



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL

## Careerfile

Issue 10

2nd December 2022

### Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams

The GCSE mock exams have started. Students should be putting the skills and advice given to them during PSHE lessons and at the Study Skills & Revision Techniques session that took place at the start of the month. See p2 for revision tips.

### Year 11 6th Form Applications

The 6th Form applications window is now closed! If you missed applying please see myself or Mr Marlow.



### Year 11 16+ Options

All Year 11 students will be working towards making decisions for their future during their PSHE lessons. Those students not wishing to stay on or go to Sixth Form still need to prepare for their next steps as colleges and all learning providers will ask for a personal statement and or evidence of their achievements and plans when inviting them to interview. A record of achievements will impress the interviewer if kept up-to-date and will also help them prepare for interviews.

Students can (and should) **choose more than one course to apply for**. Indeed, they should be keeping all their options open at the moment. If they apply for Sixth Form and a college course they can turn the one down that they don't want when they get their results. All of this is explained to them, but...! **Students wanting to apply for an apprenticeship MUST apply for a college course until an apprenticeship place is secured.**

One of the most important points to note is that students need to know their predicted grade/level in their final exam as they need to be **realistic when making their choices** for next year. They should aim high in the hope that they will do as expected or better in their exams but also have a back-up plan in case things don't work out so well. **Please stress the importance of their mocks and that these will be used as their predicted grades when applying for College/6<sup>th</sup> Form etc.**

### Year 9 Virtual Options Introduction

This event will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 7th December at 6pm. A link will be sent to you prior to the evening. This will take no more than 20 mins and will be a brief introduction to Year 9 students' next steps of their education moving from key stage 3 to 4.

### Important dates for your diary

#### Year 11 Mock Exams

Monday 5th - Friday 16th December

#### Year 9 Virtual Options Intro

Wednesday 7th December 6pm

Empowering Positive Change  
through Careers Education

Look out every fortnight  
for new features -  
all things career-related!



# Year 11 Mock Exams

The Year 11 mock exams start on Monday 5th December and run for 2 weeks. They are important for a number of reasons. Firstly, they will give teachers, parents and the student themselves an idea of whether the student is on target to achieve predicted grades. Another plus point for mock exams is that it gives a practice run ahead of the final GCSEs. It is really important to practise writing timed answers, so that you get your timing right when it matters.

Mock exams are the nearest students will get in preparation for the real thing. It is also the time to make mistakes and learn from them. As a teacher, I expect someone in my class to read the paper wrong and answer the wrong section, too many questions or not enough – yes really, it happens despite everything teachers say. However, hopefully this means the same mistakes are then not replicated when it really counts in June.

To prepare for mock exams, follow these six tips to GCSE success from the Collins for parents web page:

- 1. Plan a revision timetable.** This should be done by looking at the week ahead and including the social activities that the young person has. Then the timetable is realistic and workable. Put the timetable in a visible place and stick to it!
- 2. Use a range of resources to aid revision.** I am a big believer in doing past papers and exam questions for revision. Nothing beats doing what you will face in the exam. It is easy to not to push yourself when revising and stick to what you already know. But that doesn't help you improve.
- 3. Spend time going over your class notes.** A good tip: every day, have a notepad ready and when you get home write down what you learnt in each lesson. What can you recall? Also read your notes and if there is something you don't understand, find out or ask your teacher to explain it again.
- 4. Use specific revision aids for your subject,** make sure you know the exam board and get books that support the board you are using.
- 5. Seek out your teachers,** they are experienced and understand the course and its requirements. Use them to the fullest, talk to them about the bits you are struggling with.
- 6. Finally remember the tortoise and the hare fable,** slow and steady will get you to the finishing line. Keep going, keep considering the finishing line and plan on how you are getting there. This is why it is the smart student starts revising for their mocks and then keeps going until June.

## Special Mention - December

Maxwell 11U attended an Open Day and interviews at Stevenage Football Club for 3 days during half term. The course is the Stevenage FC Educational Development Programme. He had a taster of what the course entails and what he needs to do to be accepted onto it.

Max has since been offered a conditional offer and, providing he gets the grades needed to get on the course, will be starting a career in sport which has many directions as to what path to take. Options include physiotherapist, coaching, sports nutritionist, teaching ... plus so much more!

A key attribute for such a career includes teamwork and Max has this in BUCKET loads. He was seen helping a peer with Maths work when they were struggling. Kindness - an aspect of a Fearnhill Student.

We can't wait to see what Max achieves in the future.



# Apprenticeship Interview Tips

**There are fewer things more stressful than an interview (driving test and moving house probably trump it), but there's no need to worry about it, if you follow these simple steps and prepare, prepare, prepare.**

You only get one opportunity to make a good first impression, so you need to be well prepared for the apprenticeship interview.

## 1. Do your homework

Fail to plan, and you plan to fail. You are certain to be asked specific questions about the company, so make sure you've done your homework. You can find useful information on their company website, look for details about the company culture, their mission and values. You could also speak to someone who already works there, or even try Googling the company and see what comes up. Also take a look at the latest developments in the industry so you can converse with confidence.

## 2. Plan your route

Where are you going for the interview? Is it the employer's headquarters? Figure out how you will get there on the day, so that you don't have to worry about getting lost. It might even be a good idea to visit the location ahead of your interview if it's not too far away, to time how long it'll take you to get there. On the day you should allow extra time for any unexpected delays and get everything you need to take with you ready the night before.

## 3. Know what to expect on the day

Interviews can be more complicated than they first appear, depending on the employer. Some still do them one on one, on a single day, and then make their decision. Others prefer two interviews; the first to whittle down applicants from a long list, the second to make their final decision. Some employers even meet their applicants all at once, to see how you would react in a group setting. Find out what the format of the interview will be when the employer first gets in touch. Knowing ahead of time will make it easier for you to prepare.

## 5. Look smart

Appearances shouldn't matter, but the plain fact is that you are often judged before you've even uttered a word. Make sure your shoes are clean, your clothes fit correctly and that your accessories are subtle. Dressing one level above the job you're applying for shows a desire to succeed. Don't be afraid to seek a second opinion about your outfit choice from a friend or relative.

## 4. Prepare your answers

Although there is no set format that every job interview will follow, there are some questions that you can almost guarantee will be asked. You should prepare answers to questions about your personal strengths and weaknesses, as well as being able to explain why you would be the best person for the job and why you want to work for them. You can't predict what questions you'll be asked, but you can guess and plan general answers that can be narrowed down on the day. The less you have to improvise, the better, so practise potential questions and likely answers on your own or with a parent or teacher and always have examples ready to support your answers.

## 6. Things to bring with you

You may need to bring a portfolio of work, a passport to prove you have the right to work in this country, or your CV. Check and make sure it's out and to-hand the day before, so you won't forget it.

## 7. Keep calm

Good preparation is the key to staying in control. Getting a good night's sleep before the interview will help you feel fresh and motivated. You're going to be nervous, accept this and move on. Shake the hands of everyone present when you arrive, and keep it natural. No one maintains eye contact all of the time, so just meet their gaze when they're speaking, and when you are. Speak clearly, smile and remember that your interviewers are just normal people. If it helps, ask for a glass of water. Remember the three Cs: Cool, calm and confident!

## 8. Listen

From the very beginning of the interview, your interviewer is giving you information, either directly or indirectly. If you are not hearing it, you are missing a major opportunity. Good communication skills include listening and letting the person know you heard what was said. Observe your interviewer, and match that style and pace.



## Apprenticeship Interview Tips *continued*

### 9. Watch your language

Keep things professional, no matter how comfortable the interviewer makes you feel. Be aware of any inappropriate slang words or references to age, race, religion, politics, or sexual orientation—these topics could send you out the door very quickly. Also, telling the interviewer more than they need to know could be a fatal mistake, so try not to ramble. Preparing your answers in advance will help you with this. Your attitude plays an important role, so try not to be over-confident as there is a fine balance between confidence, professionalism and modesty.

### 10. Show interest

You should always have some questions for your interviewer to demonstrate your interest in the position. Prepare a minimum of five questions, some which will give you more information about the job and some that delve deeper into the culture and goals of the company. Good examples of questions could include: What are the main responsibilities of the position? What can I expect from you in terms of development and support? Do you offer a pension? Do you organise socials for the staff? Try to avoid questions about pay and benefits if you can.

For more information on the interview process, take a look at our section on apprenticeship applications.

<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/how-do-you-prepare-for-an-apprenticeship-interview/>

## Apprenticeship FAQs

### How do I find an Apprenticeship?

You can approach your local college and see what opportunities they have available, try and search company websites or the National Apprenticeship Service online has lists of current availability. You could even approach a company directly if there was a certain employer you would like to work for and train with.



**Business and administration apprenticeships**

## Jobs + Careers

# JOBS+CAREERS



Built on the heritage of publishing indispensable job seeking and career building advice for over 13 years, *Jobs & Careers* is the ultimate recruitment and training guide boasting to active job seekers with expert advice on how to succeed in getting that job and taking the next step on the career ladder.

*Jobs & Careers* advise the most self-motivated, career-minded and proactive job seekers across the country through in-depth coverage and advice for: school leavers, students, graduates, the unemployed, those leaving the army, those going back to work, single parents, people facing redundancy, temps, contractors, part time workers, those looking to leave their job and change careers.



## Key Word of the Fortnight

**OVERTIME**



**TIME SPENT WORKING AT YOUR  
JOB THAT IS IN ADDITION TO  
YOUR NORMAL WORKING  
HOURS.**

## Obscure / Obsolete Job Titles



**ollier**

Someone who worked in the pottery industry

## Services for Young People

Students should be reminded that they can **drop in and speak to Jo Bains - our Services for Young People Advisor on Thursday break-times in the meeting room or myself during reg in the PE area.** They can use this time to ask any questions they may have regarding what to do next year. Students should sign up via email with the subject title 'Help Me Miss B' and an appointment will then be made for them to see me.

**Services for  
Young People**

Email: [admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: 'Help Me Miss B'

## External Opportunities



### Insights: Your Guide to Construction Careers 2022

START TIME

07 Dec, 5:30 PM

END TIME

07 Dec, 7:00 PM

[Register here](#)

Insight Webinar

### Apprenticeship Opportunities at Lloyds Banking Group

13th December, 2022  
18:30-19:15

[successatschool.org](http://successatschool.org)

[Book your place today](#)

### STEVENAGE WORK EXPERIENCE at MBDA

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE | DEVELOPMENT | SKILLS  
— AN INSIGHT INTO WORKING LIFE —

The Work Experience team have opened up the applications for the Work Experience weeks taking place next year for Y11 – Y13 students! The applications are for General Engineering or Software Engineering, both will allow students to explore MBDA and understand what it takes to work as an engineer at the company!

The provisional weeks are:

- April: for General Engineering w/c 3rd
- April: 2 Weeks for Software (w/c 3rd/10th)
- June: for both w/c 26th
- July: for both w/c 3rd, 10th, 31st
- August: for both w/c 7<sup>th</sup>

[Apply here](#)



Students are advised to check their school email accounts weekly, if not daily!

Careers information and opportunities are sent regularly and we wouldn't want them to miss out.

These are copied to parents/carers as well for reference.

A few of these opportunities are listed here.

