

Futures Focus – Year 12

The Futures Department staff have all been busy answering lots of questions and giving advice. Here are some responses to some of the most frequently asked questions, and links to websites that you may find useful.



Whilst it is important that you use some free time to gain competencies for your future pathway, it is vital that you don't forget your schoolwork. It is more important than ever that you hit the ground running at the start of year 13.

What can I do to gain some workplace skills now that work experience has been cancelled?

As you might imagine, the job market is difficult in the current climate. It is much more likely that you will be successful getting voluntary work, or temporary work. Lincolnshire is especially short of agricultural workers which would be a great opportunity to keep fit as well as earning money and gaining experience. Find information here: <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/whats-new/student-land-army-required-to-help-feed-the-nation/> Or this might help with other vacancies <https://www.theworldofwork.co.uk/>

InvestIN has some fantastic virtual internship opportunities which are well worth investigating and will be a fantastic addition to subsequent job and higher education courses. <https://investin.org/collections/all>

All employers, universities and colleges really value people who have undertaken volunteering. It tells them a lot about your kind and caring nature so do try and get involved in the local voluntary sector. There are lots of opportunities such as making phone calls to people who are lonely in isolation, doing their shopping or gardening to help them. And last, but not least, it is always worth asking friends and family.

How can I get support or advice with applying for jobs?

There is a great deal of support online to help you make successful applications. One of the most comprehensive is <https://www.unifrog.org/student/home> which you are already signed up for. There is a CV builder and links to quizzes to help you understand what kind of jobs you might aim for. Have a look at the different sections (keep on scrolling down!) A fantastic place for advice is the LifeSkills website created by Barclays Bank. There is a wealth of information about developing skills for the workplace, applying for jobs, interview tips and much, much more <https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/>

What should I be doing about university applications?

Choices: <https://www.unifrog.org/student/home> is the best place to start. Enter your subjects and predicted grades into the UK university section and it will generate lists of safe, solid and aspirational options for you. Use the filters to narrow it down according to distance, type of uni etc and make shortlists. Follow the links to the uni websites to have a better look. Parents are also welcome to explore its benefits by visiting www.unifrog.org/code and using the form code of: parentstgeorges

Open Days: normally we would be recommending that you visit a range of universities to get a feel for the place and see whether you would like to study there. This year all unis have a fantastic online presence which you can access through social media and their websites which are very active. You could also take a virtual tour of the city to see what it has to offer.

Every uni and college is offering virtual open days which you can access through <https://www.opendays.com/> or <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours> If you are interested you can book a place to talk to academics and current students. Also, if you want a virtual chat then try <https://unibuddy.com/> It is the next best thing to an actual visit!

Next Steps: University applications are made through an organisation called UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service). There is a lot more information, videos and links available on their website <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>

Follow the instructions that have been sent out by the Futures Team and get registered with UCAS so that you can start the application process. You don't have to pay until final submission (around December for most) and it is better to get an application underway than rush it later.

I am not sure I want to go to uni – what help is there for apprenticeship applications?

The best place to start is <https://www.unifrog.org/student/apprenticeships/start> where there is advice, and details of vacancies. You will also need to gather information on your competencies and work on your CV. Doing this will make you a stronger candidate in this very competitive market.

How can I keep myself busy and get ahead?

The most important thing is to keep on track with your work. Do all of the tasks set by your teachers and email them asking for extra if you have completed it. If you know what you want to study at university try to find a super-curricular activity. For example, if you want to study history try researching a period or topic not covered on your curriculum. For art, you could learn a new skill or do research on a style of art. The possibilities are endless. All admissions tutors really like it when students demonstrate independence and learning that they have done without having to. Try a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) which are available freely online. Start here <https://www.unifrog.org/student/moocs/topics>

Lots of colleges and universities offering free online learning. See what you can discover by looking for online lectures at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/> Or see what you can discover at our local universities: <https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/> and <https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/> It might also be an idea to improve your keyboard and computing skills to prepare for work or higher education.

And what about general motivation and well-being - how can I stay positive?

The current regulations can make it hard to keep cheerful! Fortunately, there are plenty of things online to help. For motivation do try and watch some Stephen Seki videos. He gave an assembly to St George's Year 10 students in February. Staff and students were totally inspired by his story and his determination – it is well worth investigating his YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpw-yWLQMDmLfjIQqUVas0w>

There is lots of on-line help available. Try these organisations:

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

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

And Finally...

Please email us if the above information doesn't answer your question. And if you find something brilliant that could help others... send us the link! futures@st-georges-academy.org

Good luck!

The Futures Team