

Careers NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our NE Futures UTC Careers Newsletter!

We made it!! As the end of term fast approaches, we can look back on everything we have achieved this year with pride. I hope you have enjoyed our regular Careers Updates to help keep you in the loop about everything going on here at the UTC. They have been packed full of wonderful achievements and exciting employer led experiences that have helped our young people build their employability skills and prepare for their future.

We are at that time again when we say goodbye and good luck to some of our older students and look forward to welcoming our new young future scientists and games designers to be inspired and excited by the UTC Curriculum. We wish all of our leavers the best of luck with their exam results and can't wait to see what they go on to achieve.

The Summer term has been extremely busy with employer encounters, exams and work experience. In this issue we will update you on what has been happening in and out of the UTC with a focus on results days and spotlight on careers in computer games development. We also have an interview with a former student who is enjoying his degree apprenticeship with Accenture and wanted to share his experience.

I would welcome your feedback on our careers programme through our annual parent survey – [link here](#).

Many thanks as always for your support and I hope you have a wonderful Summer. With very best wishes.

Sarah Hughes
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CAREERS PROGRAMME – NEWS

This term we not only had Year 11 and Year 13 exams but also mock exams for Year 10 and 12!! To help them all break up the stresses of exam season we had lots of employer visits and events and help inspire them for their next steps.

STEAM Careers Fair at Discovery Museum

This began with a KS3 trip to the STEAM Careers Fair where our students got the chance to interact with lots of different employers from Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics sectors who wanted to showcase the vast opportunities available in their sectors with some of the top employers in the North East. The students had the chance to navigate the fair to speak to those employers who they were really interested in but also to find out more about some of the employers they had never heard of. This was a great trip where the students were able to get excited about what their futures might look like. Thanks to Tom Sunderland our Biology teacher for organising such an inspiring visit.



Cyber Security Visit to



**University of
Sunderland**



Year 12 UTC students had the opportunity to visit University of Sunderland School of Computing to experience all they had to offer to those hoping to pursue a career in Cyber Security. The facilities and technology available to the students was fantastic and it gave them an insight into the courses available at the University. The workshops and taster lectures they attended helped to prepare them for jobs in cybersecurity, which is a rapidly growing area given the rise in computer-related crime.

Psychology Visit to



**Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE**

Our Psychology students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend a Taster Day at [Northumbria University](#). They were able to explore the content & learning styles of an undergraduate Psychology student and to experience how their current learning will build upwards and develop into degree level knowledge. Some of the sessions included an introduction to [#clinicalpsychology](#), [#psychology](#) at Northumbria & [#forensicpsychology](#)



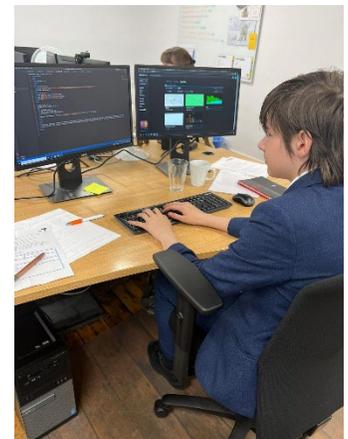
WORK EXPERIENCE



This was the first year since the pandemic that we have been able to get students out into the real world for work experience. Our Year 10 and Year 12 students were asked to secure their own placements with a company they might be interested in working for one day. Despite some challenges from the lingering impact of Covid-19 almost 2/3 of these year groups managed to find placements. They even managed to get some with really prestigious employers from NHS Hospitals to Northumbrian Water and Opencast Software and so many more! We want to say a big well done to all of our students who managed to secure a placement but also to those who didn't for a fantastic week with our onsite experiences with Igloo Regeneration and Accenture.

NETWORKING LIKE A PRO

A Year 10 student surprised us all in January when after only one week since launch he had managed to secure himself a fantastic placement with Enigma Interactive. How did he do this so quickly you may ask? James Ramsay was so inspired by a Project Day Enigma hosted at the UTC in November he knew immediately that they were the company he wanted to work with. So he used his contacts from the project and got in touch to remind them who he was and they remembered him too as his project had really stood out. They knew right away they wanted to offer him the opportunity. James has just finished his placement and said he enjoyed it so much he wanted to stay and they didn't want him to leave either as he had impressed them so much! Well done James this is the initiative and proactive attitude we love to see from UTC students!



ONSITE EXPERIENCES



We didn't want those students who hadn't managed to secure an external placement to miss out on gaining some great experience with an employer, so we worked with our partners at Accenture and Igloo Regeneration to give them a week long experience led by the employers at the UTC. Accenture gave an insight into how they develop their systems and students got the chance to do lots of different coding and employability tasks across the week while Igloo gave students the chance to see how a listed building is regenerated into a space new companies would love to work in. We are very grateful to both companies for providing these experiences and feedback from students showed they learned a lot from the employers and were inspired to find out more about those career paths.

INDUSTRY MENTORING

Another fantastic year of mentoring with our industry partners providing x6 sessions of quality mentoring for all UTC students. We received some fantastic feedback from our mentors which will help us shape the programme for next year. We are looking forward to welcoming old and new mentors back into the UTC in September to continue to inspire and guide our young people. If you know anyone who is interested in inspiring the next generation and would like to become a UTC Mentor please get in touch – sarah.hughes@nefuturestc.co.uk



CAREER TALK SERIES



Elley Rayne, Northumbria Water

In May we welcomed back one of our UTC Alumni former, student Elley Rayne. She wanted to come in to share her experience at the UTC and how it helped her to start her career as a Laboratory Analyst with Northumbria Water. She spoke passionately about her work and how she had been inspired while at the UTC through projects and work experience and how some of the experiences she didn't value at the time really helped her to figure out what she wanted. Elley also spoke about the work experience opportunities available at NWL and how students could apply.

We also welcomed Darryn Robson to talk about his experience in the gaming industry and with Ubisoft, one of the biggest gaming companies in the world! Darryn spoke about his experience in development and moving through different roles in the company to become a leader in his field. He was passionate about sharing his experience and insight to inspire the next generation who want to work in gaming and the students had lots of questions for him.



Darryn Robson, Ubisoft



Rachel Ormston, Royal Navy

We were also joined by Rachel Ormston to talk about her journey through the Apprenticeship programme as an Engineer with the Royal Navy. Rachel was keen to dispel any misconceptions about the career being male dominated and spoke about how the landscape has changed over the last ten years and how there are more and more females entering the Engineering profession. Rachel also spoke about resilience which was our employability theme for this term.

Our last Career Talk of the year came from Ketki Sawant and Olivia Paxton from Accenture. Olivia shared her experience of the Apprenticeship programme and how she had enjoyed the experience and Ketki helped the students to understand how they can find out more about different roles at Accenture and how they can apply. The students responded really positively to the talk as they have worked with Accenture at the UTC before and there were some great questions for the speakers.



Ketki Sawant & Olivia Paxton, Accenture

Year 13 Students

So. It's here. The day you've been trying to forget about all summer. We've got some tips to get you through it.

Results Day for Year 13 is on 18th August 2022 and you can come into school to collect your results from 9:30.

The Night Before:

Have Your UCAS Login Details at the Ready

Because there's nothing worse than receiving your results and not quite knowing if you've made it onto your uni course.

Have Your University Contact Details at the Ready

You might not get the results you were hoping for but this doesn't necessarily mean you won't be accepted onto your course. Contacting your university directly is the easiest way of getting all the info you need before things get too manic.



On the Day:

Check UCAS Track Early

Not everyone knows this but you can actually view your university confirmation here from 8am. You'll still need to pick up your results from school but seeing an early university place confirmation beforehand can really take the pressure off!

Don't Make Hasty Decisions

It's easy to make a snap decision on something that will significantly impact your future because you feel pressure from friends, family, universities and even yourself.

If you **don't get the results you need** for your firm or insurance choices, there are still options. Talk to your universities first and then find out your eligibility for Clearing – you might be able to find a place on an alternative course.

If you're lucky enough to **surpass the results you need** for your firm choice, there are also options.

Consider Adjustment. Here, you can swap your firm choice for a place on a course with higher entry requirements.

Take some time to think through your options. University is YOUR experience so don't feel the need to grab a place at whichever university is available just because you're stressed.

If you don't get the results you were hoping for don't panic! There are lots of people on hand on results day to help you with the clearing process and we will be there to support you to find the perfect backup plan.

**DON'T
PANIC**

Year 11 Students

You will have been anticipating this day all Summer! Here's some useful info. to get you through it.

Results Day for Year 11 is on 25th August 2022 and you can come into school to collect your results from 9:30.

The Night Before:

Who have you applied to for September?

The provider you are applying to will have probably sent you an email to let you know what you need to do when you receive your results. They may want you to go to an enrolment day or just to confirm your place but you will need to know what you should do after you open that envelope.

Have contact details ready

For each provider you have applied to make sure you have contact information and you know what their expectations are.

For instance - If you have applied to the UTC you will confirm your place and your subject choices with the Admissions Team on results day.

On the Day:

Didn't get the results you were hoping for?

You might not get the results you were hoping for but this doesn't necessarily mean you won't be accepted onto your course. Contacting your course provider directly is the easiest way of getting all the info you need before you start to panic.

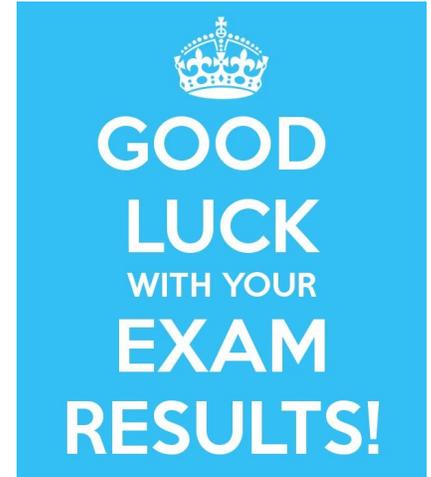
Don't Make Hasty Decisions

It's easy to make a snap decision on something that will significantly impact your future because you feel pressure from friends, family, course providers and even yourself.

If you **don't get the results you need** for your courses, there are still options. Talk to the colleges first and then find out if they are able to offer you a place on the course you have applied for or a similar alternative.

If you're lucky enough to **surpass the results you need** for your course, there are also options. You may be able to swap the course you have applied for a place on a course with higher entry requirements.

Take some time to think through your options. This is your future and you should take the time to consider what is right for you, try not to make a rash decision just because you're stressed. There are lots of people on hand on results day to help you with figuring out your destination decision if you need some support.



**DON'T
PANIC**

Career Poster

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

KIAN MCGORRELL



When did you leave North East Futures UTC?

I left in May of 2021.

What are your favourite memories of the UTC?

My favourite memories were the people I met along the way; I did have really good fun whilst learning. Project days were also a good highlight as I found them fascinating even if they weren't directly related to what I wanted to do. My second day of school was practicing C-Section on a rubber dummy, pretty fun!

What do you do now?

I am currently an apprentice at Accenture studying Digital Technology Solutions. My day-to-day role is currently Tech architecture as well as DevOps.

What made you decide to do an apprenticeship?

For me, I knew I definitely wanted a degree, but didn't want the debt. In addition, the money earned along the way is a massive bonus in addition to the work experience. While not for everyone, it was 100% the right choice for me.

How did your experience at the UTC help you to secure your apprenticeship?

The project days were a massive help. Being able to showcase that I've tried all these things, what I learnt, as well as the companies I was able to work with while doing it was a massive help to my application. In addition, the mentor program was a massive help, they really support and prepare you for everything.

What are your plans for the future?

In the future I'd like to be a Tech Architect blended with Cyber Security Architecture, as well as taking on Mentees of my own. I would also like to travel for a little bit, Japan is currently number one on the list.

What would be your advice to students who are hoping to secure an apprenticeship?

Keep learning, the application process can be hectic, but each one is a massive learning opportunity. After a few, you start to become more confident which makes interviews and assessment centres a lot easier and you can be "more like yourself." Also show a drive to learn, it is what employers are looking to see the most.

Thanks for the interview Kian and good luck with everything!

All About University

Below are listed some useful websites to look at when considering different universities and courses.

1. **UCAS** helps to inspire and empower people to make aspirational choices about higher education and learning. They not only provide your admissions portal but also offer support on all elements of University life. <https://www.ucas.com/>

2. **The Complete University Guide** is an excellent site for researching university options. Explore courses, read subject guides and book open days as well as find out about fees and career options. www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/

3. **DiscoverUni** is an official source of information about Higher Education. It includes official statistics about higher education courses taken from national surveys and data collected from universities and colleges about all their students. <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

4. **Unifrog** is a careers platform that brings everything together in one place. You can research any careers you are interested in and discover more about how to get onto that pathway as well as learning how to write the perfect personal statement, manage your student finances and much more. <https://www.unifrog.org/>

NHS Careers - explore over 350 different roles in the NHS, read job profiles and take the careers quiz. <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

Prospects provides a wealth of information about different careers, training and has lots of advice and information as well as allowing you to do your own careers research. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

icould provides tips on GCSE options, apprenticeships, university, finding work and more <https://icould.com/>

Useful Careers Resources

There are lots of great resources online for finding out about careers. Here are some links that might be useful to you:

Careers Research

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

<https://icould.com/>

Apprenticeships

[https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/](https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch)

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

Job Search

<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job>

<https://www.indeed.co.uk/>

<https://www.fish4.co.uk/>

<https://www.jobsite.co.uk/>

Universities

<https://www.ucas.com/>

<https://www.whatuni.com/>

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>

<https://www.studential.com/>

If you have any Careers questions, if there's anything you'd like to see included in this Newsletter or if you have any feedback then please do not hesitate to contact Sarah on the email addresses below:

Sarah.Hughes@nefuturesutc.co.uk