

Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter #138 8 February 2024







Wanted - ex Noremarsh students:

If you attended Noremarsh Primary School and would be interested in going to speak to the current year 6's next term about life at RWBA and what you are going to do next, then please email me on **mcullen@rwba.org.uk** 

This is a good experience and students have really enjoyed it in the past.



Thank you to everyone that attended the Year 12 Parent evening on Wednesday night.

It was lovely to catch up with parents and students to celebrate in the success of the Yr 12 in class assessments and make plans to ensure progress is made towards the end of Year exams.



If you are unable to attend school please ensure you email the absence line <u>abs@rwba.org.uk</u> with your name and the REASON for absence.

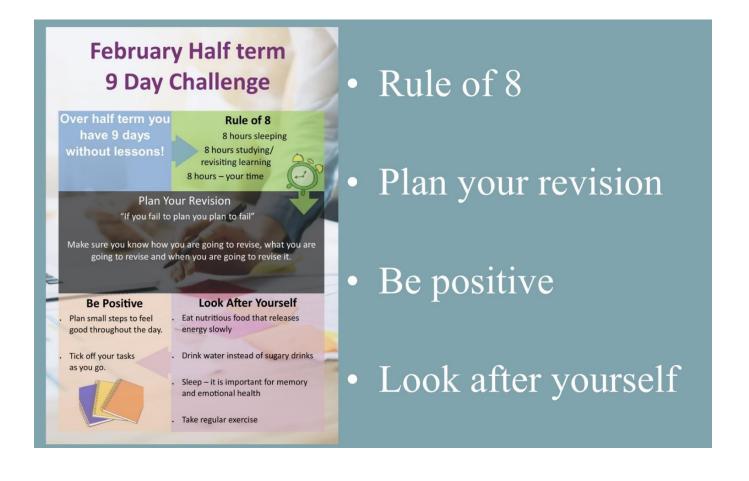


If you are ill during the school day and wish to go home please inform Mrs Allen or Mr Matthews **BEFORE** you sign out. We need to ensure you are well enough to get home safely.



Yr 13 Mock examinations start after half term.
 All timetables are out and students studying A
 level subjects will have two weeks study leave
 from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>
 March inclusive. Btec students must attend all
 scheduled lessons as they need to complete

the course and coursework under the guidance of their teacher.





## On your **exam day**

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams, so that on the day itself you can focus on doing your best.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know: <ul> <li>the date, time and location of your exams – you might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner</li> <li>who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam</li> </ul>	What you cannot take into exams:         any type of phone         revision notes         any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
What you will need:         a clear pencil case         at least two black ink pens -         blue pens are not acceptable         an approved calculator         for relevant exams         appropriate apparatus such as a ruler         or protractor for relevant exams         a clear water bottle if         you wish to take one in -         it must not have a label	Other important information:         Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator.         Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.         If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet too.         If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
Contingency sessions: There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2024 exam timetable – the afternoon of 6 June and 13 June 2024 and the morning and afternoon of 26 June 2024. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam. You can also find useful information about preparing for	Make sure you stay silent - talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

## **Go the Extra Mile Challenges:**

Jeric Joseph and Jacobi Abraham (12BA2) have challenged themselves to do a 10 K run around Coate Water Park during the February Half Term Break. All the Funds will go to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Go the Extra Mile, so please do support them.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/wiltshire-air-ambulance-go-the-extra-mile

Why not go along to Coate Water and cheer them on, or donate towards their fundraising. Contact Jeric and Jacobi direct to see which day they are running (fine weather day!)



They are aiming to get at least £29 for our 29 Challenges.

If you would also like to do a challenge, please remember to complete the MS Form so we know about it and give you our support. If you already have something planned – please let us know - https://forms.office.com/e/0dpggnTktT

Mrs Salmon is learning Sign Language, Mr Matthews is wearing different Ties every day in February (yes including the half term), Mrs Vaughan is rowing in her living room and you kindly participated in the Loads of Lolly Quiz.

So there is still time to get involved.



## **Car Registrations**

If you have passed your driving test and are now driving to school each day. Please complete the MS Form to register your vehicle on site. https://forms.office.com/e/JmFa5FE1vR

Please remember the following when driving on the school site:

1). Observe the Speed Limit - 5 MPH

2). Respect that staff and students may be walking through car parks, so be observant.

# 3). Only park in the designated Sixth Form Car Park area on the playground in front of the Sixth Form

4). Remember to leave after the buses so that you do not hinder the buses departing.

5). Do not carry more passengers than your car allows for

6). DRIVE CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY ON THE SCHOOL SITE - remember students may still be in lessons, so do not disturb them.





# How much have you learnt about Apprenticeships this week during National Apprenticeship week.

Test your knowledge here!!

https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-apprenticeship-quiz-2024/



# DISPELLING APPRENTICESHIP MYTHS



There are many apprenticeship perceptions that are outdated and often incorrect. This list of common myths will help you understand apprenticeships better.



#### Myth 1: An apprenticeship isn't a real job.

All apprentices are employed, doing real jobs and earning a salary, with a contract of employment. Apprentices are also entitled to paid time to complete off-the-job learning, equivalent to 6 hours per week.

Myth 2: Apprenticeships aren't a popular option for young people. In the 2022/23 academic year, more than 77,000\* young people aged 16-19 started an apprenticeship. (\*Gov.uk)





#### Myth 3: The range of apprenticeships is really limited.

There are nearly 700 different apprenticeship standards available, with more in development every day. This includes exciting roles like Zookeeper, Solicitor and even Doctor!

#### Myth 4: Apprenticeships are all low paid.

Although there is a National Minimum Wage for apprentices set annually, this is the minimum an employer can pay, and many employers will pay significantly more than this.





Myth 5: Employers don't value apprentices as much as graduates. Apprenticeships are valued just as highly as graduates, as apprentices have gualifications and direct experience of the workplace.

#### Myth 6: You can't get a degree through an apprenticeship.

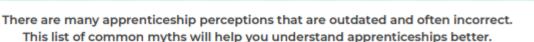
There are many degree apprenticeships, that include qualifications at bachelor's and master's level.



Discover more about apprenticeships www.amazingapprenticeships.com



# DISPELLING APPRENTICESHIP MYTHS





#### Myth 7: You will have to pay for your training.

The employer and/or Government pay for all apprenticeship training costs, meaning that the apprentice can gain qualifications and training (including degree level) without gaining the debt.

Myth 8: Apprenticeships are only for those that aren't academic. There are apprenticeship pathways that are suitable for just about everyone. The level that you start at will depend on the job role, your prior experience and gualifications. 8

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## Myth 9: Apprentices are often 'let go' by their employer after their apprenticeship.

Approximately 94%\* of apprentices remain in employment on completing their apprenticeship. (\*Gov.uk)

#### Myth 10: You can't apply for apprenticeships and university.

You can apply for as many apprenticeships as you wish, as well as applying for other options including full-time university and anything else you are interested in.





## Myth 11: If you've done A-levels, you shouldn't consider a level 3 (advanced) apprenticeship.

Your next step doesn't have to be at the next level up. The level of an apprenticeship is determined by the job role, so it's important to keep your options open and consider all levels.

#### Myth 12: Apprenticeships are only for school leavers

There is no upper age limit for apprenticeships - as long as you are at least 16 and not in full-time education, you can become an apprentice. Lots of people undertake an apprenticeship to upskill during their career.



Discover more about apprenticeships www.amazingapprenticeships.com



# Take a look at the Government website that lists all current apprentice opportunities.

https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

#### **Apprenticeships: Hints & Tips for Parents & Carers**

This guide has been designed to help Parents & Carers explore the exciting world of apprenticeships with their child, to understand the range of resources and support services available to them, and how to access them.

#### Download here:

https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/hints-tips-for-parents-carers/



## Apprenticeships

If you're passionate about tackling climate change, our Apprenticeship programmes offer the opportunity to develop an exciting career whilst helping to create a more sustainable energy future.

Join us, and we'll help Britain achieve Net Zero - together.

Our applications are open until 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



https://www.edfenergy.com/careers/apprenticeships#apprenticeshipjobs



At Cranfield University we recognise the value of apprenticeships. Our roles offer you exciting challenges and opportunities to develop your career and to play a key part in contributing to our future success. You will have the chance to study for a recognised apprenticeship qualification whilst gaining valuable hands-on work experience in an exceptional environment.

https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/about/working-at-cranfield/apprenticeships



Learn from the best and get a career head start with an apprenticeship. We're a diverse and innovative business, and nothing like the idea of a law firm you might have in your head. You can become an apprentice solicitor or paralegal, or train to work in business administration, tax, or accounting.

Whatever you choose, you'll work towards an industry-recognised outcome and develop skills that'll last you a lifetime.

You can sign up for vacancy alerts for any future apprenticeship vacancies <u>here</u>. **Applications open on 5 February 2024 and close on 29 February 2024**.

We're hosting a webinar in February to provide insights into all legal and nonlegal apprenticeships available with us. To sign up, visit our <u>Apprenticeship</u> <u>Webinar page</u>.

# Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) apprenticeships.

DE&S apprenticeships combine a unique blend of military and civilian expertise, skills and commitment to national defence, making our schemes some of the most sought-after apprenticeships in Bristol and the wider Ministry of Defence.

#### Why join us as an apprentice

Keen to learn and ready to grow? You'll be in good company as an apprentice at DE&S. We believe in enabling your unique development - spotting your talents and nurturing you as an individual. Whatever you want to be, we'll help you get there as you'll get hands-on experience to launch a successful career in defence.

#### About our apprenticeships

Apprenticeships at DE&S combine on-the-job practical training with study and work-based placements. As an apprentice you'll get:

- expert training you'll learn from the best in the business, specialists who are experts in their field.
- wraparound support a dedicated scheme manager and support network throughout the programme
- networking opportunities access to professional networks to seek advice and support from your peers.
  - qualifications gain nationally recognised qualifications to aid your professional training and development.
- job opportunities you'll have the opportunity to move into a permanent position, if you're successful in completing your apprenticeship.

Our apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and have a starting salary of £20,049-£25,270, with annual increments.



The Royal Agricultural University is delighted to invite you to its RAU Swindon Campus for the launch of two brand new undergraduate degree programmes. From September 2024, we will be delivering a **FdSc in Business and Enterprise as well an FdSc in Residential Estate Agency,** the first of its kind in the UK.

As local educators and advisers, we wanted you to be the first to find out more about this exciting new offering and welcome you to our beautiful Swindon facility. Please feel free to extend this invitation to other colleagues who would be interested in attending.

When: Tuesday 20 February

<b>Itinerary:</b> 4.15 – 4.30	Arrival and light refreshments
4.30 - 5.10	Subject overview followed by Q&A
5.10 - 5.30	Networking opportunity with RAU staff
5.30	Depart

Location: RAU Swindon, Carriage Works Unit 11, Swindon, SN1 5DE

**Parking:** Pay and display parking is available next to the University, in the <u>Bristol</u> <u>Street car park</u>

**RSVP**: <u>Book your place</u> by Sunday 18 February.

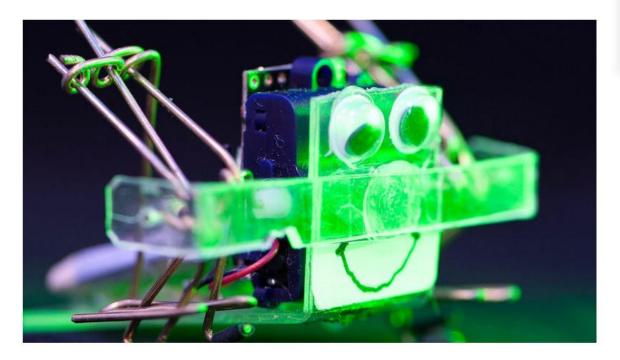
We look forward to seeing you in February, however, if you are unable to attend or would like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch at <u>outreach@rau.ac.uk</u>.



## **Begin Robotics**

Learn robotics as you explore their history, anatomy, and intelligence before test driving robots using exciting simulations.

Educators are currently active on this course



## Gain an introduction to robotics.

Robots today are roving Mars, hoovering our floors, building cars and entertaining us in films. But how do robots achieve particular tasks? And is our relationship with them evolving?

On this four-week course, you'll gain a solid introduction to robotics to answer these questions and more. You'll delve into the different applications of robots,

how this leads to more human-robot interaction, and the advantages and disadvantages of this.

#### Delve into robot anatomy through practical exercises

As you discover the basics of robot anatomy, you'll explore the key components of robot design, control, and behaviour.

Through a series of practical simulations, you'll test driving an ERIC – our very own University of Reading mobile robot.

You'll command ERIC to explore its environment avoiding obstacles, follow a line, and act like a Braitenberg vehicle.

#### Gain an understanding of cybernetics

Next, you'll delve into cybernetics and the importance of control in robotics.

You'll see a demonstration of speed control to understand the feedback and interaction process with robots as you're introduced to virtual reality, interaction, and haptics.

This exploration will help you to understand how you can command a robot to do specific actions.

#### Learn robotics with the University of Reading

Finally, you'll delve into robot behaviour as you discuss whether robots should be able to control their own behaviour. Learning from the experts at the University of Reading, you'll gain theoretical knowledge and practical skills as you're guided through simulations to help you practise what you have learned.

By the end, you'll have the knowledge and skills to move onto more advanced robotics topics.

#### Join the course here:

https://www.futurelearn.com/register?return=cfrxnq64

## **Virtual Work Experience with Wagamama**



Wagamama's virtual work experience is now live, open until the end of February, with 7+ hours of self-paced content. Students can dive into front of house and back of house roles and explore 'noodle HQ' with an intro to Wagamama apprenticeships.

Click the link below to explore the Wagamama VWEX offer.

https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/early-careers-withwagamama/WEXP-00002

#### Discover Careers in Construction with Open Doors – 18-23 March 2024



Bookings are now open for Open Doors 2024, offering an exclusive opportunity to find out more about careers in construction by visiting sites and workplaces across Great Britain. There are already more than 150 events registered so check out the Open Doors website now to book your visit and discover first-hand what the industry has to offer.

## NEW series of the Find Your Force podcast.

Episode Four

# THE POWER OF SPORT

Find Your Force | Season 1 The Career Potential Podcast Students who love playing sports can explore their career potential within the sports industry. In this podcast, they can discover what career routes they can take if they love sports, including Football, Rugby, Swimming, Gaming and more.

https://www.findyourforce.uk/podcast



Creative Industry Resources from Not Going To Uni (NGTU)

NGTU have launched a new website, exploring the 16 different creative industries. They have also launched the ERIC app for students aged 16+ to find out about live opportunities including creative internships, bootcamps, events, training schemes, courses & more.

https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/blogs/what-careers-are-available-in-the-creativeindustries?utm\_campaign=2680401\_Careers%20Adviser%20Newsletter%20-%20January%2024&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=Not%20Going%20to%20 Uni%20Limited&dm\_i=4CV9,1LG7L,7IGYJP,7HC5N,1



Health and Social Care Virtual WEX with BSW Academy

Students aged 14+ from across BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire can apply to complete this virtual work experience programme, at their own pace, between now and 31 October 2024

https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/health-and-social-carework-experience---south-west/WEXP-00232?utm\_source=BSW

# 9 diverse apprenticeships and placements to take on at Renishaw

Renishaw has been training many generations of engineers since its formation in 1973 and its well-established Early Careers programme features a variety of opportunities across a wide range of disciplines.



In partnership with Renishaw | renishaw.com



Globally successful engineering firm Renishaw was founded in 1973 by two former engineering apprentices and works across a wide variety of sectors, including aerospace, automotive and healthcare. Renishaw continues to show dedication to apprenticeships at all levels, too.

A global engineering technology group, Renishaw, has been innovatively designing and manufacturing products and machinery for the metrology and healthcare industries for half a century — conducting the majority of its research, development and manufacturing in the UK, where it employs 3,300 of its 5,200-strong workforce.

With programmes based in its Gloucestershire sites including Woodchester, Wotton-under-Edge and Charfield, its apprenticeship schemes don't just train the next generation of engineers.

## **Apprenticeship Programmes**



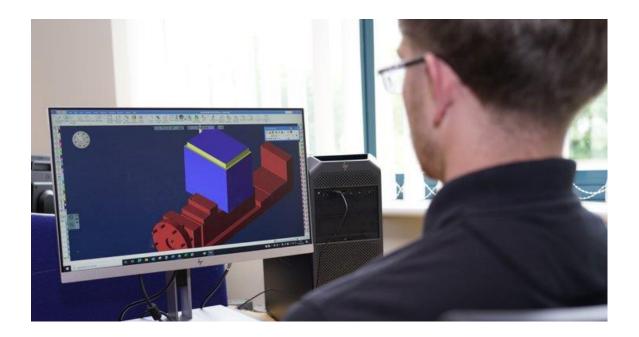
Apprentice IT support technician.

Students on this apprenticeship programme will work alongside the team in Renishaw's IT and Security Department, where they will contribute to playing a key role in keeping the organisation's global IT infrastructure running smoothly.

The role requires the ability to provide fast, efficient and diligent support to keep the rest of the workforce productive in using technology in their own specific roles. Students will gain an understanding of the standards and protocols of different communication networks; remote infrastructure; the importance of effective data protection; and much more.

When completed, the apprentice will achieve a level three Infrastructure Technician Standard qualification, enabling them to apply to be on the register of IT Technicians, confirming SFIA level three professional competence.

### Apprentice software tester.



Testers at Renishaw are crucial to the development process of its software — considerations for high-quality and end-user needs is paramount.

Apprentices on this programme will take part in testing using manual, automated workflow and exploratory methods; design and prepare test plans; set up appropriate testing environments; report on test results and assess by comparing to expected results; and more.

Successful candidates will receive an International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB) Foundation qualification, after completing the software tester apprenticeship and an assessment taken at <u>Gloucestershire College</u>. Apprentices can then apply to be on the British Computer Society's Register of IT Technicians.

## Maintenance electrician apprentice.



For those interested in working practically and hands-on within a highlyexperienced team, the level three diploma in electrical installation at Renishaw could set you up on the right track for success.

Students on this programme will learn new skills while ensuring electrical maintenance and electrical installations are completed to the relevant standards.

Through both on-site placements and study at Gloucestershire College, maintenance electrician apprentices will develop skills including installations and containment; fault finding; inspection and testing; health and safety awareness; and basic building repairs and property maintenance — all skills that are transferrable to many sectors.

## Manufacturing apprentice.

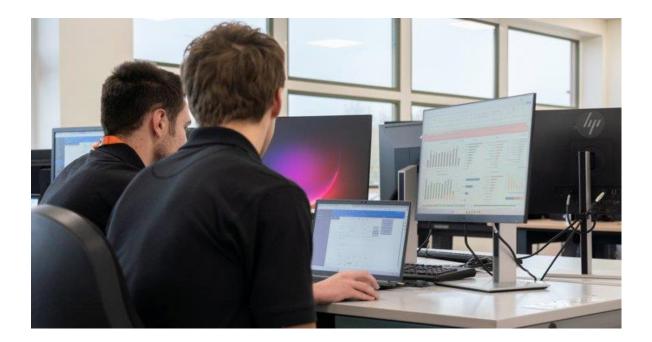


Of course, manufacturing and engineering is still at the heart of Renishaw. To thrive in a practical manufacturing environment while helping to solve complex science and manufacturing challenges, take a look into the three level three apprenticeship programmes in this area.

With the first year of study spent full-time at <u>Gloucestershire Engineering</u> <u>Training</u> (GET), participants will learn the basics in practical and theoretical engineering and its operations — with 20 per cent spent in the classroom and 80 per cent in the workshop, using machinery and applying theories.

On offer, a level three maintenance and operations engineering technician apprenticeship; a level three machining technician apprenticeship; and a level three assembly technician apprenticeship. All three schemes are designed to provide invaluable experience in specific areas of the production process.

## Software engineering apprentice.



Achieving a BSc degree in digital and technology solutions via blended learning with the University of Exeter, the level six digital and technology solutions professional apprenticeship programme in software engineering at Renishaw is fantastic for those with a genuine interest and enthusiasm for programming and a career in the subject.

The four-year scheme involves working full-time at the Renishaw site in Wottonunder-Edge, where apprentices will develop and create computer software and systems that help to operate the products the company makes.

Training will commence in areas from core programming skills to project management and software development lifecycles. Completion of this programme culminates in a full-time role as a software engineer within one of its product development teams.

With an entire roster of apprenticeship schemes available, visit <u>renishaw.com/apprenticeships</u> for more information.

# **Summer Placements**

#### **Physics summer placement**



Those choosing to take part in the physics and science-based summer placement involves working on live projects, overseen by senior Renishaw engineers.

Students will be able to gain experience in working through any stage of the product development process, such as initial product and technology research; designing new products; or continued engineering and maintenance of established product lines.

Seeing first-hand how physics principles are applied to optical and physical problems, those on the programme will collect data to establish whether a new product is worth pursuing, assemble testing rigs to verify manufactured parts, and align optical systems using laser technology — all while using specialist self-developed software.

## **Medical devices summer placement**



STEM students will thrive on the medical devices summer placement at Renishaw — gaining an unmissable insight into what a career in medical device development looks like.

From concept to placement in the market, participants will explore the wide range of activities involved in the industry, in areas such as product design and development; process improvement; quality, regulatory and change control; and clinical aspect consideration.

Based at Renishaw's site in Chairfield, students will have the opportunity to connect with those already working in the healthcare sector of the business, as well as being able to discuss career ambitions and ideas with employees in similar roles.

### **Electronic summer placement**



Working towards delivering the next generation of Renishaw products, those taking on the summer placement in electronics will be gaining experience in research, design and development for a maximum of 12 weeks.

Blue-sky project research; practical electronics skills such as soldering, commissioning and fault finding; printed circuit boards design; prototyping techniques; algorithms and software development; and embedded systems development are just some of the highlights featured in the placement.

Anyone studying STEM subjects at sixth form can take advantage of this programme and will experience the workplace guided and mentored by senior engineers who will help broaden technical and commercial skills, enabling students to reach their full potential in their chosen field.

## **Materials science summer placement**



Based within the Materials Analysis and Research departments — all functioning as a global service to all of Renishaw's product divisions — the materials science summer placement is also great for sixth form students wanting to gain work experience in STEM.

Over six to 12 weeks, this role will involve both individual and team working conditions, problem solving and suggesting solutions. Successful candidates will carry out analytical material analysis techniques, provide engineering material property advice and provide laboratory support.

Some of the responsibilities also include customer returns or production issues caused by material characteristics, whether it be metals, polymers, ceramics, coatings and biomaterials, and how they can be solved or used to enhance current or new products; as well much more.

The summer placements are available for between six and 12 weeks, for students who are studying subjects at a sixth form or college level and are looking for extra workplace experience.



#### Upcoming subject webinars from the University of Portsmouth

- Why Study Languages? 8 February
- The Value of English Literature 22 February
  - Why Study Sociology? 7 March
- So you want to study a degree in Art and Design? 27 February
  - So You Want To Be a Social Worker? 19 March
    - Studying Theatre at University 9 May

https://www.port.ac.uk/collaborate/schools-and-colleges/subject-specificevents?utm\_source=Sponsored+Emails&utm\_campaign=fb8c7a2e5c-EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN\_2021\_09\_30\_09\_29\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_t erm=0\_b5a6d27e00-fb8c7a2e5c-81226106#webinars



# LawCareers.Net

Are you a sixth-form student looking to go into law? Are you wondering what steps you need to take to become a solicitor? Interested in a paralegal or graduate apprenticeship?

In this masterclass, sponsored by Addleshaw Goddard, Burges Salmon, Osborne Clarke and Womble Bond Dickinson we'll be discussing what it means to enter the legal profession as an apprentice, the qualifications required to enrol on an apprenticeship and the benefits and challenges of qualifying this way.

Come along to hear from our panel of recruiting experts and ask your questions!

The panelists are:

- Emily Francis, paralegal apprentice Addleshaw Goddard
- Connor Maunder, apprentice Burges Salmon
- Marc Shrimpling, partner Osborne Clarke
- Skye Fenton-Wells, early talent recruitment manager Womble Bond Dickinson

To register for the masterclass, click HERE

Even if you can't live attend on the day, you'll receive an email with the event recording if you register.





Falmouth University's Making Waves arts competition

Making Waves is a national arts competition for students in years 9-13.

This year's theme is: Ocean Ambassadors – Sustainability and the Sea.

Entrants need to create an artwork of their choosing, anything from sculpture to painting, photography to video.

Winners will receive £250-worth of prizes and £250-worth of arts resources for their school. The competition closes on 28 March.

https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/making-waves-competition-2024





Here's something nice for your Pancake Day Celebrations on 13 Feb!

There are so many types you can make, sweet, savoury, gluten free, vegan – but here is an easy option. Don't forget you could even make them heart shaped for someone special!

#### Ingredients:

- 200g/7oz plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 2 large free-range eggs, separated.
- 100ml/3½fl oz milk
- 150ml/5fl oz natural yoghurt or buttermilk
- 25g/1oz unsalted butter, melted (or vegetable oil)

#### Method:

- Mix the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, salt and sugar together in a bowl. Add the egg yolks and a splash of milk and stir until it forms a thick paste. Add the rest of the milk and yoghurt or buttermilk and mix well.
- Whisk the egg whites in a separate bowl to stiff peaks. Fold them carefully into the batter.
- Heat a non-stick frying pan (or ideally a cast iron frying pan) over a medium heat and add 1 tablespoon melted butter. Brush the butter around the base of the pan and pour any excess into a small bowl.
- Pour in rounds of the batter that are around 9cm/3½in wide. Cook the pancakes on the first side for about 2 minutes until a few tiny bubbles start to appear on the surface and the edges look a little set.
- Flip the pancakes gently and cook for a further minute or so, until nice and golden on both sides.
- Repeat with the remaining batter. Keep warm or serve immediately. Serve with fresh fruit, maple syrup or chocolate spread – the choice is yours. ENJOY!

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The trick to light and fluffy pancakes is not to overmix the batter, which will activate the gluten in the batter and make them heavy and a little rubbery. Cook, the pancakes quite quickly after mixing everything together, so don't hang about. Just spoon them gently into the pan so as not to knock out any air.