



National Careers Week

I love every day of being a teacher but this week on the academic calendar is extra-exciting, celebrating all things Careers-based and championing women in the world of work.

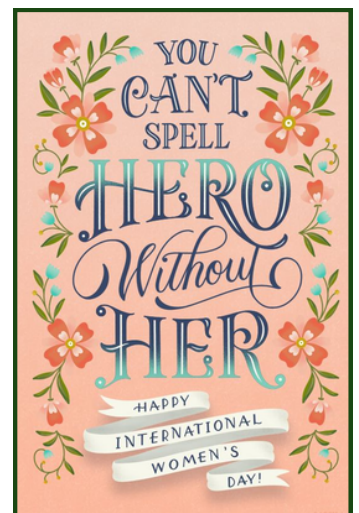
Helping students find the path best suited to them as individuals is one of the most difficult, yet rewarding aspects of teaching. Our guidance and advice helps to shape our young people and their future. It is a big responsibility especially in an ever-changing world and work place.

Teaching is so much more than the school day - the students and staff are all part of an extended family and the rewards are like nothing else in any other profession. Some days you are not just physically and mentally exhausted - you also wonder how you managed to string a sentence together! But making a difference to young peoples' lives both academically and personally is the reason we are here and what keeps us going. I hope our students have the same attitude and work ethic towards researching and pursuing their dreams.

The theme of National Careers week 2025 is: *Building Bridges, Empowering Career Choices through School, Home and Community*. The aim is to provide a dedicated time frame to focus on exploring career opportunities, understanding individual potentials and setting ambitious yet achievable goals for the future.

Ms Balchin, Careers & PSHE Lead

Our Careers Alumni Event is taking place today, (Friday) for the second year. We are welcoming back over 50 ex-students to share their career journey since leaving school and help our young people to explore the vast array of careers available to them.



See the next edition for a full report!

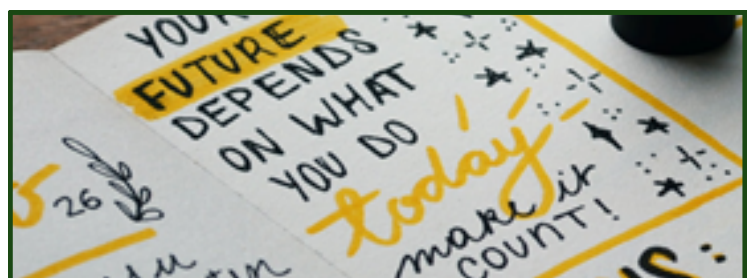
Important Dates for your Diary

National Careers Week - 3rd-8th March
One-week celebration of careers guidance

Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams - 10th-21st March
One-week celebration of careers guidance

Year 10 Parents Evening - 18th March

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



NORTH HERTS COLLEGE EVENTS



Open events dates

Wednesday 30th April

Wednesday 25th June

If you are unable to make these dates but want to know more about what it's like to study at NHC, check out our virtual campus tours and get in touch via:

online form: www.nhc.ac.uk/openevents

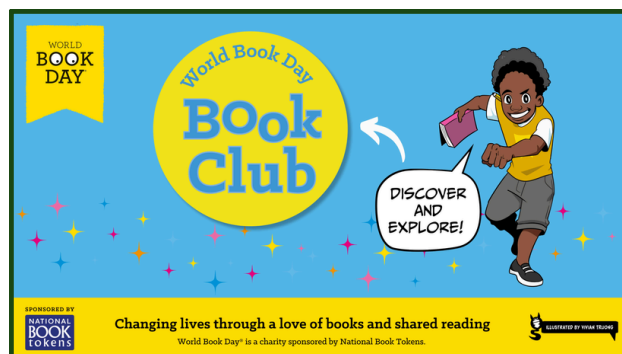
email: enquiries@nhc.ac.uk

call: 01462 424242.

WORLD BOOK WEEK

Thursday 6th March was World Book Day, and here at Fearnhill we have had a range of activities going on all week! These include 'Design a WBD token' and a Scavenger Hunt! It goes without saying that literacy is not only a necessity for your success in the work place, but is also a life skill that you will need in every day life.

World Book Day is about celebrating books and reading all year round. Here you will find activities and advice to help you enjoy sharing stories together as a family, not just on World Book Day, but every day of the year.



SPECIAL MENTION - MARCH

Will Kazer 11N is so deserving of this edition's special mention.

Will has researched his next steps post 16 thoroughly. He has been on top of his emails, open days and interview schedules with all the different establishments. Will has also been managing his time extremely effectively - balancing rehearsals for the school production with revision for his mock exams whilst also meeting deadlines and attending interviews. With such great organisational skills, maturity and great manners - Will even asked to attend the Alumni event at a later time as he was unable to attend the Year 11 slot due to a sixth form interview.

You are such a great role model Will and I know that whatever choice you make after Year 11, it will have been made with great care and consideration and I wish you all the very best for whatever route you may follow.



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2025

National Careers Week - 3rd-9th March

"National Careers Week (NCW) is a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education." www.nationalcareersweek.com

To celebrate National Careers Week, both staff and students will be involved in activities based on the world of work. All year groups will be taking part in activities during Tutor time and students will be encouraged to think about the subjects they are studying and their relevance in the work place. Year 10 students will be kicking off the week starting their virtual Work Experience. Year 9 students will be finalising their options choices in preparation for the deadline. Students will now be armed with a wealth of information to help them make their options choices. They should be thinking further ahead about their future career aspirations and will be having individual options guidance interviews in March.

Here are your first National Careers Week Quiz questions... the first correct answers e-mailed back to me (Miss B) will get reward points!

1. Who sang the song 'Happy Working Song'?
2. Before becoming one of the UK's biggest artists, who worked in an oil refinery as an engineering apprenticeship, and later in quality assurance?

You must answer both questions to be in with a chance of winning!



To celebrate NCW, why not re-visit the online, fun and interactive workshop called 'Career We Go' for 13 to 16 year-olds and presented by teacher, Mr P.

This interactive video can be used by students and watched back again at any time. It features fun activities designed to help you find out about your skills and interests, and how you could apply these to different job roles and career paths.



About the workshop

The 'Career We Go' online workshop is available to view here at any time.



The workshop is designed to help you identify skills and interests, and how you could apply these to different job roles and career paths. There are fun, engaging activities intended to help make the potentially difficult task of trying to decide what to do when you leave school slightly less daunting, more enjoyable and more informed.

Mr P is a teacher, author and podcaster.

He also leads schools and teachers in raising standards using technology in the classroom.

CAREERS QUOTE

Inspirational quotes from the latest crop of NatWest Group graduates. Some wise words of advice that make great discussion starters.



STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE. DO AND TRY THINGS YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD DO, IT MAY BE SCARY AT FIRST BUT IT WILL ALL BE WORTH IT IN THE END, YOU COULD FIND OUT THAT SOMETHING YOU ONCE DISLIKED COULD ACTUALLY BE SOMETHING YOU LOVE!

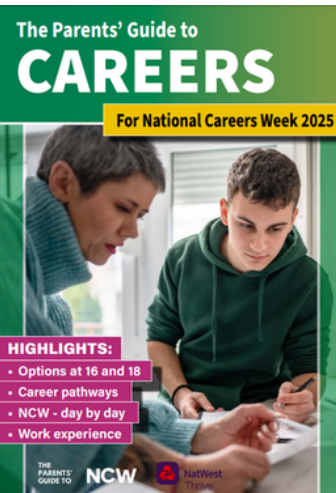
KELLY YOUNG, APPRENTICE

#NCW2025

NCW NatWest Thrive

Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2025 CONT'D



#NCW2025 is a great chance for parents to find out more about the different ways their teen can get on track for rewarding work pathways that help them play to their strengths depending on how they learn best, whether they're 16 or 18 years' old or beyond.

Once again, Natwest have partnered with National Careers Week to create a free download for parents with all the key facts: click [here](#) for your copy.

Some of the key items in the publication can be found over the next couple of pages

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD WITH THEIR FUTURE CAREER CHOICES

| | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Accept their idea of success may be different to yours <i>Their dreams and ambitions might not align with your ambitions for them. This can be disappointing, but let them walk their own path.</i> |
| 2 | It's OK if they're not sure on a career route yet <i>They don't need to make that decision right now. They do need to develop skills that will help them progress, and that should be their focus.</i> |
| 3 | Encourage them to turn passions into money-makers <i>They're more likely to be successful (and happier) pursuing a career in something they enjoy.</i> |
| 4 | Help them navigate their limitations <i>Not being academic should not be a barrier to success and there is usually more than one way to reach a destination.</i> |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 5 | It's OK if they change their mind! <i>Reassure them that if they tell you they have their heart set on one direction, then later change their minds, you won't get cross about it.</i> |
| 6 | Encourage them to explore all their options <i>Help them plan out a route that focuses on their strengths. Different educational routes can often provide entry points into the same industry.</i> |
| 7 | Help them if they are struggling to look far ahead <i>Setting short-term, achievable goals will help them strive towards a long-term ambition.</i> |
| 8 | Empower them: they have control over their future <i>The decisions they take and what they do matters.</i> |

CAREER MYTH BUSTING



THE MYTH:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will replace Customer Care roles.

THE FACT:

Whilst AI has and will continue to change the face of Customer Care, the skills used in human interactions, like detecting emotions, understanding subtext and knowing when to change the script are very hard to automate. As such, Customer Care roles remain pivotal to successful supply chains.

EDUCATIONAL ROUTES AFTER GCSEs

| Level | Qualification / educational routes | | |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 8 | Doctorate (PhD) | | NVQ 8 |
| 7 | Masters degree (MA) | | Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7 |
| 6 | Bachelors degree BA or BSc | | |
| 5 | Foundation degree FdA or FdSc | Higher National Diploma (HND) | |
| 4 | Higher National Certificate (HNC) | | Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4 |
| 3 | A levels Grades A-E | International Baccalaureate | T Levels |
| | BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate | | Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3 |
| 2 | GCSE Grades 4-9 (C, B, A or A*) | | BTEC first diploma |
| | Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2 | | |
| 1 | GCSE Grades 1-3 (D, E, F or G) | | Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications |
| | Traineeship / NVQ 1 | | |
| | Academic route | Vocational route | Applied / work route |

Levels of Education

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 8 qualification levels (1 - 8) plus an entry level qualification for those just starting. Generally, the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Levels 1-3 are typically taught in schools and colleges.

With so many different qualifications, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead to next. To help you understand, we've created a summary of what the levels mean comparing the different routes to higher education.



LEVEL 2
Intermediate apprenticeships

Typical length
12-18 months

Entry requirements:
None or few

Qualifications obtained:
GCSE, BTEC or equivalent

Who's it for?
Mostly for 16-year-olds with limited or no academic qualifications.



LEVEL 4/5
Higher apprenticeships

Typical length
3-5 years

Entry requirements:
A levels or equivalent

Qualifications obtained:
Higher national diploma / foundation degree

Who's it for?
Mostly for those who want to qualify for professional career paths without attending university or college.



LEVEL 3
Advanced apprenticeships

Typical length
12-24 months

Entry requirements:
Usually 5 GCSEs

Qualifications obtained:
A levels or equivalent

Who's it for?
Mostly for 16-year-olds with reasonable academic achievements but who don't want to study in sixth form.



LEVEL 6/7
Degree apprenticeships

Typical length
3-7 years

Entry requirements:
At least 2 A levels or equivalent

Qualifications obtained:
A BA or BSc degree or higher

Who's it for?
Mostly for those with excellent sixth form results that want to study for a degree or similar whilst working.

APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS

CAREER PATHWAYS

| Options after GCSE: | Options after sixth form: | Options after Higher education: |
|---|---|---|
| Full time study | Full time study | Full time study |
| A levels (level 3) | University (levels 4,5,6,7) | Postgraduate study e.g Masters degree or PHD (levels 7,8) |
| T Levels (level 3) | Higher technical skill courses (levels 4,5) | Work / work and study |
| BTECs (levels 1,2,3) | Work and study | Graduate Jobs or paid employment |
| Other technical qualifications (levels 1,2,3) | Apprenticeships (levels 3,4,5,6,7) | Apprenticeships (levels 6,7) |
| Exam retakes | School leaver programmes / Internships / Traineeships | Internships / work experience |
| Work and study | Work | Non-paid employment / volunteering |
| Apprenticeships (levels 2,3) | Employment | Start a business |
| Supported internships | Start a business | Start a business |
| Traineeships | Other | Other |
| | Gap Year | Gap Year / travel |
| | Exam retakes | |

Strengthen job applications with:

Work experience

Volunteering

Travel/gap years

Hobbies and Interests demonstrating soft skills

Academic enrichment opportunities

Testimonials and references

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

International Women's Day 2025 campaign theme:
#Accelerate Action

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge gender equality. Collectively for #IWD2025 we can all #AccelerateAction.

International Women's Day (IWD) has been around for over a hundred years, as have many of the issues still impacting women's advancement. Since 1911, IWD belongs to all who care about women's equality. Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness about discrimination. Take action to forge gender parity. All IWD activity is valid, that's what makes IWD so inclusive.

Collectively, we can Accelerate Action for gender equality. Step forward in solidarity for International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 on March 8 to help #AccelerateAction. At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum. Focusing on the need to Accelerate Action emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

So, together, let's Accelerate Action to speed up the rate of progress worldwide.



WHO INSPIRES YOU?

Famous or non-famous... any female who you would describe as a role model/someone you admire/someone you aspire to be.



It can be a family member, friend, teacher, celebrity or someone from the history books who you would say inspires you.



To have your views shared in the next edition, students & parents/carers email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk with your name and the details of your inspirational figure.

We look forward to hearing from you!

YEAR 11 INTERVIEW DAY - INTERVIEW FEEDBACK

Friendly

Good manners

Listened to feedback

Passionate

Well-prepared

Impressive

Well-presented

Good questions asked

Good time-keeping

Smart

Well-spoken

Mature

Arrived ready to deliver

Polite

Made eye-contact

Confident

Admirable

Decisive

Positive outcomes

Great Ambassadors for Fearnhill

Following on from the Year 11 Interview Day where the students were interviewed 1:1 with an external visitor...

At the end of the day I met with the interviewers for a de-brief on how they found our students.

The phrases here were used to describe them and I could not agree more.

Keep this up Year 11!

Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

WORK EXPERIENCE

During PSHE lessons, Year 10 students are learning the importance of virtual work experience and preparing for the world of work. Over the coming editions we will be covering details of 15 good work qualities to help impress employers!

Communication Skills

Excellent communication skills are an advantage in virtually any work environment. You're likely to communicate with customers or colleagues in some way as part of your duties. Having the ability to communicate information concisely and effectively can help you show your value as a candidate. This includes strong verbal, written and physical communication skills. Your ability to demonstrate flexibility as a communicator is another strength that potential employers may value. Eg. you may tailor your writing style to various different target audiences.



What are Communication Skills?

Communication skills allow you to understand and be understood by others. These can include but are not limited to communicating ideas to others clearly, a friendly and confident demeanour, respecting other points of view and speaking in a public setting. Developing your communication skills can do much to help you advance in the workplace. In this article, we explain what communication skills are and how you can improve your own. You use communication skills when giving and receiving different kinds of information. This can be written, spoken, typed or even body language. You might need to communicate ideas, feelings or what's going on around you. Communication skills involve listening, speaking, observing and empathising. The skills are important whether you are speaking face-to-face, on a video call or through letters and emails.



Communication Skill Examples

There are many different types of communication skills that you can make use of professionally. Continued practice will make you an effective and confident communicator. A lot of these skills work in collaboration with each other. This means that it is necessary to practice different communication skills whenever you get the chance. This could be at work, at home or when speaking with a friend or colleague.

Here are some skills to keep in mind:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Active listening | Adapting your communication style to your audience | Friendliness | |
| Confidence | Offering and taking feedback | Volume and clarity | |
| Empathy | Respect | Understanding body language | Responsiveness |



Keep checking your school emails Year 10, this is where we will send any information you may need.

THE BIG ASSEMBLY



Catch up on The Big Assembly The Big Assembly is available to watch, bringing together thousands of students and teachers/careers advisers virtually to learn more about apprenticeships. Featuring a range of former and current apprentices, employers of apprentices, parents, education providers, and more, click [here](#) to watch the recording.

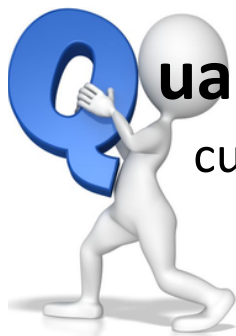
KEY WORD/PHRASE OF THE FORTNIGHT

APPRENTICE



**YOU HAVE A JOB THAT INCLUDES
GAINING RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS
AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS WHILST YOU
ARE WORKING AND EARNING A WAGE.**

OBSCURE / OBSOLETE JOB TITLES



Quarrel Picker

cut and installed glass windows etc.

APPRENTICESHIP FAQs

Instruct and inspire to keep the nation on the fast track to fitness with sport and fitness apprenticeships

Sport is about more than just teams and competition—it's all forms of physical activity that improve physical fitness and mental wellbeing. Sport can even help people form social relationships. Millions of people enjoy sports at community leisure centres, private health clubs, outward bound centres, and after-school clubs—and all of these need keen and motivated staff to make sure things run smoothly and safely, as well as to instruct, inspire, and keep an eye on people. Sport and fitness covers all aspects of sport and recreation, from professional sport to exercise instruction—including work in leisure centres, gyms, swimming pools, stadiums, and private sports clubs, as well as a range of outdoor activities.

Any questions please [contact us](#).



[Sport & Fitness
Apprenticeships](#)

MEDIC MENTOR

Real Students. Real Journeys. Honest Reviews.

Pursuing your dream of becoming a doctor may feel overwhelming, but remember that countless successful doctors have faced similar challenges and doubts. Believe in yourself and your abilities, focusing on your strengths and passion for medicine. Medic Mentor and its community of supportive students and mentors are here to guide you. Embrace the journey, knowing that success comes from resilience and learning from setbacks. Trust in your intelligence, drive, and passion, taking it one step at a time and seeking support when needed. Never lose sight of your dreams, for you have what it takes to achieve them.

The Medic Mentor website has numerous videos of med students sharing their journey. Heidi is in their 5th year at Hull York Medical School. Click [here](#) for Heidi's story.



MEDIC MENTOR
YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

CAREER OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY

Introducing **Unifrog's** 'Career of the Month' and 'Subject of the Month'!
Students watch a video interview with a professional or university student and answer reflection questions.

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y7

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y8

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y9

TREE SURGEON

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y10

HYPNOTHERAPIST

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y11

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y12

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

unifrog
CAREER OF THE MONTH
MARCH Y13

BOTANIST

Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
• Watch the video
• Find out what the job involves and how to get in
• See how much you could be paid

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Priory School Apprenticeship Fair – Thursday 20th March 2025, 6.30pm-9:00pm

Currently there are over 35 businesses and providers attending.

Apprenticeships combine paid work with studying and range from Level 2 up to Level 7 and can be started straight after GCSEs, A Levels or after a degree. There are a large number of apprenticeships available from local companies up to multinational companies such as BBC and Apple.

Pre event webinar by Amazing Apprenticeships – Wednesday 12th March, 6.30-7.15pm

To help understand how apprenticeships work and to know what type of questions to ask employers, Amazing Apprenticeships have offered the school a pre-event webinar. This will be led by the founder of Amazing Apprenticeships Anna Morrison CBE.

The webinar will cover the different types of apprenticeships, the benefits of this type of learning and how and where to apply.

If you would like to attend this webinar please register using the following link - <https://amapps.uk/pre-fair-webinar>

Booking tickets for the in-person fair

If you and your child would like to attend the Priory apprenticeship fair on the Thursday 20th March 2025, please click the link [here](#) to book tickets: time slots are capped at 200 people per session as other schools are also invited.

If you would like to attend, book sooner rather than later.



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

A few of these opportunities are listed here.

Check out Tesco's **Stronger Starts** Fancy earning over £22k while you learn?

Are you leaving Year 11 but don't know what to do next? **Retail Apprenticeship** This could be for you!

[Find Out More here!](#)



We're hiring... **Exam Invigilators**

Hours: Variable (Zero hours contract)
Hourly wage: £11.44

Invigilators are key to the success of our NHC students - ensuring that exam conditions are met, rooms are set up as required, and that students of all ages feel at ease.

We're looking for someone who is organised, patient, and has good attention to detail to join our established team and help us keep our exams running smoothly in compliance with exam body requirements. You'll also support learners with access arrangements to provide them with the best opportunity to succeed, so a friendly personality is a must!

Previous invigilation experience is a bonus, but not an essential as full training will be provided.

Flexible hours are also available due to exams taking place across several of our campuses, including in morning and evening sessions.

For more information on this role, Safer Recruitment procedures, and our position as an equal opportunities employer, please visit: www.nhc.ac.uk/our-vacancies/exam-invigilator

Ready to apply?
Please send your CV and cover letter to recruitment@nhc.ac.uk

LIVE VIRTUAL **Get Into Medicine.** **FREE** **CONFERENCE**

1st, 8th, 23rd and 30th of March

MEDIC MENTOR MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WORK EXPERIENCE (WEX)

If you're a student with aspirations of becoming a doctor, then the Medic Mentor Virtual Work Experience Programme is an incredible opportunity that you won't want to miss. Developed in partnership with the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, this programme provides a comprehensive and immersive virtual experience that will give you a real insight into the world of medicine. Enrol onto the pathways to access!

[Register for FREE here](#)

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Opening up a world of opportunity

Study with us
nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus

- A fantastic opportunity for Year 12 students! The Nottingham Summer Schools will support your students to:
- experience life at a leading university
 - try out a range of course options related to their interests
 - develop focus and motivation for remainder of post-16 studies
 - access support through the UCAS process
 - earn a contextual offer (up to 2 grades lower) and a bursary (£1000 per year)!