



NEXT STEPS @ Eckington School



Your Monthly Careers News

Issue 1: October 2020

Next Steps @ Eckington School is a monthly newsletter for students and parents to provide useful information, advice and ideas for the future.

Each month, we will be highlighting a different careers area that you may not have thought about previously, providing information about the potential jobs you can do in this career area, what types of activities you might do, how much you might be paid and what qualifications or skills you might need to get started.

Career of the Month... Biomedical Engineer

Biomedical scientists test samples from patients, to support doctors and healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.



What you'll do:

You'll usually work in a laboratory, testing and analysing biological samples. You'll specialise in one of these areas: • infection sciences • blood sciences • cellular sciences

Working hours, patterns and environment

In the NHS you'll usually work 37.5 hours a week. You may also be expected to work evening and weekend shifts or be on-call. You'll mainly work in very clean and sometimes sterile environments. You'll be required to wear protective clothing (PPE).

Skills You'll need:

• the ability to concentrate for long periods • a good level of accuracy and attention to detail • an enquiring mind and good problem-solving skills • strong spoken and written communication skills • empathy and understanding when working directly with patients

East Midlands growth in this sector: +13.2% from 2014 to 2024, creating 15,460 more jobs

Career path and progression

With experience, you could move into research, training and education, product development and commerce.

In the NHS, you could work as a team leader, specialist, manager or professional manager with further training and qualifications.

Useful video for more research:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb9ZW6RkRBs>

Progression Pathway

You'll usually need:

Level 2 (e.g. GCSEs) • a minimum of Grade 4 in English and Maths • strong grade in Biology • it might be advantageous to have Triple Award Science Level 3 (e.g. A-Levels, BTECs) Most medical schools will require you to have studied Chemistry and Biology to A-level, with the most competitive schools requiring A grades in all three subjects. The third subject preference varies between universities (some encourage Maths or Physics), so it is best to check that with each medical school individually.

- an Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) accredited BSc (Hons) degree
- at least one year's experience at an approved laboratory

You may be able to get into biomedical science as a trainee. You'll usually need at least 2 A levels in science or a related subject. Places are sponsored by employers like the NHS and are advertised as trainee biomedical scientist positions. You'd work and study towards an accredited degree.

I want to know more about.....

Remember you can use the school Careers platforms to research ideas for your future career, such as **UNIFROG** and **BeReady**.

Just go to the Careers page on the school website to find links to useful platforms and websites for careers research.

If you have an idea that you would like to explore in next months newsletter then come and find Mrs Moor in the Careers office or Humanities corridor and let me know.

Careers Lead – Mrs Moor
Or book an appointment with our **Careers Advisor David Holloway** – speak to your form tutor to do this.

You could also come and use the **Careers Research Library** at lunch and break times with Mrs Warren-Arms (in the Humanities corridor).

unifrog

BeReady

Open Days and Career Opportunities this months:

Due to the Covid pandemic most Universities are doing virtual open days. Take a look at any of the Universities virtual tours using the link below:
UCAS Virtual Tours
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours#S>

Top Tips for getting the most out of open days:

1. Research the Uni
2. Prepare some questions in advance
3. Research the courses they offer
4. Explore the campus
5. Take notes
6. Ask about what they want in an application.

Stay up-to-date with some of the education, training and work opportunities in your local area: **# Keep it local!**

Parent Career of the Month

We want to hear from you! (and there are positive points in it for you for engaging)

We would like all students to interview their parents about their career/job and tell us all about it. We will try to feature as many of these student interviews as we can in future Careers Newsletters. Keep the interview to a number of simple questions such as; What do you do each day? What training or qualifications do you need to do this job? What are the key skills and attributes that would make someone good at this job?

Please send all interviews to Mrs Moor in the Careers office or to your form tutor to pass on to laura.moor@eck.leaptrust.co.uk.

There are at least 20 points on offer for engaging in this activity!

Developing your future proof attributes

Remember that PIXL EDGE will help you to demonstrate the important **employability skills that employers are looking for such as Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication**. Remember you can work on your PIXL Apprentice or Graduate awards at any time from home as well as school. Just make sure you log your

LORIC activities. <https://theedge.pixl.org.uk/>



Apprenticeship Futures

So you know that an Apprenticeship is a vocational style of qualification where you learn 'on the job'. Well have you ever heard of a Degree or Higher level Apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships give you the opportunity to attain a degree or professional qualification from some of the best universities and providers, whilst training in a top flight career. Your training is paid for by your employer and the government, so there is no cost to you. You will also be earning a salary from day one. Find out more at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships>

Find out more on Unifrog – 'Apprenticeships'



Volunteering and Inspiring

Volunteering is a great way to build your employability skills whilst helping improve your local environment. You could gain valuable experiences of work in many different environments. You may need to be 16+ or 18+ for some of these opportunities because you are giving your time for free. If you have some time to commit, get involved. It looks great on your CV too!

www.indeed.co.uk/Volunteer-jobs-in-South-Yorkshire

Find out more on Unifrog – 'Know How' – 'Useful stuff' – Volunteering.

Do-it
www.do-it.org



Course and Pathways

There are many different qualifications and courses available at schools, colleges and university in our local area. From A levels. Vocational Qualifications, T Levels, BTECs, Degree level Apprenticeships too. Use the Unifrog 'Know How' tool to search for course information both close to home and further away. Find out more on Unifrog – 'Know How' – 'University'



The University of Sheffield.

Sheffield Hallam University

UCAS
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service