



A half termly newsletter brought to you by Student Services

For further help and support please email  
[careers@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:careers@wsfc.ac.uk)

LEVEL 3 YEAR 2

WEDNESDAY, 06 MAY 2020

### Top stories in this newsletter



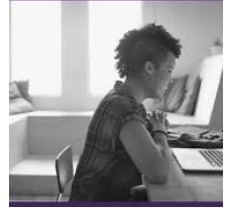
Next Steps



UCAS- Managing Your Offers



Apprenticeships: during lockdown



Online Interviews-How to prepare

### Next Steps



You should now be in a position where you have got some firm ideas about your next steps after college, even amidst the chaos of Covid19 this is an exciting time and the careers team is here to support you with those all important decisions! There are various options you may have been considering including going to university, applying for apprenticeships, joining the forces, starting a job with an in-house training scheme or taking a year out. Whatever you do, we wish you the very best of luck, and if you're still unsure or you aren't holding a firm offer yet, please get in touch using [careers@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:careers@wsfc.ac.uk). You can also look at [Skills4Worcestershire](#) for more information and ideas

### Managing Your University Offers



UCAS have been quick to respond to some of the challenges of Covid19 and have issued guidance on how this situation might affect your 2020 university applications, see [here](#) for more information.

**Replying to Offers** Check out this short UCAS video on replying to offers



**UCAS Extra** Not holding any offers from your original choices or completely changed your mind about what you want to do? You could use UCAS Extra to make alternative applications, find out how, [here](#)

**Can't decide?** Still trying to weigh up between two seemingly good options? Read this [Guardian Article](#) where students give you their top tips on how to pick between your offers

#### What Now?

\* If you've made a decision and replied to your offers the next step is to ensure you have your [Student Finance](#) application complete.

\* Edge Hill University are running virtual Study Skills sessions to help you to prepare for the step up you will be expected to make at higher education level, find out more [here](#)

### Apprenticeships

Despite the current situation, apprenticeship recruitment is still happening!



- Are you registered on [www.findanapprenticeship.gov.uk](http://www.findanapprenticeship.gov.uk) to receive regular alerts on new vacancies?
- Have you decided on the level of apprenticeship you want to apply for? (Advanced Level = Alevel or Degree Level)
- Do you know what a degree apprenticeship involves? See [careermap.co.uk/degree-apprenticeships](http://careermap.co.uk/degree-apprenticeships)
- Are you ready to go with an up to date CV?
- Are you prepared for a telephone or virtual interview? See the interviews section of this newsletter!

### Gap Year



Take a listen to [The Gap Year Podcast](#) COVID19, How to Salvage Your Gap Year for some fantastic advice on how to make the best of the current situation.

## Skype Interviews



Even before COVID19 Skype interviews were on the rise, given the current situation we are expecting to see them become a normal part of the interview process for many. With this in mind here are some top tips for preparing to interview virtually

1. **Be technically prepared**— make sure you have the correct software, sound and video to actually accommodate a Skype interview
2. **Natural Eye Contact**—Look at the screen directly rather than down at your own image in the corner, this will appear more natural to the people you are talking to on the other end
3. **No Notes!** - Treat this as you would any other interview, if you keep glancing down to the table in front of you your interviewers are going to know you are referring to notes!
4. **Dress to Impress**—Remember with most virtual interviews they can still see you, so make sure you present as interview appropriate
5. **Do a Practice Run**— Practice with a friend or family member beforehand to get used to talking on camera

Check out [this video](#) for some more tips on how to deliver the best skype interview possible

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## Careers and Student Services Team at WSFC here to help



Don't forget the Careers team are still available to help you in providing impartial information, advice and guidance to support you in reaching your full academic potential. We are currently available via the email address [careers@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:careers@wsfc.ac.uk) and can help you to consider your options, guiding you with your UCAS or apprenticeship applications, check over CV's and discuss career planning and next steps.



In the meantime here are **4** ways that you can plan with purpose while in lockdown:

1. **Know Your Kicks!** - What gets you up in the morning? What makes you happy? What are you passionate about? Which subjects do you really enjoy? What industry are you inspired by? Check out this [TED Talk by Noeline Kirabo](#) where she talks about how she did, and you can, identify your career passions
2. **See Your Skills!** Consider what you are naturally good at, ask friends and family, look over feedback from your teachers and employers, make a list of your key skills and then look for ways that you can apply these to potential future jobs. If you're not sure complete the Skills Health Check [here](#)
3. **Nail Networking!** Social distancing doesn't need to mean that you can't communicate with people. Now is the time to reach out and to make professionally meaningful connections. Who do you know? Who do they know? Use the extra time you have to engage with people who are already working in the field that you want to enter. Set up a Linked in Account [here](#)
4. **Perfect Your Portfolio!** Especially relevant for those looking to get into the creative sectors— future employers and universities are going to want to know what you did with your creativity during lockdown. Why not devise a special project for yourself to document your lockdown experience in some way? The very least you should be doing is organising your files so that they are ready to show when the time comes— some good information [here](#) about doing just that.

