

BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Careers Newsletter



Dear all,

The second half-term of this academic year saw our first Careers lecture where BGS Old Boy, Kevan Hankinson, Partner at Butcher & Barlow LLP, spoke to a busy hall about his career in Law. December's careers lecture was led by Amelia Routledge, BGS Old Girl, who spoke to students about careers in Network Rail. Our next lecture will take place on Friday 21st January in the Senior Boys' Hall, where Dr Roni Wright from the Centre for Genomic Regulation will speak to students about her research, and opportunities in STEM.

In November, we hosted a mock MMI afternoon for our Year 13 students applying to Medicine and Dentistry supported by BGS staff, alumni, parents and other local professionals.

Six of our Year 11 pupils were selected to participate in the 'Love Languages' virtual masterclasses led by the University of Cambridge. The pupils have attended the first of 8 monthly workshops where they have been introduced to Japanese language and seminar-style teaching.

This month we also hosted a lunchtime virtual talk for our Law club in which Helen Heeley and her colleagues from Addleshaw Goddard LLP spoke to pupils about the various routes to Law including the Paralegal and Solicitor's apprenticeships.

Looking ahead to January, pupils in Year 8 will have their individual meetings to discuss their GCSE options with a senior member of staff. Pupils in Year 11 will also meet with members of the Sixth Form team for options and careers interviews. Finally, students in Year 12 will also visit a Universities and Higher Education Fair.

In this newsletter there are UCAS updates, links to virtual careers-related events, competitions, and a range of careers-related opportunities.

UCAS Updates

We are thrilled that all our Year 13 UCAS applications have now been sent off, with many students already holding offers from all five of their chosen universities. During this half-term, a few Year 13 students have had interviews for Nursing, Paramedic Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture and Fashion Management. Furthermore, for students applying to Oxford and Cambridge, there were interviews for Japanese, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Theology, Philosophy, and HSPS. In addition, Chloe Parkinson, BGS Head Girl, has been offered an apprenticeship at Ernst and Young. Additional students pursuing apprenticeships have secured places at assessment centres in the next round of their applications.



For those in Years 12 and below who are thinking about their choices, please see below a range of links to information.

[UCAS](#) - the official UCAS website of information and guidance which includes [City Guides](#), [Key Dates](#) and [Subject Guides](#)

Open days are taking place online this year, [UCAS Open Days](#) is one place to start finding information on dates and virtual tours. A good example is [The University of Leeds](#) who have a superb virtual tour. If you are looking for an open day, in-person or virtual, you can visit UCAS to search for those you are interested in - <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day>.

[Student Finance](#) - Applications open in 2022, follow this link for information and guidance.

[Unifrog](#) - Use this platform to record your extracurricular and super curricular activities as well as your personal statement. You can also research and compare courses here.

[WhatUni?](#) - Here there is guidance and advice for students choosing courses and writing personal statements.

Online Talks, Lectures and Events

Online Exhibition: Global Conversations (All years) - This online exhibition was created from an international open call for art and is part of the 20th Anniversary programme of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH). The exhibition will run until the end of December. Click [here](#) to register for the event with Cambridge University.

Subject Matters – University of Cambridge (Years 10-11) - We are pleased to announce the return of Subject Matters on Thursday 24 February, 17:00 - 18:15. Subject Matters is an information session aimed at Year 10 and Year 11 students (or equivalent) who are considering university and want advice on which subjects to study. The session is free and will now be in a virtual format, find out more [here](#)

Virtual Modern Languages and Linguistics Sixth Form Conference: Why Languages Matter (Years 10-12) - This event will be delivered through Teams. Focusing on the broad topic of 'Why Languages Matter', the event will seek to encourage sixth-form students to continue studying languages at university and inspire them with the huge range of employment opportunities that a languages degree can open up to them. This will be held on Thursday 20th January - 9.30am - 12.30pm UK time, click [here](#) for more information.

MAT Livestream 2021 (Years 11-13) If you are thinking of applying to study Mathematics at university, Oxford University are running a weekly livestream, talking about maths problems, and discussing problem-solving strategies, with a particular focus on Oxford's Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT). The sessions are free and available for everyone. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Competitions

Oxford Essay Competition – International Development (Year 11-13) The Oxford Forum for International Development (OxFID) essay competition is a new initiative for secondary school students in the UK and across the world. This year, the theme is: “*Aurora: Redefining Progress and Navigating Transition*”. Students are asked to write an 1800-word essay responding to one of the competition’s set questions. To see these and find out more details, please check out the website [here](#). Applications close on Friday 31 December.

The Special Species Game (All years) – This relates to any student interested in STEM subjects, especially those with an interest in Biology/the natural world. The competition presents a wonderful opportunity to harness both your creative imagination and scientific knowledge. You can come up with your own Special Species by combining different Latin or Greek words and imagining what the species would look like and why the species might have developed those features through evolution. <https://www.linnean.org/learning/content/special-species>

Searchlight Writing for Children Award (Years 11-13) – Searchlight Writing for Children Awards is a new rolling competition for aspiring authors writing for children or young adults. Their purpose is to shine a bright light on exceptional writing. They publish winning entries and act as a stepping stone for children’s authors to achieve their literary dreams. <https://www.searchlightawards.co.uk/>

New College of the Humanities Essay Competition (Year 12) – The selection of essay titles engages across a broad range of humanities and social sciences topics. The deadline for all essays is Monday 1st January <https://www.nchlondon.ac.uk/pre-university-programmes/essay/>. There are essay titles for Art History, Creative Writing, History, Law, Economics, Politics, Philosophy, English, Psychology, and Data Science.

The Prismatic Jane Eyre Schools Project - Entrants are asked to produce a poem in another language inspired by a selected passage from *Jane Eyre*. The competition accepts submissions in any language, and all entries need to be accompanied by a literal translation into English. The competition deadline is March 2022. For more details please visit this website <https://bookshelf.mml.ox.ac.uk/2021/07/14/prismatic-jane-eyre-schools-project/>

Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition (Year 12)

St John’s College Oxford is running its annual Classics and Ancient History Essay competition next year. The competition is open to all students **in Year 12** whether or not they are currently studying a Classical or Ancient subject. All entrants will be invited to attend a **Study Afternoon at St John’s College, Oxford on one of two dates; Thursday 21st April or Friday 29th April 2022**. Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. ‘No (wo)man is an island.’ How self-sufficient are characters in ancient literature?
2. Was one’s community in the ancient world limited to one’s city?
3. Many ancient philosophers emphasised the importance of friendship and community in the good life. What place do you think others have in the happy life?

4. Does Greek and/or Roman art ever express notions of community, or is it simply a reflection of wealthy and powerful individuals?

Further information regarding the competition is available [here](#).

Study and Taster Days

Study Day in Classics, English and History (Year 12) at University College, Oxford -

Applications for University College's in-person Classics, English and History Study Day are now open! Please complete [this application](#) to register your interest in attending the day. The Study Day will take place on Tuesday 22 February 2022 and applications should be received no later than midday on 20 January 2022.

Philosophy Plus Science Taster day 2022 (Years 11 and 12) - What is chaos? What is infinity? Can machines think? The links between Science and Philosophy are broad and deep, extending well beyond the obvious overlaps in logic, artificial intelligence, and ethics. This digital taster day provides an opportunity to find out more about how science and philosophy intertwine. More specifically, how Computer Science, Physics, and Mathematics all have one thing in common, Philosophy. This event is an opportunity for students who are considering applying for a joint degree in these subjects and want to find out more. For further information, please go to [this](#) website.

Shape your World: How can you make your mark? (Year 10-12) - The Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Manchester, are holding three sessions from 10th-17th January, to show students how a degree in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or Materials Science will help them to make their mark. Three academics, at the forefront of their discipline, will talk about how they are addressing one of the world's big sustainability challenges, and how a degree from Manchester will prepare students to succeed in their future career. Students can [book their place here](#).

Upcoming Opportunities

Apprenticeship programmes at KPMG: With programmes available across the UK, apprentices at KPMG gain the opportunity to earn and learn on programmes including: Audit, Audit Data and Analytics, Consulting, Business Services, Law, and Software Engineering. Click [here](#) for more information.

Apprenticeship Opportunities at BAE systems: BAE Systems is a place where you can start, and grow, your career with confidence. Wherever your career interests lie – from engineering, finance or project management, to manufacturing, consulting, technology, or wider business disciplines – at BAE Systems. Click [here](#) for more details.

Updates on apprenticeships – For the latest news and opportunities related to apprenticeships click [here](#) for November's newsletter.

For more information about Careers & Options Advice at Bury Grammar Schools please follow the link. Finally, I am available for appointments to talk through any questions you might have, please email me hgreene@burygrammar.com to make an appointment.

Ms Hannah Greene

Head of Careers