

# Careers



## Careers Fair

Pupils from Third to Upper Sixth Form attended Bloxham's Careers Fair in March, where students had the opportunity to speak with a large number of organisations and Higher Education providers. Universities who attended included Queen's Belfast, Lancaster and Cardiff to name just a few. Exhibitors were split across various 'hubs,' including:

- Health sector
- Degree apprenticeship providers
- Gap Year planning organisations
- Science, technology and engineering-based careers
- Creative arts
- Careers in the Forces (RAF, Army and Navy), including degrees in piloting.

Students were able to speak with different providers about various degree choices, apprenticeships, future career pathways and gap year opportunities. Many students were able to secure valuable work experience opportunities. In giving advice to younger students on the value of work experience, one Sixth Former wisely commented "Take up as many opportunities as you possibly can to broaden your horizon and gain life skills that will take you through your entire career". [CEE](#)

## Future Focus

Josie Guess, Lower Sixth, reports on this year's event: "In mid June, the Lower Sixth took part in a two day conference called Future Focus. This consisted of multiple lectures on writing CV's, Personal Statements, and interview skills. We also had multiple workshops on the changing job market and student finance.

The CV lecture carried out by Emma Goodman (a CV and interview mentor) highlighted what employers were looking for, for example good communication, work ethic and teamwork, and how these qualities



should be demonstrated in soft skills and extra co-curricular activities. She also demonstrated how to write an effective CV and concluded that presentation was key.

We also had a lecture and a workshop on writing personal statements conducted by Jane Marshall (Director of Optimising Futures) where we were advised on what should and should not appear in personal statements, what type of evidence we should be collecting and how to write about this evidence in our personal statements. In the workshop that followed we each had to bring in an article and had to stand up and say a couple of lines about our article. I chose 'Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises' by Hemmingway which, I said, was a simple story on the surface but what makes it interesting is the subtlety with which Hemmingway communicates male insecurity and feeling lost. We also had a talk about gap years by Francesca Trotman who was in Mozambique having founded and managing 'Love The Oceans' and Old Bloxhamists Lindsey White and Alex Brown also spoke of their experiences of gap years and university.

The second day was filled with workshops looking at apprenticeship degrees – the pros and cons, student finance and the labour market. All workshops were incredibly informative and helpful for the next steps that we would be taking after leaving school be it to university, gap years or apprenticeships."