

THE EXCHANGE

Careers Newsletter - July (Success Stories Edition)

Iss 12.



As another academic year draws to a close, summer provides the perfect opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate all that has been achieved. This year has been filled with inspiring moments, exciting opportunities and significant milestones for our students as they have developed the skills, knowledge and confidence needed for their future careers.

Throughout this edition, we will look back on some of the highlights from the year, recognising the successes of our students, the support of our staff and partners, and the many experiences that have helped prepare young people for life beyond the classroom.

Good luck to all those leaving college—we wish you every success in what comes next. We also look forward to welcoming returning students back in September!

Remember the Careers Team are still here at college throughout the summer should you need anything, and will be here to offer support and advice on results day.

Careers quote of the month

From small steps come big careers—start with gaining some work experience this summer.



Careers Tip of the month

Thinking about university in 2027? Use the summer to research and start your personal statement early—don't leave it to the last minute.

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Looking back on our Careers Students of the Month



Over the course of this academic year, 21 students have been recognised as Careers Students of the Month for their enthusiasm and proactive participation in career development activities. Well done to all of our winners throughout the year and the students who are the winners for the month of June.

Firoja Adam - Gateway

Firoja Adam has demonstrated outstanding engagement with the Careers Team. She initially sought support to explore her career options and, following a successful job application, worked closely with us to strengthen her interview skills. Her dedication, hard work, and determination has been rewarded with a job offer within the college. Congratulations, Firoja, on this fantastic achievement!

Saad Ali - A Levels

Saad Ali has shown outstanding commitment to his future career ambition in medicine and has been engaging with a variety of career activities, including research, attending open events and through a number of virtual work experiences. Well done Saad!



Success Stories in Careers



Amelia Summers, a student on the Certificate of Higher Education in Criminology and Criminal Justice Course has been offered a position with West Yorkshire Police on the Trainee Detective Programme. This student worked hard to successfully complete each stage of the interview process which included a virtual assessment and in person interview - requiring research and the ability to showcase her work experience/skill set in problem solving and responding to difficult situations. Congratulations Amelia!

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Success stories continued...



Amy Crook, a Level 6 Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy student at UCBC, has worked closely with the Careers Team to build her interview confidence as she prepares for therapist roles. Her skills have grown with every mock interview, and she recently secured a role with a local domestic violence charity, thanking the Careers Team for their continued support.

Congratulations Amy on this fantastic achievement!



Congratulations to **Saira Ali**, a BTEC Level 3 Business student, who has secured an offer to study Law at Lancaster University. Working closely with the Careers Team, Saira demonstrated exceptional commitment throughout the UCAS application process, carrying out thorough research and using feedback to develop a strong personal statement. Her hard work has paid off, and this offer is a well-deserved recognition of her efforts. Well done, Saira!

Career Highlights from the year

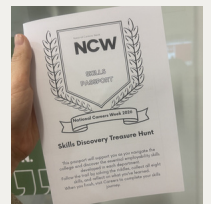


Careers and Employability Fair

Back in March we hosted our annual Careers Fair which was a huge success, with more than 1,300 students attending throughout the day. Students got the chance to explore opportunities, ask questions and make valuable connections. Please look out for more of our planned events throughout next academic year!

National Careers Week

March was a super busy month as we also celebrated National Careers Week! We had lots of activities taking place to promote career discussion, reflection on skills and planning in next steps - activities included a Careers Escape room, Skills Treasure Hunt around College, and Guess the Job! We also welcomed a number of guest speakers! We are already planning ahead for activities next academic year.





Career Highlights from the year

Sixth Form and Science Industry Day



In February we worked with the Work Placement Team alongside the A Level and Science Department to bring together an insightful Industry Day. A day filled with guest speakers, sharing their expertise, knowledge and experience to help inform students on career pathways and options from a variety of different sectors including, Healthcare, Public and Civil Services.

Careers Symposium

In October we organised and hosted the Careers Symposium especially for Degree and Access students on Education/Childcare related programmes. It gave them the opportunity to speak directly with employers and universities about post graduate opportunities!



Quality in Careers Standard

Following an assessment in June, we have most recently achieved the Quality in Careers Standard. The Quality in Careers Standard is the single national quality award for overall careers education and guidance provision in secondary and special schools, colleges and Independent Training Providers. We are really proud of this accreditation and are thankful to all of the students and staff who contributed on the assessment day.



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**We have provided
Advice and
Guidance through
appointments and drop
ins via approximately
2000 student
meetings!**

**What else
have we
been up
to?**

**We have delivered
approximately 170
workshops - covering
everything from Early
Career Planning,
Psychometric Testing
and Interview skills!**

A note from Head of Student Services - College Careers Leader, Kieran O'Connell :

As Careers Leader, I am incredibly proud of our students. By engaging in careers activities, working 1:1 with the Careers Team, and connecting with employers and the wider Blackburn community, they have invested in their own progression, developing the skills, confidence and ambition needed to succeed in their next steps. We look forward to seeing what they achieve next year and how they continue to grow and develop.



Looking ahead to next year...



We are already planning ahead for next academic year and we are excited to continue working closely with staff, students and parents to deliver the most effective career service possible. In addition to this, there is now a new feature on the college website to support career decision making via a brand new tool that has been in-corporated into the website. Pathways will support career conversations by providing detailed and up to date Labour Market Information (LMI). You should be able to access this on each subject area on the website.

Please see an example here:

[Blackburn College - T Level Accounting](#)



Important dates over summer...

A Level Results Day - Thursday 13th August 2026

GCSE Results Day - Thursday 20th August 2026

We are available throughout the summer to provide any careers support you may need and will also be available on both A Level and GCSE Results Days to help you explore and plan your next steps.



Celebrating Project Search Interns

On the 18th June 2026 - we celebrated Project Search Interns with a graduation ceremony in the ICZ, attended by students, families, departments across college, employers and services that have supported students on their internship journey. Including recognition from Local MP, Adnan Hussain. We were also joined by two Project Search Interns from last year who have now secured employment - within Asda and a local Italian restaurant!

Students have developed a range of employability skills, built confidence in the work place with partnerships based at ELHT and Asda, as well as with a range of external employers.



"Whilst I have been on my internship at Asda, I have worked across a number of departments including George(clothing) and the Fruit and Veg department. I am now working at the Number One Cafe in Darwen, where I serve drinks and food. I like it when it's busy as I get to speak to lots of people! I have developed customer service skills and have felt supported to carry on working at the cafe, which I do two days a week and I feel supported to apply for future jobs."

Scott, Project Search Intern

Natalie (Advisory Teacher) added "Scott is excellent at meeting new people – super polite, and over time has learned to speak to different people at the right level".



We caught up with some of the fantastic interns who were graduating from Project Search to find out about their experience, what they have learnt and whether they feel job ready...



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More from Project Search Students...



"Whilst at Asda I've been on George, Home Shopping, Checkouts/Scan and Go and feel like I've really built my confidence, got to know new people and learned how to use the tills and the scanner. In the home shopping department, I did labelling using the price gun. I have also been on a youth advisory trip, as I am the ambassador for Project Search – I have been to Birmingham to meet with others from the advisory group, where I have shared ideas in group meetings. I am now searching for a coaching apprenticeship and next week I have an assessment with a local coaching company. At the moment I work with Accrington Stanley and Blackburn United coaching young children – which I feel is helping me. My favourite thing about Project Search is that I have built confidence and met new people. I now feel ready for a coaching apprenticeship" - Louise, Project Search Intern

Lucy (Inclusion Manager) added "Louise has smashed the Asda packing speed – she is way above Asda's national average".

Basit, who was recognised as Intern of the year with ELHT (alongside Louise at Asda) shared on stage "Thank you to the job coaches who have helped me through it, when I started this programme, I was enthusiastic, I knew I would love this job, it's been a journey, I've adapted, I've been getting a bus and travelling independently, which has also really helped me. It's been a pleasure, it's been fun – keep going, stay resilient, it's all about hard work".

ELHT students have worked in a number of departments based at the hospital (with Logistics, Pharmacy and the Medical Records Team) and have been invited for an interview, which is an outstanding testament to the progress they have made and the employability skills they have worked on to get to interview stage. Well done!



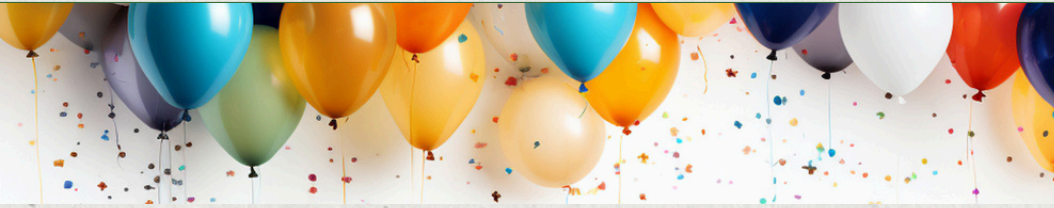
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"I have worked in lots of different departments at Asda, including the Health and Beauty section, Bakery, Grocery and George. At Asda I liked working on the Fruit and Veg department with Pete! I have another job alongside this and work for the construction company, Multi-Pave. Here I help out and direct forklift trucks, steam rollers and diggers! I am continuing to work here every Friday!"

Dan, Project Search Intern

Natalie (Advisory Teacher) added "Dan has really improved his customer service skills. When Get Ready students came for a visit, Dan showed them, mentored and helped them with jobs that they couldn't do – using strong team work and leadership skills".



More comments shared by Dan Wilcox and Elaine Walpole on the day:



"Adam has showed remarkable development in his social skills. He is a good listener, is confident and has been doing very well. Adam secured a paid role within Tesco and has been working there for three weeks!"

"Jack has been described as working with a meticulous approach and has travelled independantly this year, showing commitment to attendance and time keeping"

"Lee has developed additional work experience at Disco Bowl and whilst at Asda has developed confidence and shown excellent commitment and energy"



"Hassan has showed resilience and determination and is moving on to study Level 3 Digital"

"Rekan has showed fantastic work ethic, shown consistently high standards and found his own way to support customers"

"Tommy has been described as a grafter, great colleague, friendly and hardworking!"



The Careers Team are based in the Careers and Personal Development Centre, located within the University Centre (UC010). The service is provided by a full team of qualified careers advisors, who are here to support every student, at every study level, with their career planning and progression. You can book an appointment or drop in any time Monday – Friday for help with:

- Career Planning
- Finding employment
- Writing or updating your CV
- Interview Skills
- Choosing your next course
- Changing Career
- Applying to University
- Applying for Graduate opportunities



**To book an appointment , please
scan the QR code or drop into the
Careers Centre any time.**

**Mondays - 8.00-6.00pm
Tuesday - Friday 8.00 - 4.00pm**

