## Sixth Form Weekly News - The Headlines:

- A reminder that when there is a Teacher Supervised Session happening, students using the booths in the Main Hall must also be silent. If they want to talk, they can go to The Common Room.

- Uniform - it is a requirement to wear a blazer for all students. If you forget a blazer, please go to Mrs Pasa

- If you know you are going to be absent from a lesson for a test, trip or appointment, it is courteous to email the teacher and explain you will be absent. You will be expected to catch up on missed work.

- Please ensure that you read the update on page 2 regarding entering/leaving the school site and parking.

- There have been issues with trains recently – please read the key messages to do with this on page 3.

- Microsoft Form for signing in and signing out can be found here - https://forms.office.com/e/rYHXm0Z7pC. Please remember that you must be signed in with your school email address.

- Personal statements are a key priority at the moment for Year 13. A full, written first draft should have been completed by now and shared with your tutor.

- Auditions for the Christmas concert are on Tuesday 7th November at 3.30-4.30 in MU1. Please perform the piece you would like to do at the concert.

**Upcoming dates:**

- Thursday 23rd November- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Tuesday 28th November- Careers and High Education Fair 18.00-20.00
- Thursday 30th November- Year 12 Parent and Students Consultation Evening 16.15-19.15
- Thursday- 7th December- Year 13- Parent and Students Consultation Evening 16.15-19.15
- Wednesday 13th December- Christmas Concert- 7pm-8.30pm

# Driving and leaving site

# Essential Update

Thank you for your cooperation with the new parking regulations and how to enter/exit the school now that the gates and fences are up. As a final reminder, the information below explains how the processes work:

**Car Parking**

- As of the 30th October 2023, all Sixth Form drivers will be required to park their cars on the **gravel car park near Humanities**.
- Please ensure that, if you drive to school, this is where you park your car. If you are unsure where this is then please ask.

Some reminders on driving:

- Sixth Formers are still permitted to apply for a parking permit, via Mrs Pasa. Students will still need a parking permit to be allowed to park their cars on site. Please see the driving section of the Sixth Form Handbook if you have any questions about driving to school.
- The timings of the gate access will remain the same: all Sixth Form drivers must be on site **before** 8.30am. Any arrival after this time will require students to seek alternative parking off site.
- Parking in the layby outside of the front of school is not permitted. This is a space for parents to drop-off/pick-up and is used during the day by members of the public. The layby is lined and RBWM may decide to send parking wardens without prior notice.
- Year 13 students may still leave site in their cars during the day, however:
    1. No student should leave/enter site during school break times.
    2. If students know they will be leaving site during the day, we request that students consider if bringing their car onto site is necessary and if an alternative method of transport (walking/cycling/public transport) could be used.
- The speed limit on site is 5mph.

Please remember that a parking permit is given at the discretion of the school and may be removed if the guidance above is not followed.

**Entering and exiting site**

The new fences will mean that our site is much more secure. Changes that you need to be aware of:

- The new gates will be closed and locked from 9.10am and will remain locked until 3.10.
- All Sixth Form access and exit to the school during the school day will happen via main reception. This is quite a big change for both staff and students – please ensure that you are respectful at all times to the reception team as there will be much more traffic for these members of staff on a daily basis.
- The rules surrounding leaving the site during the day have not changed:
    - Year 13 may still leave during the day as usual when they do not have a registered session. Please leave the school via the East Corridor/ Library/ Main Reception.
    - Year 12 may not leave school during the day but can do so at break to visit Tesco. Again, this should be via the East Corridor/ Library/ Main Reception.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support with these changes.

# Catching the train to school

# Essential Update

Lots of you catch the train to school and there have been some issues lately with strikes and delays on the trains. In order to ensure that you are not given a late DT, please ensure that you follow these steps:

- If your train is delayed, please ensure that you take a photograph of the platform board so that you can show the member of SLT at the gate / your tutor when you arrive to school.
- Where trains are late and are beyond your control you will not be given a DT. This is the same for when there is strike action on the lines.

The school is aware that the 08:16 train from Bourne End to Furze Platt is often late – bearing this in mind, it is your responsibility to ensure that you catch a train that will get you to school on time (just as an employer would expect you to make adjustments if you know that there are consistent travel issues!)

Students that get this train should ensure that they are getting the 07:46 train instead, which will provide you with plenty of time to get to school (even if the train is delayed!).

**Students that drive to school should also be aware of traffic – planned road closures and the daily rush hour need to be taken into account when you are driving to school. Remember the gate closes at 8.30am.**

The Sixth Form is open from 7.30am – plenty of time to grab a tea and be ready for the day ahead!

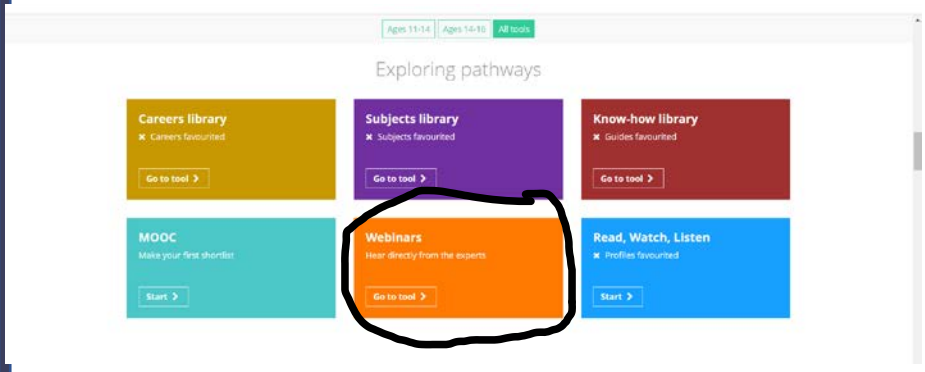
# PSHE schedule

| School week | Date | Period |
|---|---|---|
| Term 2, Week 2 | 08/11/23 | P5 |
| Term 2, Week 3 | 15/11/23 | P5 |
| Term 2, Week 4 | 20/11/23 | P4 |
| Term 2, Week 5 | 30/11/23 | P3 |
| Term 2, Week 6 | 5/12/23 | P5 |
| Term 2, Week 7 | 11/12/23 | P3 |
| Term 3, Week 1 | 04/01/24 | P5 |
| Term 3, Week 2 | 11/01/24 | P5 |
| Term 3, Week 3 | 18/01/24 | P2 |
| Term 3, Week 4 | 23/01/24 | P5 |
| Term 3. Week 5 | 30/01/24 | P2 |
| Term 3, Week 6 | 09/02/24 | P2 |

# Year 12 News

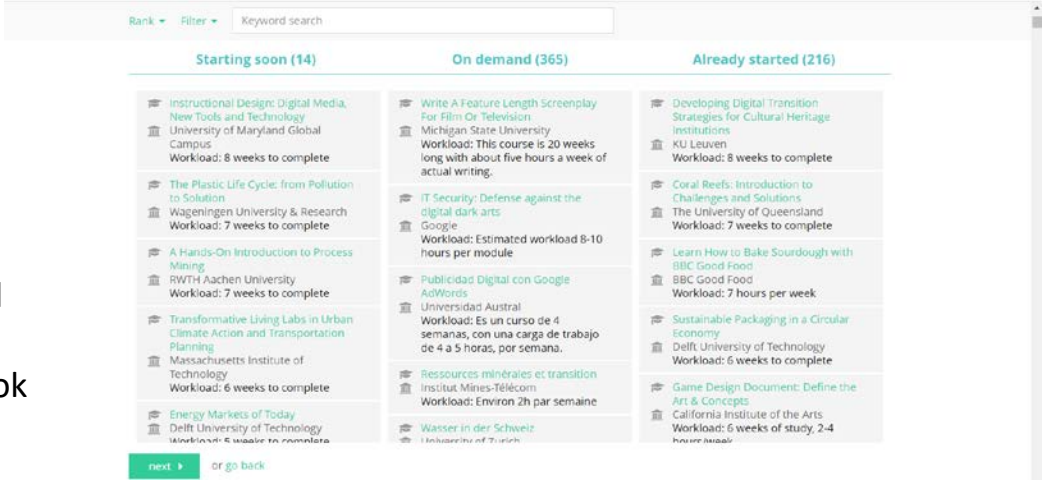
Welcome back after half term! Hopefully, you are all starting the term refreshed and ready for the run up to Christmas.

This week, I want to remind you about using Unifrog to support your research and help guide you in thinking about your future. Not only are quizzes available, but also webinars and articles to explain more about the career paths, higher education and apprenticeships. We will be looking at Unifrog again in form and you should have started favourite some of the articles and options.




Don't forget the Higher Education and Careers fair on the 28th November which is an excellent event in the theatre where you can talk to Universities and employers, asking questions about your options and what they offer.

You can also complete a MOOC through Unifrog. These online courses cover pretty much everything and will extend your understanding and interest in a certain area. The range in terms of time needed and how they are accredited. Have a look and see if there is anything that could expand your super curricular work



# Year 13 News

Welcome back!

I hope the half-term offered you a relaxing break and you have been able to recharge.

As we start the new term, you will be aware of the following priorities that are on your radar:

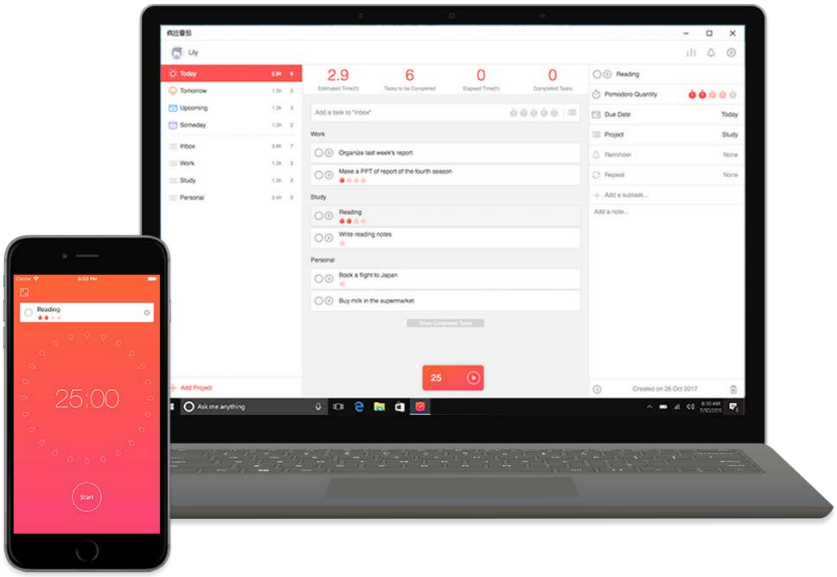
1) UCAS
2) PPE preparation
3) Christmas festivities!

Bearing all of this in mind, it is important that you are **getting things done** in a prompt and effective manner.

The study skills session this week focussed on perfectionism and one significant boundary that I've heard many students mentioning is that they don't start tasks because they don't want to get them wrong or get bad feedback. Please try to remember that you are on a learning journey and that getting things wrong is part of the process – your teachers need to know what you get/ don't get so that they can provide you the best, timely support. Give it a go!

I also spoke to some students this week about how you can work through your "to do" lists in an effective way. Rather than trying to complete all of a task in one go chunk the task up into segments. By working in shorter sessions, you can achieve your goals more effectively and juggle your deadlines. An app like "Focus To Do" can be excellent for this. It locks your phone down for 25 minutes so that you cannot use it for the duration of the task. At the end of the 25 minutes, give yourself a 5 minute break and then move on to the next session.

Effective study habits are skills that need practicing – give it a go multiple times to see if it works! I'm already seeing some success stories with it – what's the worst that could happen?

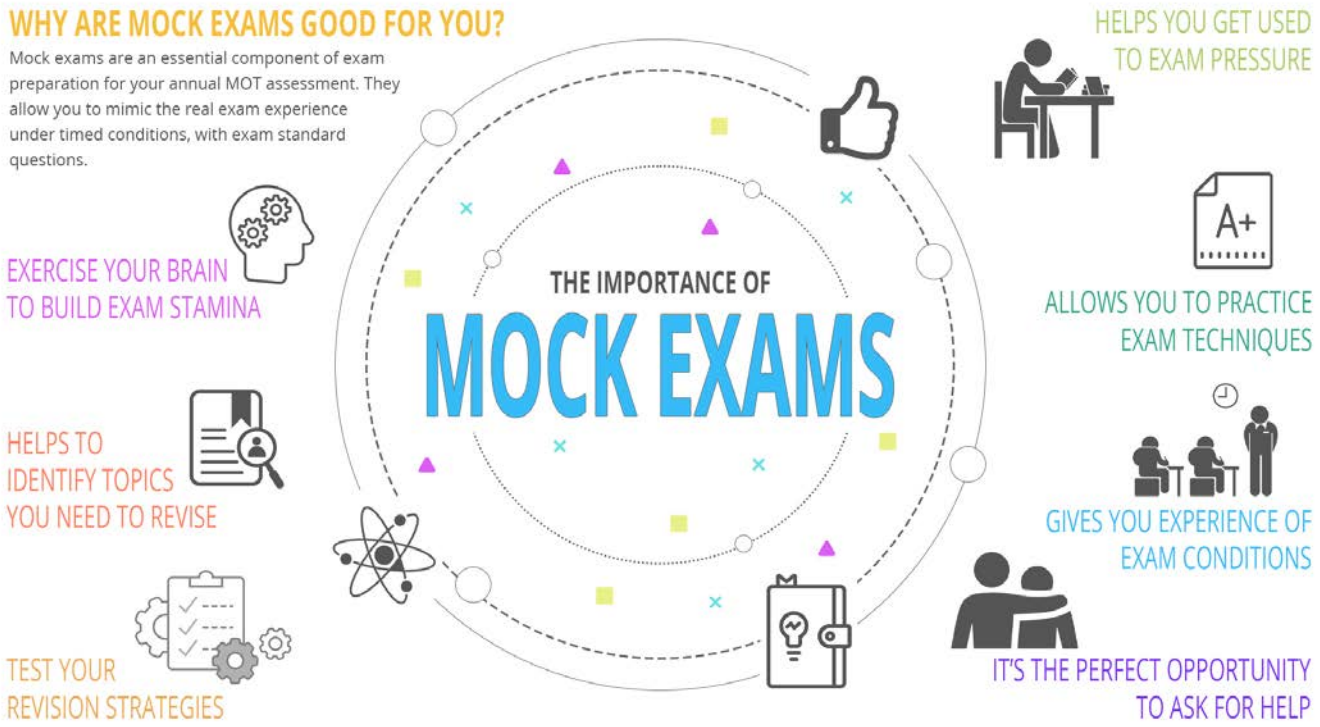


# The Study Room

This term sees the count down to Christmas and it can come around very quickly. Some of you may have already thought about your next exams in January and how you will fit in extra revision on top of existing homework and coursework.

But if you haven't, rather than panic about it and do nothing, there are few things that you can start to do now and which can help you get to January stress free;

- Find out now what papers you will be sitting and what topics you need to know
- Organise your notes from year 12, so you know where to access information
- Identify what your strengths and weaknesses were in year 12 and order which topics you want to review first.
- Start to build in an element of revision each week – maybe re-read a text, go over previous test papers and identify areas to improve.
- Regularly review flash cards.
- Scientists – learn key processes off by heart!  Ask someone to test you.
- Be realistic – don't set unachievable targets, build in small and often amounts of revision.



# Careers

## Local jobs:

*Cardzone* in the Nicholson Centre in Maidenhead are looking for 3 temporary Christmas staff. If you are interested, please take your CV into the store.

**THIS SUNDAY (5TH NOVEMBER) - virtual talk organised by Medic Mentor with Guest Speaker, Radiographer Shelley Blane with 27 years experience**

Scan to register!

## Apprenticeships with the BBC

The BBC is offering over 100 apprentice roles across the UK in technology, journalism, business and production management. Please visit www.bbc.co.uk/earlycareers for more details.

## Virtual work experience insight sessions into the iconic brand of Boots

**Every Wed from 10/01-13/03/24 from 3.30-5pm**
**Must apply here by 20/12/23**
https://tinyurl.com/5n6m6e47

Take part in weekly after-school sessions to learn about the variety of careers at *Boots*- the world market leader of healthcare, beauty and retail. Gain an insight into 8 departments, from Pharmacy to Marketing, and join all that interest you. Over the 8 sessions, you'll complete a project workbook which you can use showcase the skills and knowledge you gain during this unique experience.

## Reminders from previous newsletters

**Discover! Creative Careers Week: 13-17th November**

A limited selection of discovery workshops and insight sessions are still open to book. Find the full line-up here https://tinyurl.com/mr34w97z

**28 Nov 2023 - bp**
All About bp's Apprenticeships
https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=b8142c0fef&e=2318615d5d

**5 Dec 2023 - Accenture**
Careers in Consulting and Technology with Accenture https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=6e2f874bac&e=2318615d5d

**12 Dec 2023 - bp**
How to Ace Online Apprenticeship Assessments https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=3507aa39f6&e=2318615d5d

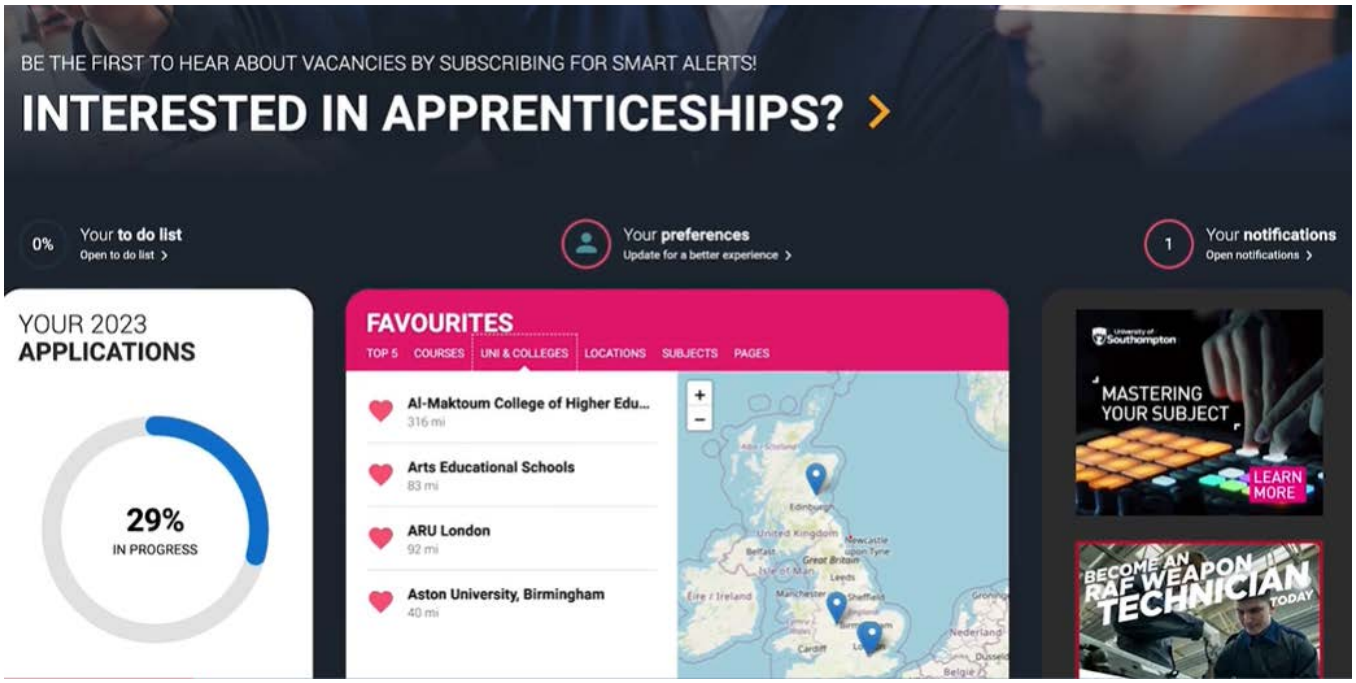
**9 Jan 2024 - bp**
Everything You Need to Know About Assessment Centres https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=bac310ea3f&e=2318615d5d

# UCAS deadlines for the 2024 cycle

## 2024 ENTRY KEY DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| **2 May 2023** | UCAS' search tool displays 2024 courses. |
| **9 May 2023** | The adviser portal opens for 2024 entry. From this date, you can set up your adviser portal ready for your students to link to your centre. |
| **16 May 2023** | Undergraduate applications open for 2024 entry. From this date, applicants can start their applications and send them to you for references and approval. |
| **12 July 2023** | Conservatoire applications open for 2024 entry. From this date, applicants can register, pay, and send their applications. |
| **5 September 2023** | Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS. |
| **2 October 2023 18:00 (UK time)** | Application deadline for conservatoire music applications. Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information. |
| **16 October 2023 18:00 (UK time)** | Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine / science. The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us. |
| **31 January 2024 18:00 (UK time)** | Equal consideration date for applications for most undergraduate courses.<br>The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.<br>Deadline for most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses.<br>Check on the specific course to be sure. |
| **28 February 2024** | Extra opens – applicants who have used all five choices and are not holding any offers may be able to add another choice in their application. |

# Everything you need is on your UCAS HUB



# Opportunities to engage with

- The 2023 Gresham College public speaking competition will be launched soon. Keep an eye on the following page for updates - https://www.gresham.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/gresham-competition

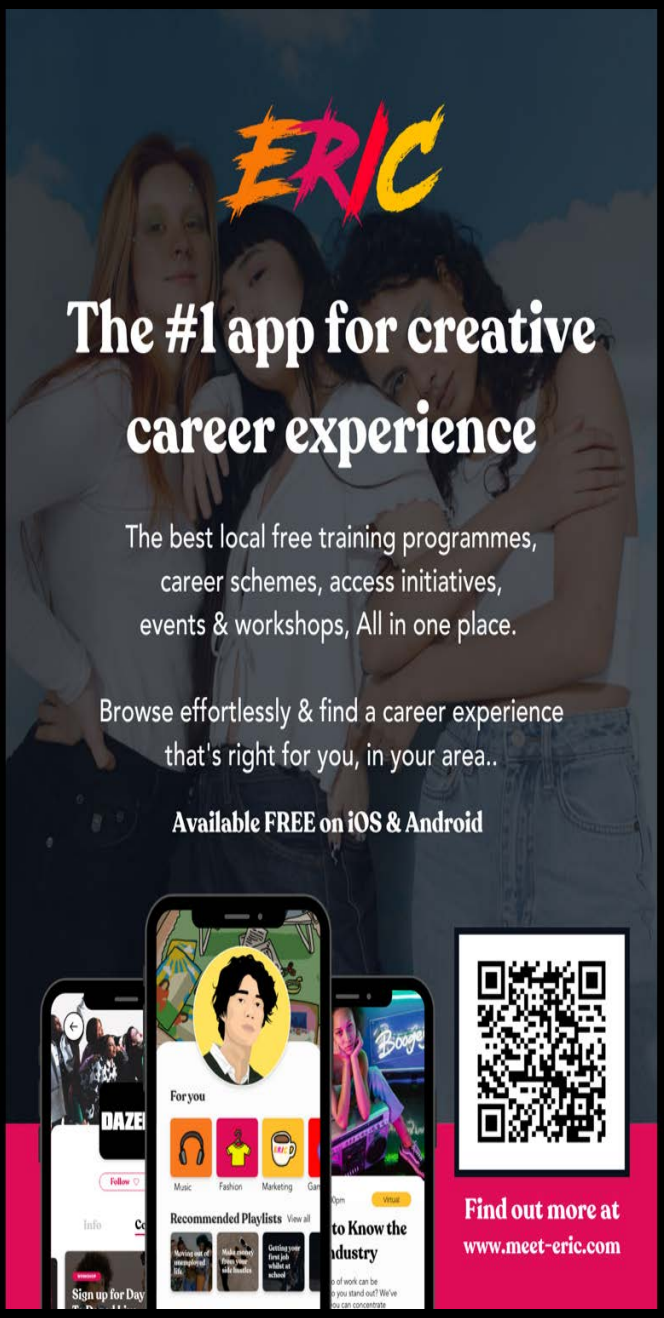
- Upcoming talks from Speakers4Schools can be found here - https://www.speakersforschools.org/upcoming-broadcasts/

- Upcoming careers and employment opportunities through Speakers4Schools can be found here - https://www.canva.com/design/DAFgXaCPtDs/pnRPUb84yhbZYuq85lM4fg/view#1

- Work experience opportunities over half-term can be found here - https://www.canva.com/design/DAFt31HgCco/1d5hlm6y_XFLXmAvroSYKg/view#1

- Sign up to https://pathwayctm.com/student-register/ for free to engage with opportunities from the UK's top employers.

# App to explore for the creative industries




## What are the 16 Creative Industries?

1. Advertising, Marketing & PR
2. Architecture
3. Art & Crafts
4. Design
5. Digital Media
6. Fashion
7. Film & TV
8. Gaming
9. Media
10. Music
11. Podcasts, Radio & Audio
12. Photography & Videography
13. Publishing
14. Theatre & Performing Arts
15. Writing & Journalism
16. VFX & Animation

## Isn't the Creative Industries just for music, drama & art students?

No, not at all! All subjects & skills feed into the Creative Industries. E.g.:

- Historical Film & TV productions often employ historians as script fact-checkers
- The heritage & museums sector requires chemists to help restore artefacts
- VFX & Gaming require mathematical skills to code & create special effects & games

These are just a few examples of the thousands of jobs people don't know exist in the creative industries

## Are there lots of creative jobs available?

Yes, literally millions!

3.3 million people work in creative jobs in the UK

There will be 1 million additional creative jobs by 2030

Find out more at
www.meet-eric.com

# Our school communication systems within the Sixth Form

The following platforms and systems are used across the school. Please get in touch (sixthform.admin@furzeplatt.net) if you have any issues with these systems.

- Parentmail – this is how information about the school will be communicated home and acts as a payment platform for trips etc.
- Classcharts – this is an attendance and behaviour monitoring tool and the only way to report absences. This must be done by 8.45am daily.
- Go4Schools – this is how reports will get home about working at grades, attitude to learning and predicted grades.
- Parents' Evening booking system – this will go live nearer the time of parents' evening and we will be in contact with regards to this.