoy and do well in?
- Do you have any hobbies, extracurricular activities or responsibilities other than school? · Have you completed any work experience? · What do members of your family do? Does that interest you? Why/ why not?
- Do you know how to research ideas for after year 11 and apply? When do you think you need to make a decision and apply?

Things to consider before your careers discussion year 13...

- What are your predicted grades? Are you meeting these?
- Do you have any hobbies, extra-curricular activities or responsibilities other than school?
- Do you have a part-time job? If so, what do you do?
- Have you completed any work experience? · What do members of your family do? Does that interest you? Why/ why not?
- Do you have any career ideas? If so, what?
- If you do have career ideas, what steps have you taken to research or start to work towards your possible goals?
- What do you know about the options after year 13, university, gap year, higher/ degree apprenticeships, work? Do you know how to research ideas for after year 13? If so, what methods have you used?
- When do you think you need to make a decision and apply?

Year 11 parents and students please visit the Welling School website and you will find the information on the different post 16 education opportunities including apprenticeships and guidance on 16-19 bursary funds.

PARENTS OF Y10 STUDENTS

How can I support my child with making decisions for and after their GCSEs?

Help them explore their post-16 options if you are unsure what is available after year 11 in terms of post-16 options. Help them consider what kind of learner they are and what type of qualification may suit them best from academic to vocational, to how the courses are taught and the way the qualifications are assessed.

Ask them what kind of subjects interest them?

Are these academic subject areas, typically A levels or some BTECs, or are they vocational subject areas found in BTECs, T-levels or perhaps apprenticeships?

Do they have any career ideas or industry interests?

Many 15 and 16 year olds do not know, but if they want to research any of their ideas or strong subject interests to see what type of qualifications may be required.



Do they have any inclination towards post-18 options such as university or higher and degree apprenticeships?

If so, help them explore what may be required in terms of post-16 qualifications.

Are they interested in being in the workplace?

Then either T Levels or Apprenticeships may be an option. Check out <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> to look at live vacancies and also <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> which have some fantastic parent resources.

What if my child is still confused and unsure about their plans?

Please encourage your child to talk to their form tutor and subject specialist teachers who will be able to provide advice on possible careers related to their subjects. If your child requires independent advice, then please contact the school careers team, who will talk with them impartially about their options and support them with creating a plan for after their GCSEs.

PARENTS OF Y10 STUDENTS

How can I support my child with making decisions for and after their GCSEs?

1. Help them explore the different options available to them after sixth form.

Students can now study apprenticeships to enter their chosen career, as well as going through the traditional university route. The 2022/23 parents guide to university and apprenticeships have now been released digitally. Both guides are available for parents and carers to access for free and will be sent directly to your inbox along with a free bonus STEM careers guide. For your free guide, please click on <https://mc.successatschool.org/guides22>.

2. Help them discover which University is right for them.

During year 12 the students will be registered and guided on how to use Unifrog, which is an online platform that helps students compare every university and apprenticeship course and then apply successfully. This can be accessed by students both at home as well at school. The sixth form team will inform you when the students will be registered and discussion at home with your child will give your child greater confidence to make the right decision.

3. Apart from Unifrog, is there anything else that we can do to support them through the UCAS application?

It is always beneficial for students to visit at least 3 universities ahead of any applications. You will need to check the university website for information about their open days/taster lessons.

4. What if my child wants to study for an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly more popular option with students, as more opportunities are created by employers every year. Students studying apprenticeships will get paid, gain experience and a nationally recognised qualification or degree (dependent on the role/apprenticeship offered).

Welling School Careers Website

Please visit the Welling School website and you will find the information on the different post 16 and post 18 options available including universities, Higher apprenticeships and gap years. If you require further information or guidance please contact the sixth form team.



JOB OF THE MONTH - PART 1

Fashion designers use their technical knowledge and creative flair to work on designs for new and original clothing. As a fashion designer, you'll research current fashion trends, forecasting what will be popular with consumers, and take inspiration from the world around you to create fresh and original designs. You'll decide on fabrics, colours and patterns, produce sample designs and adjust them until you're happy with the final product. You may work to your own brief or be given a brief to work towards, with specifications relating to colour, fabric and budget. In large companies, you're likely to work as part of a team of designers, headed by a creative director, whereas if working for a small company as sole designer or for yourself, you'll be responsible for all the designs. You'll typically specialise in one area of design, such as sportswear, childrenswear or footwear .

Types of fashion designer

The main areas of work for fashion designers are:

- High street fashion - this is where the majority of designers work and where garments are mass manufactured (often in Europe or East Asia). Buying patterns, seasonal trends and celebrity catwalk influences play a key role in this design process. It's a commercial, highly media-led area to work in.
- Ready-to-wear - established designers create ready-to-wear collections, produced in relatively small numbers.
- Haute couture - requires large amounts of time spent on the production of one-off garments for the catwalk. Designs usually endorse the brand and create a 'look'.



JOB OF THE MONTH - PART 2

Responsibilities

Tasks depend on the market you're working for, but you'll typically need to:

create or visualise an idea and produce a design by hand or using programs like Adobe Illustrator

- Create moodboards to show to clients
- Keep up to date with emerging fashion trends as well as general trends relating to fabrics, colours and shapes
- Plan and develop ranges, often based on a theme
- Work with others in the design team, such as buyers and forecasters, to develop products to meet a brief
- Liaise closely with sales, buying and production teams on an ongoing basis to ensure items suit the customer, market and price points
- Understand design from a technical perspective, such as producing patterns and technical specifications for designs
- Visit trade shows and manufacturers to source, select and buy fabrics, trims, fastenings and embellishments
- Adapt existing designs for mass production
- Develop a pattern that is cut and sewn into sample garments and supervise the creation of these, including fitting, detailing and adaptations
- Oversee production
- Negotiate with customers and suppliers
- Showcase your designs at fashion and other trade shows
- Work with models to try out your designs and also to wear them on the catwalk at fashion shows.
- Manage marketing, finances and other business activities, if working on a self-employed basis.

Experienced designers with larger companies may focus more on the design aspect, with pattern cutters and machinists preparing sample garments. In smaller companies these, and other tasks, may be part of the designer's role.

Salary

- Starting salaries in the fashion industry are often low. Design assistants may start at around £16,000 to £18,000.
- A junior designer can expect to earn approximately £25,000 a year.
- Typical salaries at senior designer and creative director level range from around £42,000 to in excess of £85,000.

Working hours

Working hours typically include regular extra hours to meet project deadlines.

JOB OF THE MONTH - PART 3

What to expect

The working environment varies between companies, from a modern, purpose-built office to a small design studio. Freelance designers may work from home or in a rented studio. With the increase in online retailing, setting up in business or being self-employed is becoming more common, even straight after graduation. Extensive market research and business acumen are critical for any fashion business to succeed. There are opportunities to travel to meet suppliers, research new trends and to attend trade and fashion shows, either in the UK or abroad.

Qualifications

Fashion design is a very competitive industry, and you'll typically need a degree, HND or foundation degree in a subject that combines both technical and design skills. Relevant subjects include:

- Art and design
- Fashion and fashion design
- Fashion business

Skills

You'll need to show:

- Creativity, innovation and flair
- An eye for colour and a feel for fabrics and materials
- The ability to generate ideas and concepts, use your initiative and think outside the box
- Design and visualisation skills, either by hand or through computer-aided design (CAD)
- Technical skills, including pattern cutting and sewing
- Garment technology skills and knowledge
- A proactive approach
- Commercial awareness and business orientation
- Self-promotion and confidence
- Interpersonal, communication and networking skills
- The ability to negotiate and to influence others
- Teamworking skills
- Good organisation and time management.
- Fashion buying, marketing and communication
- Garment technology
- Graphic design
- Textiles and textile design.

