

THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD A Catholic Academy for Girls *Weekly News – Issue 1* 9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians



Headteacher's Headlines...

I am delighted to be writing my first headteacher's headlines from The Ursuline Academy Ilford as I take up Headship of this wonderful school. I have received a very warm welcome from the students, staff and many of you the parents on the gates this week, thank you! I have met all our pupils in assemblies this week and intend to get to each of your daughters over the coming days, weeks and months. I am delighted that the girls have responded to my request for them to introduce themselves to me as they see me around school so that I can get to know their names. During assemblies I launched an invitation to write to me to tell me what it means to be an Ursuline Girl, here is your chance. I invite responses written to me as a letter or via this form electronically.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7Shk6uy2i0SSVSBb0XQo_qvNlx32Z7RFnXExw_AqKIIUMTEyQ k4yRkZDSEg5U0JKUTZaOFgwMDRZRS4u

The deadline for entries is Friday 30th October.

I hope you all include me in your prayers as I take on the privilege of leading this school. I have taken inspiration from St. Angela Merici who said "Do something, Get moving, Be confident, risk new things, Stick with it, Get on your knees then be ready for big surprises". So, I ask her to lead and guide me in this vocation.

It is with great sadness that we join with the nation in mourning the loss of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Everyone in our school community gives thanks for Her Late Majesty's service and dedication to the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and all our citizens. We offer our thoughts, prayers and condolences to the King and the Royal Family. Eternal rest grant on to her Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

God Bless

Ms F Stone



Pastoral Deputy Headteacher's Headlines...

It has been a great first week at school with students having returned from their holidays with the right attitude for success. Please read the message below that was emailed earlier in the week about the changes to some of our detention procedures. These changes are aimed at maintaining this excellent start and ensuring the perfect environment for your daughter to thrive. The girls looked very smart this week and we appreciate your help and support with this. Please continue to support your daughter so she arrives on time and fully prepared for the day ahead.

As you already know, holidays during term time cannot be authorised and we ask that you do not book any trips during school time. If you must request time off for exceptional circumstances, the full details of the request should be made in writing and submitted to school reception for the attention of The Attendance Officer. These letters will then be given to the Headteacher for her consideration, and you will be informed of the outcome.

For new Year 7 Parents, next week your daughter will be bringing home a Satchel log in for you to use, to link to her account, to be able to monitor any homework set. Please keep a look out for this!

Changes to school procedures for after school detentions

As a school community, we are committed to regularly reviewing the way we work to ensure we provide the very highest levels of education for your daughter. We have decided to change the way we conduct after-school detentions to make them a more effective tool in ensuring excellent behaviour and punctuality across the school.

Moving forward, if a student is late to school, they will be issued with a 20-minute detention on the same day (1520 – 1540). Good punctuality is crucial for a successful school career and an important good habit for the world of work. Our aim is that the immediacy of the consequence for being late will help to motivate all students to be on time for school. If your daughter is late to school, a text message will be sent to alert you that they will be staying behind at the end of the day. In the event that a student does not attend the detention, she will have to attend a 40-minute detention the next day.

If a student accrues 5 demerits, they will still receive a 60-minute detention as before. This detention will now be served on the closest day of the week once the 5 demerits have been accrued, rather than the next Friday as was the case previously.

If a student is removed from a lesson due to poor behaviour, they will receive a 60-minute detention on the same day. In this instance, parents will be contacted to inform them of the situation and to confirm the detention. Whilst such instances are rare at The Ursuline, it is important that all students clearly understand their right to learn in a calm, orderly and safe environment as well as the responsibility to behave appropriately to ensure this for all students. Where students' behaviour falls below this standard, there is a clear consequence in addition to the opportunity to reflect and move forward positively.

These changes will be evaluated throughout the first term, and this will include an opportunity for you to share your views on the changes.

Mr G Challis



In this week's Newsletter, our STEM Department have looked through the archives and have included some photos of our girls meeting Prime Minister Liz Truss! We also have more STEM news, Library news, Gardening Club news and our RE Department have written about this term's Ursuline Student Profile, Courage and

Resilience. Please also see below some extracts from a slideshow that was presented to students in form time this morning.

A Life of Service



I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." Elizabeth on her 21st Birthday

I am sure that this, my coronation, is not the symbol of a power and a splendour that are gone but a declaration of our hopes for the future, and for the years I may, by God's grace and mercy, be given to reign and serve you as your Queen.

Queen Elizabeth II on her coronation



We believe that service is a vital part of our lives. It is through our service to others that we serve God and realise our full potential; becoming the person God calls us to be.



We mourn the loss of our Queen but also celebrate her life and incredible example of service to her country and people for more than 70 years.





Queen Elizabeth II 1926 - 2022

We pray for the repose of her soul:



Eternal rest grant on to her Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



Newsletter Contents this week:

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Chaplaincy News



Pope Francis@Pontifex – 7th September 2022

God works through unplanned events, as well as through setbacks. Let us ask the Lord to send us His Spirit so that He might help us to discern and to recognise His presence even in the unforeseen and painful situations in our lives. #Discernment



Forward in Joy – 366 days with Angela Merici – Daily words of wisdom from our patron saint September: Live

9th September: Let each one observe holy obedience, the only true self-denial of one's own will.
10th September: Blessed are they who try to preserve within themselves this noble yearning.
11th September: May she voluntarily give her heart to God.

- **12th September**: Pray always with spirit and mind on account of the constant need for God's help.
- 13th September: Comfort them, so that they may go forward willingly.
- 14th September: They should want to be united.
- **15th September**: Be happy, and always full of charity and faith and hope in God.



As we begin a new academic year and this half term, as part of the schools' work on the Ursuline Pupil Profile, the girls will look at the values of courage and resilience.

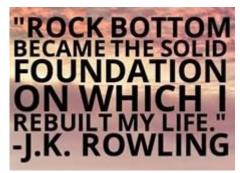
"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Deuteronomy 31:6) In our everyday life we face hardships and rocky paths. We lose faith, question ourselves and those who love us and at times we feel nothing but despair. What is at the heart of all our relationships is trust. Trust in better times, trust in a better future. We observe personal resilience every day. When we refuse to give up on ourselves and others we are strengthened and transformed.



To be resilient requires great courage as it tests every ounce of our faith and self-belief. For many people throughout the centuries, including in our modern world, being obedient has meant that they were faced with possibility of loss, torture or even death. Courage is the decision to choose faith over fear. Quite often this is the deal-breaker as it is never easy to trust our faith in God, ourselves or others. Fear overcomes.

Jesus promised that to spread the Gospel message, resilience is key. Within our society we need courage now more than ever. *"Savage wolves will come among*"

you" (Acts 20). There is harsh discrimination, racism, gender inequalities, poverty, homelessness and bullying but to name a few. Our challenge is to stay resilient and to instil resilience within others. We must trust others to make the change, or, be the change ourselves.



With Gods protection and guidance, we have nothing to fear and can conquer anything.

We will keep you updated, so please look out for future examples of work from students in the Newsletter. *Mr F McGhee Head of Religious Education*



The chapel garden is beginning to take shape and all the brightly painted "empty pots" (full of seeds of course!) are now brimming with plants. A special thank you to our Year 7, 8 and 9 students who helped with all the weeding and planting at the end of the last academic year. A true work in progress and lots to learn for the year ahead. Also, a huge thank you to the premises team who have gone above and beyond to help look after our plants during the hot summer months and have been very kind in allowing us to use some of their gardening equipment.

Thank you, and well done to all!

Ms Eakins





Signed, Sealed and delivered

The library is delighted to purchase 'She's in Ctrl' by Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon who is a great friend and supporter of the STEM Club here at the Ursuline.







A summary by Peters Books follows:

"This powerful book about women, tech and daring to dream takes inspiration from Dr Imafidon's own experience and from the stories of other pioneers and innovators who have, against the odds, transformed technology. 'She's In CTRL', is an inspirational narrative about how women must play a part in ensuring a future that's evenly distributed."

Above we see Ms Russell, STEM Ambassador at UAI, at the book launch last night. We look forward to Anne-Marie's next visit and strongly recommend her book to all lovers of STEM and supporters of women in STEM. Great idea to add to your Christmas list.....

Ms Finlay, LRC Manager



EXAM CONGRATULATIONS!

A big congratulations to those that passed their graded music exams last term.



You are stars! Well done!!

Imogen Van Beers – Drum Kit Grade 4



Tareena Dahaley – Bass Guitar Grade 1

MUSIC EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Music clubs will start on **Monday 19th September** for all years. These activities are free and new members are welcome!

YEAR 7 MUSIC TASTER ACTIVITIES

There will be a Year 7 Taster session for students wanting to join the following extra-curricular activities. If students need to buy lunch from the dining hall, please see Ms Deller for a lunch pass for that day so as to be on time to the rehearsal.

- Junior Choir with our singing teacher, Meg Bird, on Wednesday 14th September during lunchtime at 1.00-1.30pm in S5.
- Guitar Group with our guitar teacher, James Green, on Thursday 15th September during lunchtime at 1.10-1.40pm in S5.

 Woodwind Group with our woodwind teacher, Svaja Radvila, on Friday 16th September during breaktime at 10.40-11.00am in Practice Room 3. Please bring your instrument!

Notice for Music Tuition + Applications

Instrumental and singing lessons are available to students and staff. Please hand in your application forms to Ms Deller, who will then assign an instrumental/singing tutor if there is availability. Please note places will be given on a first come-first serve basis and your application will be placed on a waiting list if there is no availability at that time.

Organisation and commitment:

It is in the best interest of the student, parent/guardian, and music tutor that students are on time to lessons and practice in between each lesson. Practice is very important in acquiring a new skill, and master the skill, and will ensure students get the most out of their lessons. Please discuss the commitment and responsibility that your daughter is undertaking in learning an instrument. We expect that you will support the school as we encourage all young musicians to regularly attend ensemble rehearsals and contribute to our cultural life by participating in extra-curricular performances and liturgical events.

Cancellations:

At least one week's notice should be given to the tutor if a student is unable to attend a lesson which has already been paid for, although this is down to the discretion of the tutor. If a student is absent through illness and has not given the appropriate notice (as above), the lesson will still be charged.

Notice of proposed termination of lessons must be sent in writing by parent/guardian to the music tutor and Head of Music, Ms Deller. You must give 6 weeks' notice to terminate lessons.

Based on 12 x	Individual lessons cost £132 per term (£11 per lesson)
20min lessons	Shared lessons (2 students) cost £66 per term (£5.50 per lesson)

Why spend days, weeks or years saving up for your dream instrument and equipment when there are so many incredible 0% or low-interest finance options online and instore at 'Take It Away' participating shops?

Take it away is an Arts Council England and Arts Council of Northern Ireland supported scheme that helps break down the financial barriers to making music by offering 0% finance on the purchase of musical instruments, accessories, software and



tuition at over 130 music shops across England and Northern Ireland.

Here are the details of the nearest participating shop to Ursuline Academy Ilford:

<u>Address:</u> 54 North St, Romford RM1 1BH, UK <u>Website: www.musicland.co.uk</u> Phone: 01708 737977

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 10am - 6pm; Sunday: 11am - 4pm

Instruments: Banjo, Bass Guitar, Clarinet, Drum Kit (Electric), Flute, Guitar (Acoustic), Guitar (Electric), Keyboard, Mandolin, Piano (Digital), Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Tuba, Viola, Violin Click on the link below for more information about the scheme and other participating shops. Tell me more about Take it away

Instrumental/Singing Tuition Application Form

Based on 20 minutes: Individual lessons cost £132 per term (£11 per lesson); Shared lessons (2 students) cost £66 per term (£5.50 per lesson).

Individual tuition at The Ursuline Academy is available for the following instruments:						
Piano	Guitar	Violin	Clarinet	Flute		
Singing	Bass Guitar	Drum Kit	Saxophone	Recorder		
Bassoon	Oboe	Trumpet	Trombone	Cello		
Double Bass						

Shared Instrumental tuition at The Ursuline Academy is available for the following instruments (please note there must be 2 students in a class for this to take place):

Guitar Singing

Please complete the following questions and provide all information requested:

Full Name of Student:	Year/Form:		
Name of Parent/Guardian:	Contact Numb	er:	
Email address:			
Is your child eligible for Free School meals?		YES / NO	
Do you have this instrument at home on which to practice?		YES/NO	
If 'NO', and a school instrument is not available, and	YES/ NO		
Have you previously had lessons on this instrument?		YES / NO	
If 'yes', have you completed any exams? To which	YES / NO		
Please be aware that payments need to be made o	directly to the instrumental/singing	tutor prior to your daughter'	

first lesson. The tutor will notify you of the deadline for payments.

In signing this application, you are acknowledging the amount payable for lessons and when it needs to be paid. Your daughter will receive 12 lessons of 20 minutes per term. **Please note this is on a rolling contract.** Student's applications that are received after the first week of term will be considered (subject to availability of instrumental/singing tutor) and will only be charged for lessons that are received for the remainder of the term. If a tutor is absent, the lesson will be postponed or parents/carers can request a refund.

Organisation and commitment:

It is in the best interest of the student, parent/guardian, and music tutor that students are on time to lessons and practice in between each lesson. Practice is very important in acquiring a new skill, and master the skill, and will ensure students get the most out of their lessons. Please discuss the commitment and responsibility that your daughter is undertaking in learning an instrument. We expect that you will support the school as we encourage all young musicians to regularly attend ensemble rehearsals and contribute to our cultural life by participating in extra-curricular performances and liturgical events.

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Notice of proposed termination of lessons must be sent in writing by parent/guardian to the music tutor and Head of Music, Ms Deller. You must give 6 weeks' notice to terminate lessons.

	you are aware that individual instrumental/voice lessons are during classroom tating timetable. The onus will be on your daughter to liaise with her subject be punctual for her tuition.
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:

Please return applications to the Head of Music, Ms Deller. Please note that contact will be via email in the first instance by Ms Deller who will assign your daughter to a tutor. Parents/Guardians should then contact the tutor directly to organise their daughter's lessons and payment. If there is not availability, your daughter will be placed on a waiting list. For any queries, please contact Ms Deller via email: <u>sdeller@uai.org.uk</u>.

Below is a slip that will be returned to you via your daughter once a place has become available for her chosen instrument/voice. Please inform Ms Deller of any changes or cancellations.

A place has become available for your daughter's chosen instrument _

Her lessons will be on _

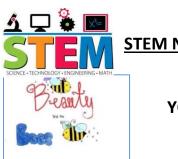
Please pay the invoiced amount <u>direct to the music tutor</u>. Payment is always due in the first week of each term to ensure your daughter's position on the timetable.

with



P E News

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Indoor Rowing	GCSE Dance	Indoor Athletics	Trampolining	Multi Games
12.40 -	All Years	Students	Years 7 & 8	GCSE PE	SS Students
1.10p.m.	Gym	Years 10 & 11	Gym	Years 10 & 11	(Invitation only)
	(Ms Keogh)	Dance Studio	(Mrs Mansell)	Gym	Gym
		(Ms Keogh)		(Ms Francis)	(BTEC Students)
	Contemporary	GCSE Coursework		GCSE PE	
	Dance	& Intervention		Coursework	
	Years 7 & 8	Group 1		Intervention	
	Dance Studio	F7		Group 2	
	(Ms Francis)	(Ms Francis)		G18	
				(Ms Keogh)	
		Badminton			
		Year 11 & 6 th			
		Form			
		Gym			
		(Ms Eakins)			
After	Netball	Netball	Football	Netball	Running Club
School	Year 7	Years 10 & 11 &	Years 9, 10 & 11	Years 8 & 9	All Years
3.20 –	Playground/Gym	BTEC PE	Playground	Playground/Gym	Playground/Gym
4.20p.m.	(Mrs Mansell)	Playground/Gym	(Mr Burt/	(Ms Francis)	(Mrs Mansell
		(Ms Keogh)	Ms Scallan)		& Ms Riaz)



STEM News

One from the Archives! YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD ...

It's always nice to delve into the archives every now and then and our students have been lucky to meet many inspiring people and role models over the years. They are no strangers to conversing with celebrities, leaders and even royalty. However, reflecting back to 2013, when the team 'Beauty and The Bees' made it through as Big Bang Fair finalists with their sustainable bee project. As Liz Truss, opened the fair in Birmingham, then the Education Secretary MP, little did we know that we were meeting our future Prime Minister. I doubt that she thought she would be PM just 9 years later either!





During their time at the fair, the student's project was singled out and they had the opportunity to meet with Liz Truss. I recall as they nervously yet passionately talked her through their idea to save the bees, I remember her showing a keen interest in their project and its important causes.

I have no idea what her premiership will look like. The UK is in a very difficult place and our new PM's inbox will include a complex mix of pressing issues to resolve, including: the energy crisis, NHS issues, cost of living crisisand so much more. Only time will tell how things will pan out.

However, in the meantime we will continue to provide the opportunities for our students to be inspired, and work on projects that place a great deal of emphasise on their imagination and creativity. Projects that build confidence and gives them a chance to demonstrate the depth of knowledge and originality in presenting



their ideas to whoever they maybe! The only limit is their imagination and who knows, they may become a future Prime Minister!

Mrs R Russell



Collaboration in Action

It's been a really productive summer for many of our young ladies and we are really proud of them to have given up time in their holidays to attend various work experiences even as far as Cambridge.

Industry collaboration is key to ensure our young people leave school with the right skills for them to be highly successful in the workplace! Our long-standing relationship with Polysolar (the award-winning solar energy developer, designer and installer of architectural solar solutions) provided the perfect platform over the summer for two of our students *Sumaya Riaz* and *Imogen Van-Beers*.

In August, Hamish Watson, the CEO of Polysolar very kindly provided an all-expenses paid work experience opportunity to visit to the head office in Cambridge for them. It's not every day one gets these chances or indeed to come into contact with a CEO of a company. Whilst there, the girls used the opportunity to arrange an interview with Hamish and this proved to be an invaluable experience for both of them especially as they are considering possible careers in STEM.

Hamish said *"it was pleasure having the girls visit, I hope they enjoyed themselves and found it insightful. I hope the school can continue to inspire more pupils to strive for science and engineering careers and the top universities*"

We know that giving a student a great experience is a crucial factor and how success and impact come from making every visit a story worth remembering! Next week we will hear from four other students who took part in a one-week Year 9 Engineering Summer School placement at imperial College London. But for now, please see below as Sumaya and Imogen tell us a little bit about their unique summer work experience! *STEM Team*

Sumaya Riaz 11T: I'm extremely grateful to Mrs Russell and <u>Hamish Watson</u> to have been given the opportunity to travel all the way to Cambridge with Imogen to spend a day with <u>Polysolar Limited</u>



We spoke with Hamish about individual roles in the company from Marketing and Sales to Chemical and Mechanical Engineering. We then got the opportunity to try out a CAD the company uses and we designed a Polysolar glass fit for our school with <u>Brendan Edwards</u> We also met <u>Martyn Rush</u> who spoke to us about the chemistry behind the Polysolar glass, he was also very encouraging about us going into the STEM field specifically engineering. He told us not to be put off by such a male-dominated industry which was great to hear. He has reassured me that I should pursue engineering even if I may be part of the minority.





Later on, we went to the lab where many Cambridge university students work on new projects in collaboration with the company using some of their high-tech machinery. Towards the end of the day, Imogen and I were able to interview Hamish who answered all of our questions and gave us an insight into future projects.

We ended the very productive day by travelling around Cambridge looking at where Polysolar glass has been used, we saw it on building walls, bus ports and a bike port outside Cambridge North station.

Overall, it was a fantastic day, thank you so much to everyone at Polysolar especially Hamish for supporting us with our Design For London project and inviting us to spend the day with you, we are so grateful (3)

Imogen Beers 11J: I am so grateful to have been invited to spend a day at Polysolar at the Cambridge headquarters with my team member Sumaya Riaz. Polysolar produces PV glass which harnesses solar energy and uses it to generate completely clean and renewable electricity.

I have learnt so much from this work experience as Brenda Edwards and Martyn Rush were kind enough to outline their job roles at Polysolar and explain how projects were worked on from early development to implementation on site. Martyn also introduced us to facilities such as the laboratory where new technologies are tested and produced.

At the end of the day, Sumaya and I were lucky enough to be able to interview Polysolar' s CEO, Hamish. What I found fascinating about his company is that not only do they create pioneering solar glass, but they have diversified their applications - currently they are working on a project that involves using robots for crop harvesting! I loved every minute of it, thank you!













Connectr are extremely excited to be partnering with <u>Stephenson Harwood</u> to help promote their **university scholarships.** As well as providing information about the scholarships, we are delighted to grant students access to an <u>online platform</u> providing

further information about the firm, e-mentoring and online activities to build on the skills needed to be a successful law student. **Please do pass on information below to any relevant students.**

Stephenson Harwood will provide financial & non-financial support to students

- A **scholarship** of £15,000 per year to cover the cost of a three-year undergraduate law degree course and living expenses.
- **Mentors**, insight days, **work experience** and a guaranteed place at an assessment centre for a training contract.

Criteria for students

- Be able to demonstrate that you have the academic potential to succeed at university and be working towards an **ABB** at A-Level.
- Be attending, and have attended from aged 11, a **state-funded** non-fee paying school/college; and
- Students haven't had the means or networks that others may have had to get the chance to access opportunities that could provide you with the skills needed to achieve your aspirations.

Applications open on 1 October 2022 and close on 28 February 2023.

Supporting scholarship candidates

Stephenson Harwood want to provide as much support for potential scholarship applicants. Students have the opportunity to sign-up to an <u>e-learning platform</u> that will provide students with the following:

- Further information about the firm, its culture, and values.
- An opportunity for students to chat with current Stephenson Harwood staff through digital mentoring. This is a fantastic chance to ask questions about the firm, their time studying law at university and the application process.
- Digital learning content to help students succeed in pursuing a law degree, covering topics such as personal brand, communication and time management.

Access to the platform is totally free so please do encourage as many students to sign-up!

Students can apply here!



Virtual work experience programme with KPMG Accountancy

Discovery, our 2-day virtual programme, is part of our commitment to <u>Access Accountancy</u> and social mobility – working towards everyone having an equal chance of accessing the accountancy profession.

Our programme introduces the students to KPMG and professional services, as well as providing them with the opportunity to engage with our current KPMG apprentices, graduates and Senior leaders who will **share their experiences**, as well as giving them the opportunity to take part in interactive sessions to **enhance their skillset**.

Better yet this virtual experience will also give students the opportunity to transfer their application to the second stage of the recruitment process for one of our **2023 Apprenticeship Programmes** upon completion of necessary assessments and their Discovery experience (subject to meeting the academic requirements, details of which can be found <u>here</u>).

Furthermore, upon successful completion of this programme students will also receive a **£50.00 Amazon voucher**.

Our Discovery work experience programme will run during **October** across **two days**:

London & South East: 25th – 26th October 2022 (apply via the London programme here)

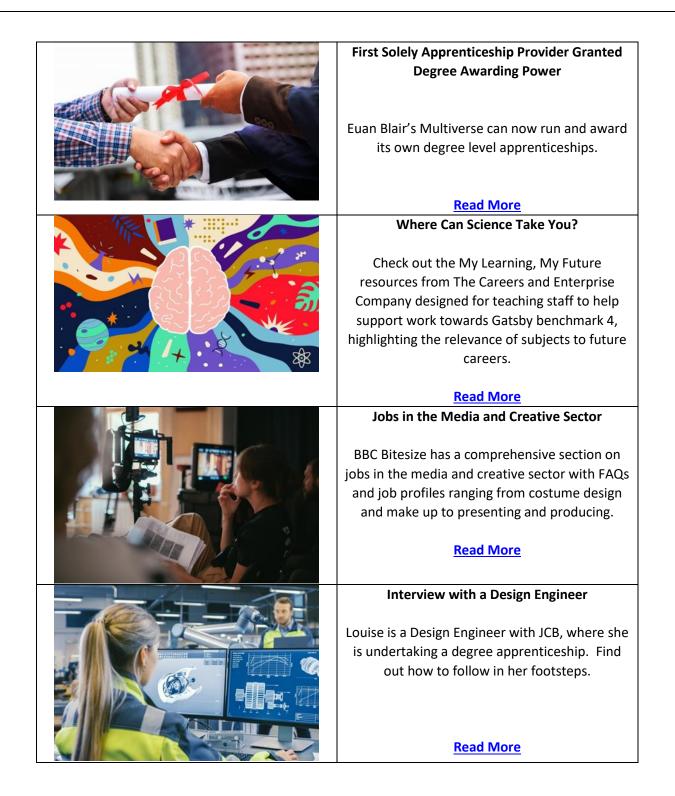
Standard entry requirements – UK

- Minimum 5 GCSEs Grades A*- C or 4 9 (inc. Maths at minimum B or Level 5 and English Language)
- On track to receive a minimum of 112 UCAS points under the 2017 tariff point system (e.g. BBC at A Level or equivalent qualifications)

We only consider a candidate's top 3 A-Level grades or equivalent (such as BTECs), and do not accept General Studies.

Additionally, applicants will also need to meet the Access Accountancy criteria.

Closing for applications on the 19th September. Discovery is for students finishing year 13 by Autumn 2023.



Ms Finlay, Careers Coordinator