

OxLEP Skills: Picks of the Week

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Oxfordshire  
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
COMPANY

## Picks of the Week: 19th September 2023

Please share the links in Picks of the Week with your students, colleagues, parents and carers. If you would like to include anything in a future issue, please get in touch at [skills@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:skills@oxfordshirelep.com).



## From OxLEP Skills

### Save The Date: Careers Fest 2024

Next year's Careers Fest will take place at The Kassam Stadium on **Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March 2024**. Please save the dates and we will be in touch with further details shortly.



### Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (fully funded)

An opportunity for up to twelve teachers to immerse themselves in the workplace by attending an **on-site industry experience** at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxfordshire. Funded by Oxfordshire Careers Hub.

As part of your teacher encounter, you will visit a number of active hospital departments and find out about **employment opportunities** and **NHS Career Pathways**, including apprenticeships & work experience.

 **Thursday 12th October 2023**  
12:15 - 15:30

 John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington  
Oxford OX3 9DU

A £125 bursary is available to cover costs.

There are 12 spaces available, so don't miss out. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

 Sign up by emailing [susan.ledgard-hoile@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:susan.ledgard-hoile@oxfordshirelep.com) by **28th September 2023**



  
Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

### [Download a poster](#)

We have organised a Teacher Workplace Encounter with Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on **12th October from 12:15-15:30** at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, funded by Oxfordshire Careers Hub. A £125 bursary is available to cover costs. **Deadline approaching:** please email [susan.ledgard-hoile@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:susan.ledgard-hoile@oxfordshirelep.com) by **28th September** to sign up.

## Oxfordshire Events

### Reminder: The Nuclear Connection Science Fair

#### [Download a flyer](#)

Don't miss out on the chance for your students take part in The Nuclear Connection - the deadline to express an interest is **29th September**.

The Nuclear Connection Science Fair 2023 is for **Key Stage 3-5 students, parents/carers and educators**. It will take place on **10th November** in Oxford. Through activities, games, presentations and conversations, students will discover everything they want to know about nuclear science and about the places it could take their future careers.

There are limited places, 150 maximum, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The expectation is that it is probably best for schools to bring a minibus rather than a coach of students. There will however be a morning and an afternoon session, so you could bring a group of students to each if there is enough space.

There is also a poster competition, which could be set as homework. Your students could have their work displayed at The Nuclear Connection Science Fair and be awarded prizes by leading nuclear industry figures.

If you are interested in the science fair and/or the poster competition, please contact [louise.honeyman@nuclearwasteservices.uk](mailto:louise.honeyman@nuclearwasteservices.uk). Louise is happy to fully brief schools on both parts of the project and will ensure that students feel well prepared before attending the fair. Please can you share this information with your science department.

<https://careers-bicester.icims.com/connect?eventId=166390>

This event at Bicester Village on **30th September and 1st October** is an opportunity for students interested in seasonal work and/or a career in retail or hospitality to meet with employers looking for passionate people to join their teams.



## Brookes Undergraduate Open Days

[www.brookes.ac.uk/open-days/undergraduate](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/open-days/undergraduate)

Oxford Brookes University are holding undergraduate open days on **7th October and 18th November** to give students and their parents/carers the opportunity to find out what it's like to be a student at Brookes and get an insight into their courses and the support they offer.

## Oxford Science + Ideas Festival

<https://if-oxford.com/events>

IF Oxford will take place from **7th-28th October** and features a wide range of inspirational events, talks and workshops for all ages covering a huge variety of topics.



## North Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Fayre

[Download a poster](#)

North Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Fayre will take place on **12th October from 16:00-18:00** at Lock29 in Banbury. The event is for anyone wanting to find out about apprenticeships both locally and nationally.

This is a wonderful community event with around 600-700 attendees last year. We recommend that you share the details with staff across your schools as a good CPD opportunity.

Please share [the poster](#) with staff, students and parents/carers and put it up across your schools to ensure everyone knows it's on!



## Service Children Pupil Voice Event

<https://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/8793>

Schools are invited to bring up to 6 **Key Stage 3 Service children** to this event on **6th December from 09:45-14:30** in Carterton, which aims to bring together Service children from across the county to share their experiences, hear their voices and have some fun! Deadline to request places: **21st September**.

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## Other Events

### National Coding Week Event

<https://nexttechgirls.empiric.com/national-coding-week-2023>

This event on **22nd September from 09:00-10:15** is a great opportunity for **all Year 7 to Year 13 students** to find out what it means to work in tech, hear from women working in the industry and try out some activities related to their roles, with the aim of inspiring them to consider a career in tech.



### USA College Day

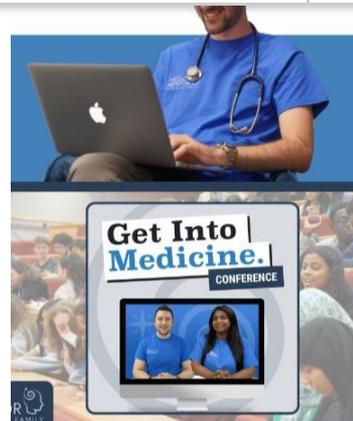
<https://fulbright.org.uk/news-and-events/2023/usa-college-day-2023>

USA College Day is the largest American university fair in the UK and attracts more than 120 university exhibitors. It takes place on **23rd and 24th September from 10:30-16:30** in London and is a fantastic way to learn about studying for an undergraduate degree in America.

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<https://medicmentor.co.uk/medicine-national-healthcare-weekend>

Medic Mentor are running a series of one-day, online conferences for students aged 14 or above who are interested in becoming a doctor. They are taking place on **24th and 30th September and 7th and 8th October from 09:30-15:30**. They will cover topics including the application process, UCAT & BMAT and how to gain work experience.



## Get Ahead: Know Your Options

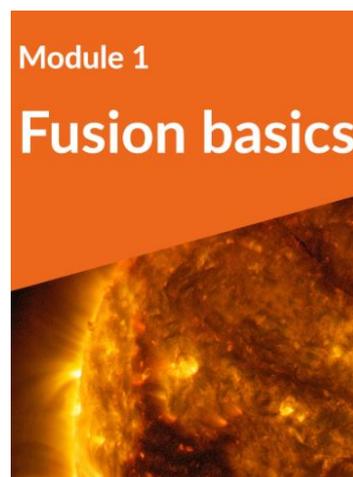
<https://pathwayctm.com/event/get-ahead-know-your-options>

This Pathway CTM virtual event on **26th September from 18:00-19:00** features Lloyds Banking Group, CBRE, IBM, JLR, PwC, & Deloitte. Attendees will learn what events you can attend, what work experience you can apply for, and what apprenticeships open from top brands this year.

## European Fusion Teacher Day

<https://indico.fusenet.eu/e/teacherday2023>

This virtual event organised by FuseNet on **6th October from 14:00-17:00** is for **science and physics teachers**. It aims to introduce nuclear fusion to teachers so that they can share their knowledge and create enthusiasm for the field of fusion at the secondary education level. [Educational materials](#) are also available, which will be introduced during the event.





<https://findingada.com>

Ada Lovelace Day takes place on **10th October** and is an international celebration of the achievements of women in STEM. You can download [classroom resources](#) and find out about events that are taking place in support of the day.

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## Careers Programmes & Work Experience

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### Specsavers Bright Futures Bursary

<https://join.specsavers.com/uk/inside-specsavers/bright-futures-bursaries-available-across-stores-in-the-uk>

Specsavers can offer a Bright Futures bursary to support **Year 12 students** along their journey into Optometry. As part of the Bursary, they provide:

- A guarantee of part-time work to gain vital first-hand experience in a local Specsavers practice
- £100 vouchers and a Welcome Box packed with goodies to support school studies
- £1000 of financial support towards ophthalmic equipment if they successfully apply for optometry at university
- Graduation gift of £1000 to help set the student up for their continuing journey

Each Bright Star will also benefit from extensive mentoring and shadowing from colleagues already in the profession. Contact [early.careers@specsavers.com](mailto:early.careers@specsavers.com)

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### Oxford Brookes Engage

[www.brookes.ac.uk/outreach/post-16/brookes-engage](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/outreach/post-16/brookes-engage)

Brookes Engage access programme is now open for **eligible Year 12 students**. The free programme gives them the opportunity to visit the campus, engage in subject sessions and access information, advice and guidance related to university applications and beyond.



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### Online Art Portfolio Preparation Course at Oxford Brookes

Oxford Brookes' exciting portfolio preparation course is aimed at **students studying Level 3 courses** who are looking to study an arts degree and need to develop their portfolio. The course takes place from **23rd to 27th October** and provides the opportunity to work on experimental and collaborative art and design briefs, whilst exploring a broad range of techniques. As well as giving advice on how to present a portfolio for application to further studies, the course will inspire students to develop confidence in their practice and ideas. They will research artists and designers, produce collaborative illustrations, develop these into 3D pieces and produce photographic works. Closing date to register: **6th October**.

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## Oxfordshire Children in Care Project

Brookes & Beyond is a partnership between Oxford Brookes University and the Oxfordshire Virtual School. It has been running since 2021 with the key aim of helping care-experienced young people in **Years 9 to 11** learn about university and the other options available to them.

Another important aim of the sessions, which are held approximately monthly during the academic year, is to help attendees socialise with other young people in similar circumstances. There have been some lovely friendships developed over the past 3 years.

The first session for new students will be held on **4th November** at their Headington Campus. If you work with care experienced young people in **Years 9, 10 or 11** and think they will benefit from attending Brookes and Beyond, please email [brookesandbeyond@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:brookesandbeyond@brookes.ac.uk)

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## Women's Insight to Banking

<https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/event-opportunity-kick-start-your-career-in-banking-at-morgan-stanley-1285608>

Step In, Step Up: Women's Insight to Banking is an introductory two-day programme for **Year 13 students** interested in investment banking. It will take place from **09:00-17:00 on 24th-25th October** in London. Deadline to apply: **24th September**.

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## Black History Month Poetry Competition

[www.brookes.ac.uk/research/units/hss/projects/black-history-month-competition](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/units/hss/projects/black-history-month-competition)

The competition theme is the same as this year's national Black History Month: 'celebrating our Black sisters' and the judge is the award-winning poet Isabelle Baafi. The competition is free to enter and there are two categories: **under 16 and over 16**. There are book prizes in each category. Closing date: **1st October**.

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## For Careers Leaders

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### Trinity College, University of Oxford Outreach

[www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Trinity\\_Outreach\\_brochure\\_Online.pdf](http://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Trinity_Outreach_brochure_Online.pdf)

Trinity College has developed a new website called Oxford for Oxford ([www.ox.ac.uk/oxford-for-oxford](http://www.ox.ac.uk/oxford-for-oxford)), which provides a dedicated hub of information about outreach and access programmes available across all the University's departments, museums, gardens and libraries for Oxfordshire's schools. You can also [download their brochure](#) for full details of the virtual and in-person opportunities on offer for each year group.

You can [request a visit](#) from an Access Officer to work with your students and you can also [request a visit](#) to Trinity College for your students.

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### OCC EET Team Post-16 Back to School/College Campaign

<https://oxme.info/news/not-sure-your-next-steps>

Oxme.info, Oxfordshire's website for young people, is currently running a campaign encouraging young people 16+ back to learning and promoting support available from the Education, Employment and Training (EET) Service to those who have not returned to learning. You may see the campaign on Facebook and/or Instagram.

You can support the campaign by letting young people who have not returned to education and their supporting adults know that they can register for support from the EET Team. There is a form to complete at: <https://oxme.info/learn/eet-support-service>

If you would like some campaign graphics to share on your platforms, or would like more information, please email at [oxme@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oxme@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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[www.futuresmartcareers.co.uk](http://www.futuresmartcareers.co.uk)

Last week, we told you that we have a new ASK delivery partner in Oxfordshire - FutureSmart Careers. They have provided us with a bit more information about them for you:

[FutureSmart Careers Ltd](http://www.futuresmartcareers.co.uk) is an independent careers guidance organisation, working with approximately 70 schools. All our careers advisers are employed by us and qualified to Level 6 or Level 7 in Careers Guidance, they have enhanced DBS and receive regular safeguarding training. Our philosophy is to work collaboratively with schools to provide the level of support required and we do this in a very flexible and bespoke way.

Our services include personal guidance sessions for pupils, workshops, talks, mock interviews, application support, attendance at parents' meetings, careers fairs and options events. We also offer schools an online support package, FutureSmart Essentials which has been designed to help busy careers leaders and careers departments. This includes access to our experienced helpline team who provide a personalised research service; online resources to download and share in the school, plus regular and SEND newsletters which can be re-branded as the school's own.

We are hugely passionate about what we do and we are committed to providing the highest quality of careers support delivered in line with the CDI's Code of Ethics. We are an affiliate member of the CDI, a Morrisby Partner and a CEC approved provider for Gatsby Benchmark 8. Most recently we have also been appointed as the ASK delivery partner for Oxfordshire and Devon.

## SEND Newsletter

[www.futuresmartcareers.co.uk/futuresmartcareers-co-uk/\\_img/SEND%20Newsletter%20-%20Issue%204.pdf](http://www.futuresmartcareers.co.uk/futuresmartcareers-co-uk/_img/SEND%20Newsletter%20-%20Issue%204.pdf)

Here is the latest SEND Newsletter from FutureSmart Careers as mentioned above. If you would like to sign up for this newsletter, complete the signup

form: [https://share.hsforms.com/1G0\\_bygQ0TfOjOScHirb82A8npzw](https://share.hsforms.com/1G0_bygQ0TfOjOScHirb82A8npzw)

**FutureSmart Careers**  
HALF TERMLY SEND NEWSLETTER

**In the newsletter**

- Careers Live**
- Careerpilot**
- podium**
- Supported apprenticeships**

**Disabled Police Association**

**DPA**  
Disabled Police Association

**Free online sessions**

- Western Training Provider Network**
- Careers Live**

**Free leaver session – apprenticeship and technical educational pathways for parents and carers**

**Careers Live**

## CEC Conditions for Transition Report

[www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/our-evidence/evidence-and-reports/conditions-for-transition-supporting-young-people-onto-apprenticeships-and-technical-pathways-a-regional-analysis](http://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/our-evidence/evidence-and-reports/conditions-for-transition-supporting-young-people-onto-apprenticeships-and-technical-pathways-a-regional-analysis)

draws together publicly available evidence and data with insight from more than 500 experts from education, business and local authorities. [Read the press release](#). It outlines:

- Insights from CEC's new Apprenticeship & Technical (ATE) Framework, used in all areas of England over the past 12 months to identify and better understand the critical factors which affect ATE uptake amongst young people - analysis suggests that the barriers vary region by region, sector by sector, person by person.
- The opportunity the ATE framework gives for system actors in policy and practice to work together efficiently and effectively to support more young people to make successful transitions into ATE pathways.
- CEC announces a new partnership with Salesforce Foundation to deliver the Digital Futures Accelerator Fund – which will use analysis from the ATE framework to inform a regionally targeted 'accelerator' programme to boost access to digital apprenticeships in disadvantaged communities.
- What CEC will focus on at a national level to fulfil their strategic priority to boost skills pathways and work with partners to smooth transitions for young people.



## Founders4Schools Webinar

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-career-education-easy-tickets-706642696327](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-career-education-easy-tickets-706642696327)

This webinar on **12th October from 15:30-16:00** will tell you about the free Founders4Schools platform and how you can use it to book speakers from the world of work. It will also signpost relevant resources and research to support your work.

## Resources

### OAS Apprentice Films

[www.youtube.com/@OASPhase3/videos](http://www.youtube.com/@OASPhase3/videos)

Oxfordshire Advanced Skills have a useful YouTube channel,, which includes some video case studies of their engineering apprentices and employers and a tour of the facilities.





<https://britishbeautycouncil.com/future-talent-programme>

The British Beauty Council, STEM Learning and the CEC are collaborating to develop the Future Talent Programme - the first dedicated beauty-related resource for secondary schools, showcasing careers across the beauty and STEM sector. They have created some films which highlight opportunities in cosmetic science, fragrance, sustainability and technology.

## Cyber Explorers

[www.cyberexplorers.co.uk/knowledge-hub/6322909094620895654](http://www.cyberexplorers.co.uk/knowledge-hub/6322909094620895654)

Cyber Explorers is an initiative that aims to showcase how digital, computing and cyber security skills being taught in class are linked to real world situations, through an immersive, gamified learning experience for **young people aged 11-14**. You can book a virtual lesson and download classroom resources.



## Explore Construction

[www.careerscollective.org/explore-construction-careers-video-and-learning-resources](http://www.careerscollective.org/explore-construction-careers-video-and-learning-resources)

The CITB has commissioned Careers Collective to create a film with learning materials, to positively promote construction as an aspirational career path, engage and inform and support individuals to make good career choices.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-black-apprentice-network>

Yesterday, Amazing Apprenticeships, in collaboration with The Black Apprentice Network released 7 case studies featuring inspiring apprentices, undertaking a range of different apprenticeships at a variety of organisations.

Tell us a bit about your role.  
I am currently working in the Risk and Compliance department of my firm. Typically, I take part in completing Customer Due Diligence write-ups, screening low-risk clients that want to work with our firm. I started in September 2022 and I chose this career path because I enjoyed the thrill of debate society. I have always been an argumentative person, so I wanted a career where I could use the skills I learnt from debate society and take part in a job that is intellectually stimulating.

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?  
After being rejected from three of my university choices and learning more about Law as a degree, I discovered apprenticeships through a mentor. I was amazed at the clear structure and benefits of this route. It was an easy choice and I wish I had found out about them earlier.

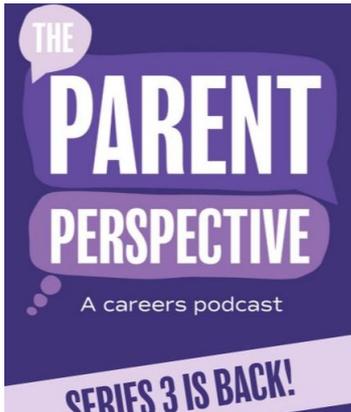
How did you go about finding an apprenticeship?  
I used Rate My Apprenticeship, indeed, Find an Apprenticeship (the government website) and looked on individual firm websites. I had help from my careers adviser when I reached a phone interview stage.

How is your apprenticeship delivered?  
BPP is the training provider for my apprenticeship. I study on a Monday and spend the rest of the week in the office. Our university is online.

Who or what inspires you and what is your proudest achievement?  
I was first interested in law after watching How to Get Away with Murder, but my main inspirations are my parents.

I'm proud to have joined the Black Apprentice Network as Events Officer because I have always wanted to advocate for the progression of black people and now I get to actively take part in providing engaging and insightful events for the community.

What would your advice be to students, parents and carers about apprenticeships?  
Be open to the opportunities, because the hardest thing for a student not to have is support. The application process is difficult, so having support and guidance from both parents and teachers can make the process less stressful.

## Parent Perspective Podcast

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast>

The Amazing Apprenticeships Parent Perspective Podcast returns on Tuesday for episode 3 of series 3, which will see Chef Louisa Ellis, finalist of MasterChef: The Professionals talking about careers in hospitality and more.

## Dates For Your Diary

Listed here are events that have featured in previous Picks of the Week.

### Making Tracks Into Construction with EKFB

21st and 22nd September

EKFB, (building HS2 in our area) are running interactive careers sessions for schools at their Bicester site. Students in Years 7-13 are invited to come along and experience the world of construction with EKFB. [Register here.](#)

### EWE Talk Open Event

27th September, 11:00-14:00

EWE Talk is Oxfordshire's newest alternative provision dedicated to enhancing social, emotional and mental health through interacting with sheep as therapy animals. They are welcoming staff from mainstream and special school's in Oxfordshire to visit their facility in Tetsworth. [Download a flyer.](#)

### National Manufacturing Day

28th September

National Manufacturing Day will see factories and sites opening their doors to give an insight into the sector through open events and tours, giving students the opportunity to find out about jobs and careers in

**University of Oxford Chemistry Conference**

28th September, 16:00-18:00

The University of Oxford Department of Chemistry are holding a conference for Year 12 and 13 students and their teachers to find out more about the cutting edge research happening in the field of chemistry and the department. [Find out more.](#)

**The Henley College Information Evening**

3rd October, 17:30-20:00

The Henley College are holding an information evening where students and their parents/carers can tour the campus and facilities and meet teaching staff and current students. [Find out more.](#)

**Role Model Week 2023**

9th-13th October

The 3rd annual Role Model Week from Founders4Schools will celebrate role models and their importance for future career success. Register for a starter pack to give you ideas about how your school can take part. [Find out more.](#)

**Howden Insurance Careers Day**

12th October, 10:00-14:30

Howden are holding a 'world of insurance' careers day for students aged 16+ at Ascot Racecourse. Students can take part in skills sessions, a mini carers fair and a Q&A session with current employees about their career journeys. Lunch and a tour are included. [Find out more.](#)

**IBM Early Careers Webinar**

17th October, 18:30-19:30

This webinar is for Year 10-13 students and their parents/carers. They will learn about many different opportunities available at IBM and hear from some of their current interns about their experience so far. [Find out more.](#)

**Parents/Carers Creative Careers Webinar**

18th October, 18:30-19:30

During this webinar, parents/carers can hear from four creative industry employers about roles available and the importance of creative skills in the workplace. [Register here.](#)

**British Army Apprenticeships**

7th November, 16:00

As the Army celebrates it's 100th year of offering apprenticeships this year, this webinar aims to provide insight and guidance for young people leaving school on how they can access an amazing apprenticeship and career in the British Army. [Find out more.](#)

**Tomorrow's Engineers Week**

6th to 10th November

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could match up to a career in engineering. [Find out more.](#)

### **The Nuclear Connection Science Fair**

10th November

The Nuclear Connection Science Fair 2023 is for Key Stage 3-5 students, parents/carers and educators. Through activities, games, presentations and conversations, students will discover everything they want to know about nuclear science and about the places it could take their future careers. [Find out more.](#)

### **What Career? & What Uni? Live**

What Career? and What University? Live takes place at Olympia in London on 10th-11th November. You can book a school trip if you wish and make your parents/carers aware in case they would like to attend with their child/ren. [Find out more.](#)

### **Discover! Creative Careers Week**

13th-17th November

Students aged 11-18 can hear about different job roles and career pathways across the creative industries, supported by a suite of lesson plans and resources. Download a flyer. Register by 6th October. [Find out more.](#)

### **National Interview Week**

4th-8th December

Oppidan Education and YourGamePlan have partnered to deliver the first ever National Interview Week, a programme that will deliver 5,000 free interview sessions for students in Year 12 and up. There are 30-100 free places available per school or college. [Find out more.](#)

### **Careers in Business Virtual Expo**

6th December, 08:30-17:30

This event from ACCA and Success at School is for students aged 13-18. Throughout the day there will be multiple live and interactive sessions covering jobs and roles available across various areas of business and entry pathways e.g. T Levels, apprenticeships and university. [Register here.](#)

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## **Useful Links**

These include some of the resources that have been shared in previous issues as a reminder.

[Oxme.info](#) - everything for young people in Oxfordshire

[Oxfordshire Your Futures](#)

[Get The Jump](#)

[Uni Taster Days](#)

[Provider Access Legislation](#)

[Careers Leader Training](#)

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[Your Game Plan](#)[Find Your Future](#)

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For more information on any of the articles in this update, or to send us an something to include, please contact us at: [skills@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:skills@oxfordshirelep.com)

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