

Autumn Term 2021
Issue 7



North
East
Futures
UTC

Careers NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our North East Futures UTC

Careers Newsletter!

What a year! After the disruptions caused by COVID-19 we are back and have been able to continue with our careers programme almost as normal.

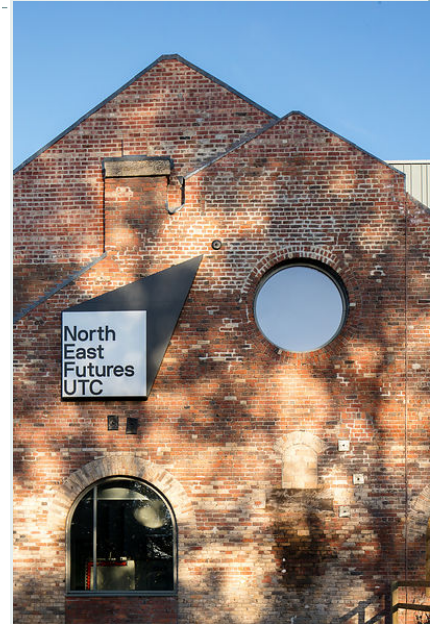
In this issue we will update you on what has been going on this term, look at apprenticeship opportunities and focus our spotlight on careers in Biomedical Science. We also have an interview with Kate Milne, a former student and now completing her Degree Apprenticeship with the National Audit Office.

I would be pleased to receive any feedback you may have about our careers programme, ideas for future activities or suggestions for contacts who might be willing to come into school and talk to our students. Please contact me at the email address below if you would like to get in touch.

Finally I am pleased to let you know that I am holding careers drop in sessions in Room 209 for students during break and lunchtime for anyone who would like to come and talk to me about their next steps.

Many thanks as always for your support and I hope you have a very happy holidays. With very best wishes.

Sarah Hughes
Careers Lead
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CAREERS PROGRAMME - NEWS

We have kicked off the year with 2 big drop down day projects which have engaged and inspired our young people, equipping them with some fantastic insights into different careers in Healthcare and Digital sectors. We would like to say a big thank you to our employer partners at Medical Mavericks and Enigma Interactive who led these amazing projects.

Medical Mavericks Healthcare Day



Our first Healthcare project of the year was brought to us by the Medical Mavericks in September. This fantastic experience gave our students an insight into a day in the life of a healthcare professional giving them the opportunity to try some of the equipment used everyday by the NHS. From practicing keyhole surgery on shoelaces to looking at their veins on an ultrasound and even drawing blood from a fake arm they had a great time learning about the different procedures professionals use to diagnose their patients.

As all of the activities were linked to different careers we saw students inspired to find out more about the 100's of different professions in the NHS to raise their aspirations. Student feedback was very positive -

"I have learned tons of things and it has made me more confident. I loved the practical activities and one of the best parts was seeing our veins checking our blood pressure. This gave me a head start because I would love to become a doctor or a carer because I love taking care of people and when I'm older I hope this will become my job."

BIMA Digital Day with Enigma Interactive



Our first digital project of the year was BIMA Digital Day led by our employer partners at Enigma Interactive. Students were presented with a climate change challenge from WWF where, in their project teams, developed their ideas to help people reduce their carbon footprint. The students started with research on how people were tackling climate change across the world and how they could introduce new innovative ideas to raise awareness and action to help address this global issue.

Teams presented a 3 minute elevator pitch to the professionals which were shortlisted to 4 teams who presented their ideas to the whole school. Team Faraday took away 1st prize and their interactive billboard project was entered into the national BIMA competition! Good luck Team Faraday!

MAYOR'S SCHOOL'S CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Some of our 6th Form Computer Science students have been working hard on their team project for the Mayor's School's Climate Challenge supported by Newcastle University and Ubisoft. Students have been asked to create a game which explores climate change and will be competing against other schools in the region.

The UTC team were selected by the Mayor to visit them to see how their project was developing and do some interviews which will contribute to a documentary on climate change in schools to be shown at the Tyneside Cinema next year. It's great to see how passionate and dedicated this team has been to the project and it will give them some fantastic experience to talk about on their applications and CV's. Good luck Team UTC!



*"Work
backward from
your dreams,
not forward
from your past"*
(Hargrove, 2008)



EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS—WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

With COVID-19 disrupting education and the labour market and technological advances increasing the pace of change, today's young people need to be more versatile than any previous generation. Core transferable skills can be applied in any industry and almost any job role and carried between the many jobs that people today are likely to have during their working lives.

LEADERSHIP - is about supporting, encouraging and motivating others in order to achieve a shared goal.

AIMING HIGH - is the ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them. It is also about taking the initiative and making things happen, instead of reacting to what happens around you.

ADAPTABILITY - is the ability to cope and thrive in changing conditions.

PROBLEM SOLVING - is the ability to find a solution to a complex situation or challenge.

COMMUNICATION (LISTENING AND SPEAKING) - is all about being able to effectively receive information (listening) and communicating effectively with others (speaking).

CREATIVITY - is the use of imagination and the generation of new ideas.

RESILIENCE (STAYING POSITIVE) - is about the ability to use tactics and strategies to overcome setbacks and achieve goals.

TEAMWORK - is the ability to work with other people, using everyone's individual skills and being able to provide and receive constructive feedback in order to complete a task.

INDUSTRY MENTORING



We are so pleased that we have been able to welcome mentors back on to site this term after having to move the programme online last year. Students have all had at least one mentoring session and will have completed their 6 session programme before the Summer. Our professional

Mentors volunteer their time to support students giving them an insight into their industry while helping them understand some vital employability skills such as first impressions, CV writing, professional online profiles, university applications and interview techniques and practice.

CAREER TALK SERIES

We have had some fantastic speakers live in our assemblies since the start of term. Sophie Connor from Ryder Architecture started off our Career Talk Series this year with a great insight into her career journey in architecture providing some really interesting examples of the projects in the North East she had been involved with.



Sophie Connor, Ryder Architecture



Camille Carter, iProspect

Next we heard from Camille Carter from iProspect who gave an honest look at the various twists and turns of her career journey, how her aspirations have changed over the years and why she loves what she does working for a global brand building company.

Then we were lucky to have a visit from Duncan Davies who is the CEO of Notify Technology, a market leading safety software company who help companies all around the world manage the health and safety of their workforce. He shed a spotlight on his past, reinforcing to our young people that it doesn't matter where you start or how many obstacles you face, if you work hard you can achieve your dreams.



Duncan Davies, Notify Technology



Michelle Payne, University of Sunderland

We then had an inspirational talk which motivated lots of our young people thinking about a career in Biomedical Science. Michelle Payne from the University of Sunderland gave us a tour through her varied and non-traditional pathway to her many successes in biomedicine. She discussed the setbacks and challenges she had experienced and how they had helped her become resilient and more ambitious in a career that she is passionate about.

UNIFROG - CAREERS PROFILE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

In September 2020 we launched our new careers management system called Unifrog. This system enables students to access lots of information about their future careers and helps them to build the employability skills they need to enter the work of work. We will have a key focus on Unifrog in the coming year and are asking students and parents to familiarise yourself with the platform so you can utilise all of the tools you will need to make key decisions about your future.

Unifrog provide a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school.

Instructions for Use

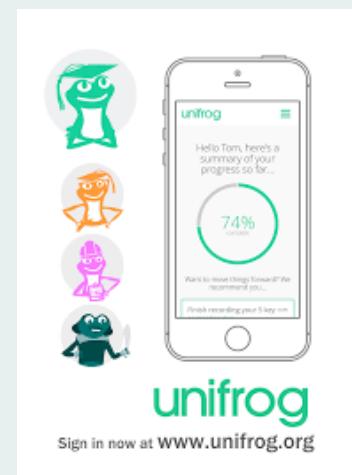
Students:

1. Go to <https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in>
Enter your UTC email as your user name and the password assigned to you via email
2. If you can't remember your password just click the 'reset password' link and you will be sent a link in your email
3. For a reminder of all the ways you can use Unifrog to help you take a look at the welcome video here

Parents:

Parents also have access to the platform so you can support your child.

1. Go to <https://www.unifrog.org/code> to register
2. You will need the form code 'NEAFparents' to register



USEFUL LINKS

Eight Careers Websites for Digital and Tech

Prospects

Prospects are the experts in graduate careers providing guidance to students and graduates with impartial information, advice and opportunities. [About the IT sector](#) – [Take the quiz](#)

UCAS

As well as being the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, UCAS provides careers information on their website, including on the following sectors: [Computer Science](#) – [Software Engineering](#) – [Game Design](#)

CWJobs

In addition to providing services to tech job seekers, CWJobs offers some useful careers information and advice. [Careers advice](#)

TargetJobs

TargetJobs is a site dedicated to graduate jobs, which also provides careers advice including in reference to IT jobs. [Careers advice](#)

National Careers Service

National Career Service is the government's website for advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work – including information on [computing, technology and digital](#).

TechFuture Careers

Visit this site for information on job roles and a fun simple quiz to find out what type of digital job might suit you. tpdegrees.com/careers

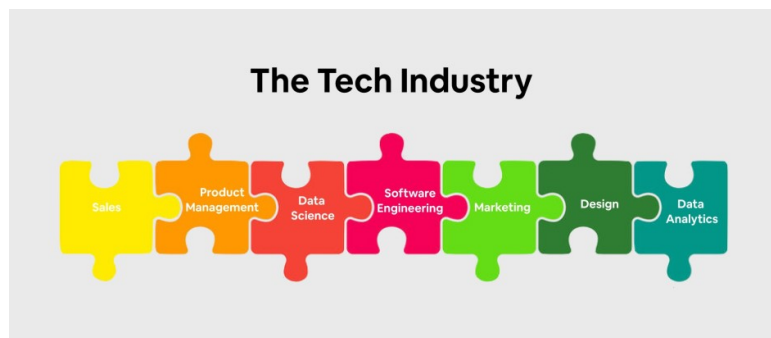
Diversity in Tech

Diversity in Tech is a site dedicated to help close the diversity gap in the technology sector. Here you will find helpful articles and guides to get started and succeed in the world of tech.

[About diversity](#) – [Guides](#)

Women in Tech

Women in Tech is a site dedicated to women already in or looking to join the tech sector, providing career advice, case studies, and information on jobs and employers. womenintech.co.uk



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT TERM...

We have some fantastic projects and events happening next term to help our students learn more about careers and what they need to do to get their dream job!

PROJECTS

We are planning 2 big drop down day projects in Healthcare and Digital . We hope to have our partners from Sage and AHSN delivering these for us next year.

The Mayor's School's Climate Challenge deadline is in January and we can't wait to see the finished project from our 6th form team. Good luck everyone!

Our Year 12 Computer Science students have put themselves forward to take part in a regional project with Newcastle University and the Hancock Museum to design cutting-edge technology apps for discussing global issues on social media.

CAREER TALKS

We have some exciting careers talks planned next term:

Engineering - Paula McMahon - Sir Robert McAlpine

Finance Tech - Paul Regnart - Sage

Medical Trials - Anna Townsend-Rose - Synexus

POST 16 PROVIDER INTROS

We hope that our Year 11 students want to stay on at the UTC sixth form but we understand this isn't always the best option for them if we don't offer the subjects they want. So we have visits from 3 local post 16 providers to give our KS4 students an insight into what they offer to make sure our young people know all of their options.

EVENTS

National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week - we have some fantastic events lined up to celebrate apprenticeships and careers for these national events. From careers fairs to talks from employers and a focus on curriculum links to careers our students will be spoiled for choice.

All About University

Below are listed some useful websites to look at when considering different universities and courses.

1. UCAS helps to inspire and empower people to make aspirational choices about higher education and learning. They not only provide your admissions portal but also offer support on all elements of University life. <https://www.ucas.com/>

2. The Complete University Guide is an excellent site for researching university options. Explore courses, read subject guides and book open days as well as find out about fees and career options. www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/

3. DiscoverUni is an official source of information about Higher Education. It includes official statistics about higher education courses taken from national surveys and data collected from universities and colleges about all their students. <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

4. Unifrog is a careers platform that brings everything together in one place. You can research any careers you are interested in and discover more about how to get onto that pathway as well as learning how to write the perfect personal statement, manage your student finances and much more. <https://www.unifrog.org/>

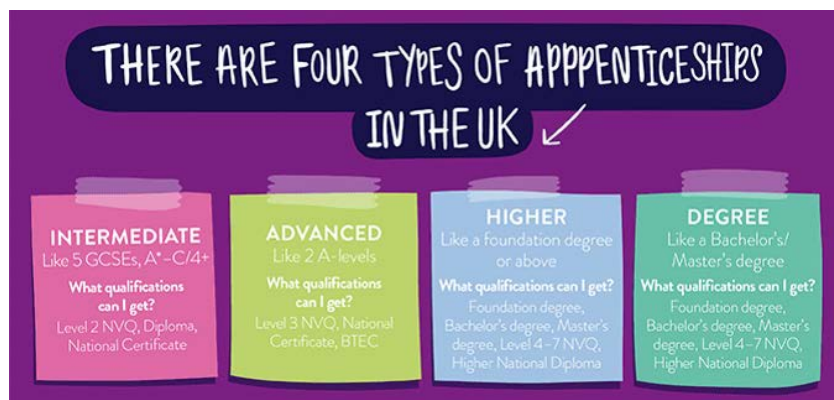
OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

NHS Careers - explore over 350 different roles in the NHS, read job profiles and take the careers quiz. <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

Prospects provides a wealth of information about different careers, training and has lots of advice and information as well as allowing you to do your own careers research. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

icould Provides tips on GCSE options, apprenticeships, university, finding work and more <https://icould.com/>

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Searching for an apprenticeship can sometimes seem daunting, however, there are a number of excellent websites that update new vacancies as they become available. It is a good idea to set up email alerts for industry sectors you are interested in to ensure that you get to hear immediately when a new vacancy is added.

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/browse-apprenticeships>

<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

A sample of links to websites who currently have vacancies

Digital

Baltic Apprenticeships - www.balticapprenticeships.com/

Healthcare

NHS - www.jobs.nhs.uk/

Nuffield Health - www.nuffieldhealthcareers.com/

Business/Digital

QA - <https://qahighereducation.com/courses/degree-apprenticeships/>

Manufacturing

Nissan ((deadline 27/01/22) <https://careersatnissan.co.uk/nissan-apprenticeships/>

Retail

Hays Travel - <https://careers.haystravel.co.uk/apprenticeships>

Other

Indeed - <https://uk.indeed.com/Apprenticeships-jobs-in-Newcastle-upon-Tyne>

Northern Skills - <https://www.northernskills.co.uk/learners/apprenticeship-job-vacancies>

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



CAREER SPOTLIGHT ON: Biomedical Scientist: Blood Science

Area of HCS: Life Science
Pay scale: Band 2-7 £14k-£55k

AMAZING FACT | You can train to be a phlebotomist to take blood at the age of 16!

Blood science is one of the three core biomedical science specialisms and has its own sub specialisms, which all involve blood. These sub specialisms are Clinical Chemistry, transfusion science, haematology and immunology.

These areas all vary greatly in the conditions they involve but also have lots of cross over. For example, immunology and transfusion science have some cross over when it comes to blood transfusions as the immune system is involved in recognising right or wrong blood types.

Clinical Chemistry is classed under blood sciences as we can test the blood for different chemical markers in different medical tests. These can indicate the health of different organs. A typical example is testing insulin and glucose levels in a diabetic.

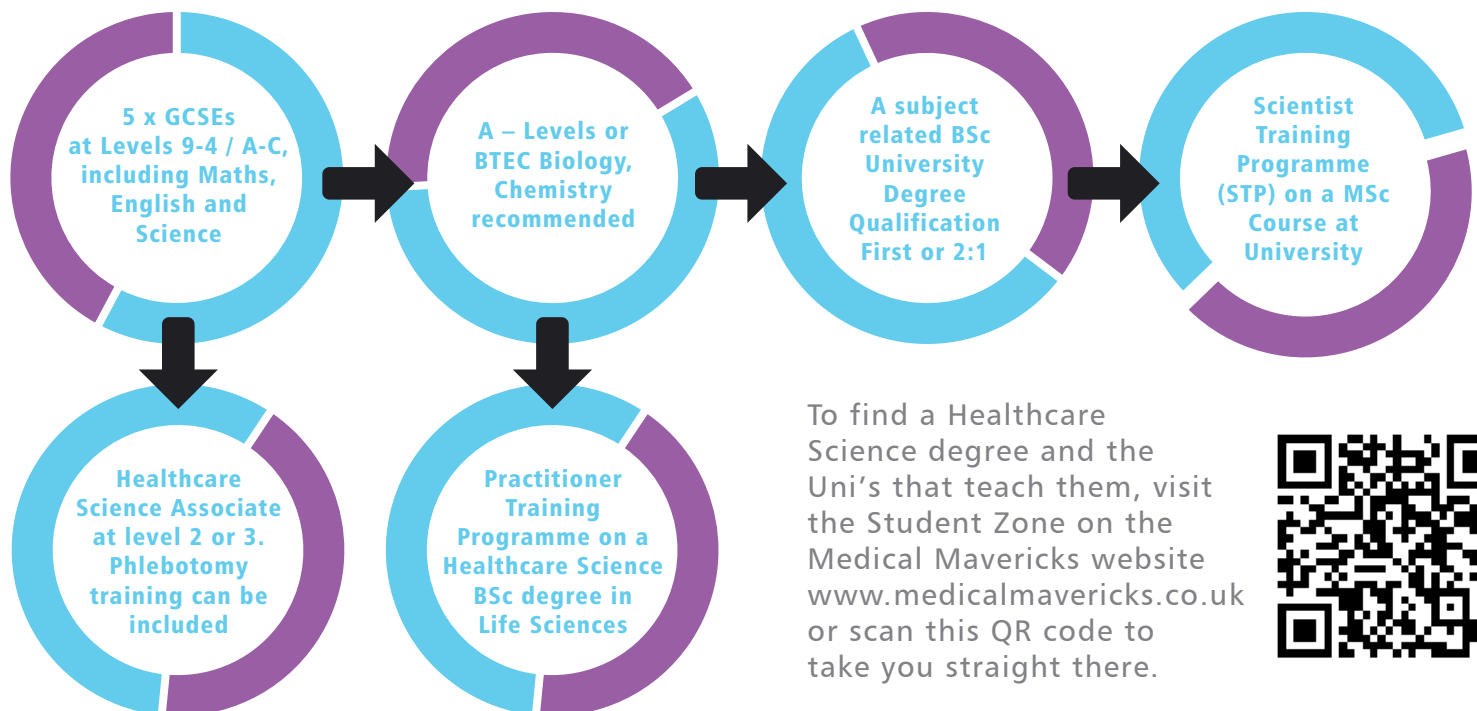


AMAZING FACT 2

Red blood cells are awesome. We generate 2.4million of them every second and they live for around 120 days. Then there are the white blood cells. There are around 40 billion of them in our blood. Some of which live for days, others live for up to a year!

Check out these other degree courses:
Immunology
Biochemistry
Microbiology
Biology

What to do to get into this career...



To find a Healthcare Science degree and the Uni's that teach them, visit the Student Zone on the Medical Mavericks website www.medicalmavericks.co.uk or scan this QR code to take you straight there.



WIN A STETHOSCOPE
Tweet, Vine or Tag us in a picture of you with this careers poster and win a stethoscope!
[@MedicMavericks](https://twitter.com/MedicMavericks) [#scienceselfie](https://www.instagram.com/scienceselfie)



Check out **MedicalMavericksTV** on YouTube for loads of amazing videos on science and the body.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

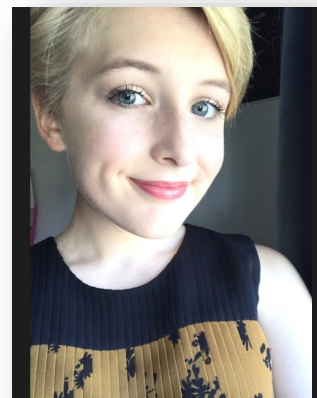
KATE MILNE

When did you leave North East Futures UTC?

I left North East Futures UTC in Summer 2020, after studying for my A-Levels in biology, chemistry and mathematics.

What are your favourite memories of the UTC?

Personally, I loved the small school, close knit feel of the UTC so a lot of my favourite memories stem from that. I really enjoyed the project days which the UTC ran with Ubisoft and NBS while I was there. Both of these events gave me an opportunity to come out of my shell and work in a team with students from all year groups. More generally, I made some great friends at the UTC, and the teachers and staff were all so friendly and supportive, which really helped me to enjoy Sixth Form and achieve the grades I needed for my apprenticeship.



What do you do now?

I started an accountancy apprenticeship in September 2020 after leaving the UTC, and currently work as an audit technician trainee for the National Audit Office. My apprenticeship is a 5-year apprenticeship, during which I will complete all of my ACA exams, and end up becoming a chartered accountant. Day-to-day, I complete testing as part of the audit of Government departments and bodies.

What made you decide to do an apprenticeship?

There are a few reasons why I decided to do an apprenticeship. Firstly, throughout school I was able to understand that I learnt best through doing. I thought that if I attended university, I might struggle with the lecture style teaching, which helped me to understand that perhaps taking an opportunity where I could learn on the job might be best for my development. This helped me to build my soft skills as well as more technical skills too. Also, I really wanted to throw myself in the deep end and gain experience in the accountancy sector to understand if it was right for me - you never know until you try.

How did your experience at the UTC help you to secure your apprenticeship?

When I started the UTC, I was quite shy and reserved, and really thought that I would struggle in whatever job I did because I was nervous about talking to people. However, the UTC gave me loads of opportunities to grow my confidence and step outside of my comfort zone, such as becoming student Vice President, which helped me to feel more confident in social situations and perform well in interviews. Also, I was easily able to talk about my experiences during my two years at the UTC whilst at assessment centres, as the project days and mentoring sessions helped me to showcase my skills in working within a team and understanding others.

What are your plans for the future?

In the future, I'm hoping to progress with my ACA qualification which will result in me becoming a chartered accountant and an Audit Principal at the NAO. Within our work, we also do Value For Money studies which report on Governments spending on specific schemes, and provide recommendations for future spending. This is the area I'm most interested in moving in to.

Finally, what would be your advice to students who are hoping to secure an apprenticeship?

For anyone looking to complete an apprenticeship, I'd say throw yourself into any opportunities which come your way while completing GCSEs and A-Levels, as these will really help you understand how you like to work, and how you learn best. Different apprenticeships integrate the learning element in slightly different ways, so you can do your research after you find out what works best for you, and apply to the ones which will be the best fit. Finally, ask as many questions as you can to as many people as you can. It's helpful to understand what you're signing up to do on a daily basis, and could even be a gateway to more opportunities and work experience.