



Barr Beacon School
'Proud to Succeed'

Parent and Carer Careers Newsletter

With the summer holidays approaching, it is a good time for pupils to start exploring their future career options at home. There is an extraordinary amount of resources out there to support you and your child as you navigate their future options, and it can often be overwhelming. We have therefore put together a selection of some of the best resources for you to explore.

Although we would usually be organising big careers events in school such as fairs; assemblies; trips and work experience, these are unfortunately on hold for the safety of your child. However, careers provision is adapting and there are now a wide range of virtual services on offer.

Start Profile



Start is a free, online careers platform designed to connect pupils with their future career potential. It is a personalised careers planning tool, helping pupils to make more informed decisions about their future study and career options, as well as developing their employability. Most students have signed up with their tutor in school and can log back in [here](#).

Black Country Careers Hub



Barr Beacon is a leading school in the Black Country Careers Hub. We work alongside local employers, business leaders and education providers to deliver the best careers advice possible to all pupils in the Black Country. There are a range of useful [resources to explore](#), which are being regularly updated.

Some of the best bits include [Individual Support and Guidance Referrals](#) and [10 Ways to Achieve Careers Education at Home](#).

Labour Market Information

With the labour market changing rapidly, it is important we keep your child up to date with what jobs are available and which industries are recruiting. There is a brand new interactive tool available [here](#) (again created by the wonderful Black Country Careers Hub).

University

Universities have adapted fast to recent events. They have created an abundance of fantastic virtual resources to help your child explore their future options.

- [Virtual Open Days](#) allow Year 12 students to explore everything a university has to offer and to speak to key staff about their courses.
- [Virtual Tours](#) will allow pupils of any age to take a look at what university may be like.
- [Webinars](#) give students guidance on key elements of their applications to university.
- [Taster Courses](#) allow pupils to see what a course might be like, if they are still undecided about which subject to pursue.
- University of Oxford have put together a wonderful [Digital Resource Hub](#) to inspire pupils to explore the subjects they enjoy in more depth. Admissions tutors from any university like to see applicants engaging with these kinds of materials; it can make your child's application really stand out. Other ideas include: [TedTalks](#) and [MOOC Courses](#).

Apprenticeships

Although apprenticeships have been affected by the pandemic, there are still opportunities out there and employers are working hard to save as many as they can and grow more in the future.

- Live apprenticeship vacancies can be found [here](#).
- The [Young Professionals App](#) is excellent for high aspiring students.
- [The Apprenticeship Hub](#) gives pupils a great starting point to explore this option.
- There is also an [Apprenticeship Parent Hub](#) and a recently updated [Parent and Carers Pack](#).

Virtual Work experience

With work experience on hold until it becomes safe again, it does not mean pupils cannot explore what certain careers may be like. With virtual events growing, it may mean they now have access to explore a wider range of careers than before.

Virtual Work Experience opportunities are being developed and we hope more will be coming soon. Some examples include:

- [Observe GP](#)
- [Brighton and Sussex Medical School](#)
- [Barclays Life Skills](#)
- [Speakers for Schools](#)

Some universities and employers will relax their work experience requirements to include research of the career sector instead. A great way to do this is by watching videos of employers at work to gain an insight into their job.

- Videos from some of the [big employers in the Black Country](#).
- [Speakers for Schools](#) have a virtual library filled with employers talking about their careers.
- [Learn Live](#) have a large selection of live videos to explore different careers and roles at some of the biggest companies in the UK.
- The [iCould website](#) has a range of videos and generally great advice.
- This [YouTube playlist](#) shows young people talking about their careers.

General Careers Guides for Parents

For parents/carers of 15 to 18 years olds: The [Parent Guide to Getting Ahead](#) includes information on how your children can decide which subjects to study next, understand apprenticeships, select the right university, understand the UCAS application process and explore other options.

For parents/carers of any age, Success at Schools has compiled a [Parents and Careres eBook](#) to help your child begin their career journey.

Virtual Careers Fairs

We expect to see more Virtual Careers Fairs soon and will send out information when we know more. Until then, you can join the Sandwell Virtual Careers Expo Event by logging into Facebook and liking 'Connexions Sandwell'; search for 'upcoming events', click onto 'Virtual Careers Expo' and then press 'confirm attendance'.



The National Careers Service Virtual Jobs Fair will be promoting local job, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities via social media on Thursday 23rd July. Simply search for #JobsHour on Twitter or follow the National Careers Service social media channels to find vacancies.



Options after Year 11

Your child's main options after Year 11 have been summarised well in this short video from the government: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_xAQNNi4pA&feature=youtu.be

Careers Interviews

Our Careers Adviser, Mr Altree, will take your child through their options in more detail with a careers interview in Year 10 or 11. If you would like to request an interview sooner, and would like to attend with your child, please contact the school.

Upcoming Virtual Event for Parents

- Aimhigher [Student Finance Webinar](#) for Parents and Carers- Friday 17th July

Support for parents who have lost their jobs

In these challenging times, we recognise it is not just our pupils who may need careers support. There is lots of advice on the [National Careers Service website](#). You can also call for tailored advice from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week, on 0800 100 900.

Barr Beacon School's Careers Website

Barr Beacon School's Careers Website is having a makeover. By the time we return for the autumn term, our careers advice will have been refreshed and filled with lots of vital information. Until then, our previous incarnation can be found [here](#).

We wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.

Barr Beacon School's Careers Team

Miss Killick- Careers and UCAS Coordinator

Mr Altree- Careers Adviser

Mr Till- Deputy Head Teacher