

Careers Newsletter - Spring Term

Dear Parents/Carers

We're launching our new termly careers newsletter for parents and carers with a special focus on supporting National Careers Week 2021 this week. You'll also find events, activities and resources on university, work experience, understanding the job market, skills and everything you need to help prepare young people to enter the fast-changing world of work. Despite the recent lockdown and school closures, I am pleased to say the world of careers and opportunities has not slowed down as businesses continue to promote their apprenticeship and virtual experiences, and colleges and universities seek to interview prospective students online for September entry.

What is Career Guidance?

Career Guidance is a process that enables individuals to consider their options and opportunities moving forwards, identifying any potential barriers to success and investigating the reality of working life and the route into jobs and careers. The process enables students to explore their ideas, consider their priorities and what is important to them and then set clear realistic and time-managed goals and actions.

National Careers Week 1st– 6th March

Take part in the biggest celebration of careers across the country. This year many of the activities will be shared virtually, including the first ever NCW Virtual Careers Fair. There will be 5 virtual floors of global employers from across the key sectors providing an insight into life within the organisation and an overview of career opportunities.

At Acle Academy students will receive an assembly introducing them to the focus and aim of the week via the google classrooms this week. Furthermore, KS3 students will have two careers days on the 4-5th, and KS4 students one on the 4th March where they will be set further activities via their google form rooms, with individual daily themes and bespoke resources from leading employers. Students will be exploring the world of work, different careers opportunities, careers and mental health alongside an introduction to virtual work experience for year 10. More information about virtual work experience opportunities is available below.



www.nationalcareersweek.com



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Virtual Work Experience

Experience in the physical workplace is difficult due to COVID-19 restrictions, but many employers now offer virtual alternatives. Do encourage young people to search and apply for placements now. There are some excellent virtual opportunities available for students to take part in. Arrange VWex in the Easter Holidays and beyond keeps young people focused on developing their future goals and will give them an edge with regards to post 16 applications. Please see some of the excellent opportunities available below. If students need any further support with applications or guidance please do not hesitate to contact our careers coordinator Mrs Thompson (kthompson@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

Speakers for Schools



Speakers for Schools is an online platform, working with employers to ensure that students are able to partake in meaningful work experience placements even though on-site placements are unable to go ahead again this academic year

Some of the local opportunities of placements this academic year is through the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, James Paget University Hospital, Morgan Sindall, Tesco F&F Clothing and Thameslink Railway.

Students can register with Speakers for Schools <https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/> and search for virtual work experience opportunities. The school will be made aware of any student applications but has no other involvement in these placements. Safeguarding measures are in place to ensure email addresses/contact numbers are not shared with employers – students will be given a temporary email account to use for the placement, all sessions will be recorded and monitored by the speakers for schools team and students will not be left alone with an employer or employee.

These placements have been extremely popular with schools and students around the country, with some students being offered further onsite work experience or apprenticeship placements after taking part. Some employers are considering moving to virtual work experience placements only, for year 10 students in the future. So please do encourage your child to get involved!

Most placements are open to students aged 14+ but students will need to check minimum age requirements for each placement as these may change depending on employer and placement on offer. Once students have applied for placements the school will be asked to complete a section of the application, at this point Mrs Thompson will contact parents to confirm that they are happy for students to take part in the work experience placement and that the school can share student information. Only when we have parental permission will the school complete the teacher section and applications will be sent to Speakers for Schools and employers. Students will be informed by Speakers for Schools as to whether their application has been successful or not. If students are offered a placement, they will be sent an email explaining their next steps, asking them to sign into their temporary email account and to sign the student code of practice.

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We are unable to authorise student absence to attend work virtual work experience placements so ask that students only apply for placements which run in the evenings or during school holidays. Students can take part in a week long placement or one day insight days with companies. Mrs Thompson will meet with year 10 students over the next couple of weeks to further support this process as we would like to ensure as many students as possible get involved!

Further Opportunities available to support students with work experience



- [The Forage](#): learn career skills from Fortune 500 companies' law, accounting, finance, engineering and more. • Student Ladder: an overview of opportunities for 16-18-year olds.



- [Barclays Lifeskills](#): learn general employability skills while spending a day with a digital agency • A lighter take on work experience: watch comedian Rhod Gilbert on the BBC as he tries out work experience placements in a variety of roles or experience The Nine to Five with Stacey Dooley.

Local Opportunities available

Careers & Coffee from New Anglia LEP

Every Tuesday and Thursday New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership host a careers and coffee sessions with people from different job sectors. These can be watched live from 12.30—1pm on the their [YouTube channel](#) careers and coffee - YouTube when you will be able to send questions to guest speakers or all previous sessions have been recorded and are available to view at a time convenient to you.

The Legal sector will take centre stage on this week's Careers & Coffee with a variety of Judges from across the UK, including a Supreme Court Justice.

Tuesday 4th March (12:30 – 13:00) [Lord Hamblen, Justice of the Supreme Court](#)

Thursday 6th March (12:30 – 13:00) [Meet the Judges](#) – Judges from across the UK discussing their roles and the different Courts in the UK.

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Key Growth Sectors in New Anglia – Clean Energy.

Norfolk & Suffolk is well placed to be a global exemplar for clean, low carbon energy production, exporting services and skills globally, whilst increasing the availability of affordable sustainable energy for local communities and businesses.

It is therefore essential that we have an increasing number of young people who are aware of the current and future opportunities of a career in this exciting sector. We have developed a 'Padlet' with resources to support students in exploring this sector as a future pathway. Within the Padlet, you will find resources on:

- STEM
- Wind Energy
- Solar Energy
- Nuclear Energy
- Energy from Water
- Biofuels
- Careers and study in Clean Energy
- Virtual Work Experience
- EEEGR's Skills for Energy

PADLET - https://padlet.com/New_Anglia_Careers_Hub/cs334u3q3t052vg4

UEA Taster Sessions



The UEA run taster events and webinars to introduce KS4 & KS5 students to what studying a particular subject at university might be like. The full timetable of sessions are [here](#).

Upcoming Sessions include

Film studies: experimental film 1960-2000 - Tuesday 9th March

Recycled aeroplanes? Sustainability and recycling in the aviation industry—Monday 22nd March

Legal reasoning workshop—Wednesday 24th March

What's it like to be a social worker? - Tuesday 16th March

Creative writing skills and insight workshop— Thursday 4th March

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Norwich University of the Arts—Ignite Series



Join current staff, alumni and creative practitioners for an insight into starting a course at a creative university. These talks will provide you with advice and guidance on what studying a creative subject could look like.

Workshops run on Wednesdays 3.30—4.00pm

A full list of sessions can be found [here Ignite Series](#) - Norwich University of the Arts (nua.ac.uk)

Year 11 Focus - How to Cope with Cancellation of Exams

Finally, with the news of the cancellation of exams this summer, we have put together some key advice and try to answer the concerns we are hearing from the year 11s we are currently working with. For students who were due to be taking their GCSE exams this summer, this can be a stressful time. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions:

Will I still be able to go to college or sixth form this September?

If you have applied to college or sixth form this September then it is most likely you have been offered a conditional place. This means that as long as the GCSE grades you receive this summer meet the minimum requirements, then you will be able to start the courses/ subjects you have selected. If you are concerned that you may not get those grades, it is important you look to see if the college or sixth form offer any courses/ subject qualifications at a lower level which require lower grades. For colleges that offer this, you will probably be offered a place at enrolment to do this as an alternative. If your college and sixth form does not offer any lower level courses then consider applying to other colleges that do, as a backup and plan B.

I feel so unmotivated. Will I have a future? Will there be work opportunities for young people?

Yes and yes. These are challenging times to our purpose and motivation, but you will be able to move on. In terms of the economy, there will be some industries and careers that are affected more than others. This is where flexibility comes in. For example, if you were planning a career in the travel industry, this can still be your goal but perhaps delay this and consider working towards developing skills and experience in other areas that will eventually support your application to the travel industry, such as jobs in customer services, sales and administration. In terms of motivation, take one day as it comes. Make shorter more accessible goals, such as completing assignments and schoolwork which will help towards your final grade. Try virtual activities such as reading or watching talks or videos on things you plan to study in the future. See <https://www.mooc.org/> Take the time to research career ideas and make the most of this time where life is slow and quiet to reflect on your future direction, what you really want and how you can get there.

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

It's concerning that I may not be rewarded the grades I could have achieved through exams. What can I do?

This is an understandable concern. The Department for Education, your school and your teachers will be doing everything they can to ensure students receive the grades that reflect their abilities and effort, as would have been demonstrated in their exams. Your current schoolwork is still on-going so it is important you continue to work hard and complete work set. If you have any concerns, speak to your teachers or Mr Sayce- Director of Progress.

[Quick careers directory Need some quick and easy inspiration to boost motivation?](#)

Dip into these careers' websites for video stories and activities. Encourage our young people to find what interests them – and focus on how to get there.



- [BBC Bitesize Careers](#)
- [Career Pilot](#)
- [Careers Box](#)
- [National Careers Service](#)

If any parents, family members or members of the local community would like to share information with our students about their current role or their career journey and to get involved in working with the school on future careers events for our students we would love to hear from you. Please get in contact with Ms Skarin- Careers Lead via email cskarin@acle.norfolk.sch.uk or contact Mrs Thompson- Careers Coordinator- kthompson@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

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