



# Careers at Walsall Academy

TERM 2 — 2020

## Medical Mavericks—Fancy a Career in Health or Sport?

Back before Christmas we had the Medical Mavericks team in school to spend the day with Year 9 and Year 10. Medical Mavericks gave hands on workshops using real medical and sports equipment.

The students received a talk on how to enter the field of both sports science and medicine, alongside having the opportunity to take part in various hands on activities.

These included extracting blood using a real syringe (thankfully on a fake arm), performing an ECG, a lung capacity test and various sight tests to name but a few.

On the sports side they could race against Usain Bolt, test their reactions on a 'batak wall' and record ball throwing speed. All the students (and staff) found the day highly engaging and informative.

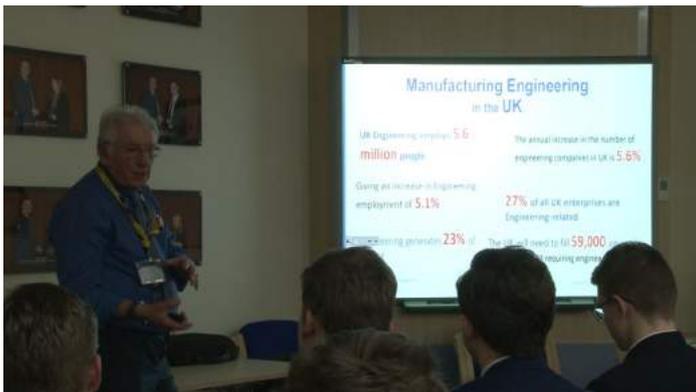


### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Careers Fair Thursday 5 March 4:30pm-7pm**
- **HE Finance Evening for Y13 UCAS applicants Wednesday 11 March 7pm**
- **Year 8 Careers Workshops w/c Monday 16 March (to help with GCSE choices)**

# Recent Events and Activities

In the last week of February, 7 of our Year 12 students have been lucky to work alongside local company Unico3 on a bespoke business project. As teams they have each been given individual businesses to grow and build a real time business model. They have done this using the guidance and expertise of the Director of Unico3 Becky Dean (Midlands Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019). The culmination of this project will be a Dragons Den style presentation which at the time of writing this is yet to happen. So far the business ideas and creativity has been really impressive and we are really looking forward to the presentations from the students.



Year 11 and Sixth Form students attended a talk about Engineering by Barry Jones from Make UK. Make UK are an organisation that provide training and support to engineering organisations and young people. Barry has a huge amount of experience in the industry and was able to pass on his expertise to the students. This included explaining the role that Make UK play in supporting young people and the sector as a whole, but also about the demands across the economy for people who can fill engineering vacancies, including how that will evolve over the coming years. Students were able to ask questions about specific aspects of engineering that interest them.

Students from a range of year groups got to hear from a student paramedic, Daniel Duffield, back in December. Daniel was able to provide lots of useful information about the pathways into becoming a paramedic, including university and apprenticeships.

He did an excellent job at inspiring young people, giving them the confidence to believe it could be a career for them and highlighting the many rewards of the role, despite the daily challenges that he faces.





## What happens next?

So now you've sent your application you're probably wondering what happens next. Look no further....

### 1) University Decisions

Wondering when the universities will reply? If you applied by 15 January you'll have a decision from each university by 2 May. Once a university has made a decision, you'll see one of the following in Track:

**Conditional Offer** – you still need to meet some requirements – usually exam results

**Unconditional Offer** – you've already met the entry requirements and your place is confirmed.

However, additional information such as a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check or proof of qualifications may need to be provided

**Invitation Received** – you've been invited to an interview. The date will usually be given in Track – if not, ring the university for details

**Unsuccessful** – you haven't been accepted. The reason for this will sometimes be shown in Track, but you can contact the university for feedback

**Withdrawn** – the university has withdrawn the choice. The reason will usually be in Track, but if not, give them a quick call if you need to

### 2) Replying to Offers

If the university offers you a place, you'll need to reply to them once you have decisions from all the universities you've applied to. Your reply by date will be listed in Track, but if you receive all your university/college decisions by 4 June 2020, **you must reply to any offers by 18 June 2020** (except if you are using Extra to find a place), otherwise they'll be declined.

There are three types of replies you can make:

**Firm** – this would be your first choice

**Insurance** – this is your back-up choice if you don't meet the conditions of your firm. You can only accept an insurance choice if your firm choice is a conditional offer

**Decline** – you'd need to decline any other offers

### 3) Wait for Exam Results

Accepted a conditional offer? The next step is waiting for the universities to update your application based on your results. While you're waiting, there are plenty of things to do to prepare for university life.

Why not get to know the universities better by attending open days, following them on social media, and getting the view from current students by checking out the UCAS bloggers.

## Got any further questions about your application?

See Mrs Greene or Mr Glover in Careers

**Also don't forget the HE Finance Evening on Wednesday 11 March at 7pm.**

# Alumni Profile

Name: Craig Yarnall

Year left Walsall Academy: 2016

A-level/Level 3 Subjects studied: Maths, Physics, Product Design, BTEC Music Technology

## Success on an Apprenticeship

Destination after Walsall Academy: Higher Apprenticeship at Ishida Europe (Education still through Make UK and now Birmingham City University)

What made you choose that option: After doing very engineering based subjects at A-Level, this industry was a very clear choice to me. Originally I was unsure whether to go to Uni or take an apprenticeship, so I applied for both. When I started applying and seeing what opportunities were out there I started to sway more towards apprenticeships, then when the offer came through from Ishida and I learnt about what I could achieve through it, it became an easy decision.

Current employer: Ishida Europe Ltd

Describe what your role is: My apprenticeship is in Manufacturing Operations, with the end goal being to become a Manufacturing Engineer. A Manufacturing Engineers job role is a very diverse one, your ultimate aim is to analyse and improve the production methods in the business. It requires knowledge of all aspects of engineering to ensure you can maximise the processes in the business. For this reason the Manufacturing Operations Apprenticeship comprises of 6 month placements in a variety of departments such as Assembly, Quality, Production Planning and Purchasing.

Describe a typical day in your role: One example during my apprenticeship was working in Production Planning. I ran the material management for the assembly of one of our products, the X-Ray Machine. This entailed constant communication with the section team leader ensuring they had all the materials they needed, planning the materials for the upcoming machines to be built and also planning the schedule for the future of when they will be able to build them. I also completed a placement in Quality. In this role I was often on the shop floor working with production to resolve issues they had with parts. I then moved on to purchasing where I placed orders with suppliers to buy all the parts we need to build our machines, as well as working with them on their performance and processes.



Give one top tip to young people who are currently in school: Keep your options open and do as much research as you can. Find the course that is most suited to you, your interests and your aspirations, whether it be Uni or an apprenticeship.

What do I do next?



If you want to find out more about apprenticeships go and visit careers. Also you could look on the 'amazing apprenticeships'

# Advice and Guidance from Ms Douglas and the Careers Team for Year 11 students

## Firstly a reminder of the 4 main options available to you after you have completed your GCSEs:

1. Sixth Form—this usually enables students to keep their options open by studying a variety of BTEC and A level subjects. You usually study 3 or 4 single subjects – some BTECs like Health and Social Care will be also be offered as double awards. You will need five 9-4 grades or equivalent for entry and ideally Grade 4s in core GCSE subjects. For A level subjects you will need a Grade 6 minimum at GCSE. If you are considering A level Maths then ideally a Grade 7 is required. Staying on at the Sixth Form is a good way to keep your options open. If you choose to leave Walsall Academy other school Sixth Forms may have different entry requirements. Things you will need to consider are the school facilities, school ethos, distances, making new friends and having new teachers etc.
2. College is a good option if you want a less structured environment. Grade 4 minimum is generally required for level 3 study (A level equivalent). Colleges generally cater for more vocational courses like construction, Motor Vehicle Management, Hair and Beauty which aren't available in School Sixth Forms. There are courses available for students attaining a range of grades from 1 upwards.
3. Apprenticeships have received a lot of media attention of late and are a great opportunity for those that know what they want to do and are work ready. You will need to apply for an apprenticeship like a job and we can help you with this. You get paid a minimum of £3.90 p/hour and they can last from 1-4 years. You will generally spend 4 days per week with the employer and 1 day at college or a training centre and the majority are taken on and offered employment after but there's no guarantee. There are over 150 sectors and there are apprenticeships available in Business, Construction, Health, Engineering to name a few. However you will need a back up plan!
4. You can also consider employment however it must offer professionally recognized training. Like an apprenticeship you will need to apply for this, have a CV and prepare yourself for a formal interview.



## Request an appointment with me in Careers and we can discuss the following:

- What are your ideas?
- What are your options after year 11 ?
- Where can I study ?
- What do I need to consider when making post 16 plans ?
- What different types of qualifications can I study and how will they help?
- What type of qualifications, skills and personal qualities do I need for the job I want to go into?
- Who and what can help me make the right decision for me ?
- How can I research?



## NOTICES

- **Year 12 - Work experience:** We are well into arranging placements for the summer. If you want to discuss anything about work placements and/or find out what progress we have made just drop in
- **Year 13 - Apprenticeships:** Please keep us informed of successes/ interviews and come and see us for any help/guidance
- **Year 13 - UCAS:** Come and see us for any guidance on making decisions and organising student finance (Student Finance Evening on Wednesday 11 March at 7pm)
- **Year 8 - Come and talk to us about GCSE choices**
- **Year 11 - Come and see us for any guidance on next steps after GCSEs**

## Next Up in the Summer Term

Careers Fair



Year 10s thinking ahead.....