

Newsletter

End of term round-up



December 2023

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Welcome to the December edition of West London Careers Hub (WLCH) Newsletter.

It's been an exciting term, entering our third year as a hub, supporting 173 institutions across West London and welcoming two new team members.

In this edition, we feature some great examples of our work, as we continue to bridge the gap between schools/colleges and employers. Our Enterprise Advisers (EAs) have provided hugely valuable sector insight to young people across a range of institutions.

My personal highlight has been the first West London Youth Summit - a fantastic event, which we now hope to run annually - watch this space!

As the careers system matures, the next phase is to ensure continuous improvement. The focus is to build on what is working, with the team continuing to support raising the quality of careers provision across West London.

I wish you a restful festive break, and we look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Aarti Jaswal, Strategic Hub Lead



New team members

Matthew Carter, Employer Engagement Enterprise Coordinator



"I am here to help bridge the gap between education and employment by engaging with individuals from organisations interested in supporting our institutions, guiding them through the process of becoming an Enterprise Advisor. I am passionate about helping young people to succeed and achieve their goals through learning and am here to understand your needs and guide you to the right solutions".

Lynette Webb, Enterprise Coordinator, Hillingdon Borough



"I have been working with colleges, employers, schools and universities on different projects related to careers, work experience and work related learning for over 20 years now. I am enjoying settling into my new

role and meeting with Careers Leaders and seeing how I can best support them to meet the Gatsby benchmarks for their schools. I have also been meeting with Enterprise Advisors and finding out about the different ways in which they are supporting their schools. In October I attended my first Careers Leaders meeting, and two Careers Fairs in November at Oak Wood School and Park Academy West London and managed to secure an employer to help a school with an extended project that they are running with Post 16 students".



Sector News

Early Connect UCAS & Apprenticeships



Early Connect is a trial project run by the DfE & UCAS with the aim to support more young people on to Apprenticeships plus make it easier for employers to find apprentices. So far in the three pilot areas (London is one) employers have pledged over 5,000 apprenticeship vacancies.

By taking part in the pilot, you'll be equipped with the tools, resources and knowledge to effectively support young people considering their next steps.

- Exclusive resources created by UCAS and the DfE to help you support your students in discovering and applying for apprenticeships.
- Sign up for UCAS Smart Alerts that will match students with relevant apprenticeship opportunities in their area via the UCAS Hub.
- The DfE will provide enhanced regional support through local partnership networks to connect students with apprenticeship opportunities.

For more information and to sign-up, visit: <https://www.ucas.com/early-connect>



West London College business networking

WLCH representatives recently attended a Business Network Event hosted by [West London College](#).

Discussion points included the Local Skills Improvement Plan, and we also heard about how the West London College Group are arranging their curriculum planning for 2024 to meet the skills gaps for West London.

[Metro Bank](#) then gave a presentation on how they can support the local area, and [Workwhile](#) spoke about their support service to help employers navigate Apprenticeships and funding, plus how they can access the Levy transfer brokerage.

The next networking event will be on Tuesday 6th February 2024.

**West London
'LSIP Priorities'
Focus on six key
sectors making up
52.8% of total
employment
in West London.**

Interim Update on Gatsby's Good Career Guidance: The Next Ten Years

A recent research programme by Gatsby looked at what good careers guidance might look like across the next decade. Over 1,200 education and business stakeholders took part in a national consultation survey, and an early view of findings has been released. Highlights include:

- The Gatsby Benchmarks are universally supported – 94% see them as a valuable framework for career guidance.
- Every Benchmark is highly valued as part of the overall framework – the value placed on each of the eight Benchmarks individually ranges from 96% to 99%.
- The vast majority (88%) of secondary school and college leaders say that the Benchmarks have had a positive impact on their students.

These findings, together with all the other evidence, have encouraged Gatsby to focus on stability. The Benchmarks are highly respected and are having an impact. Gatsby have therefore concluded that radical changes to the Benchmarks are not needed.

But they have taken on board the extensive feedback and suggestions from the sector. Over the next few months Gatsby will focus on reviewing the evidence and considering and consulting on any evolution of the Benchmarks to ensure they can secure even more impact for young people over the next decade.

➤ [Read the full report](#)



West London Youth Careers Summit

We were thrilled to be a key partner of The West London Youth Careers Summit, recently held at Wembley Stadium. The summit brought together over 250 attendees from various sectors to address the issue of youth unemployment and the skills shortage.

Throughout the day, we heard from inspirational speakers and held informative breakout sessions. It was a great opportunity to collaborate and discuss solutions to these pressing issues.

This event was about tangible actions and making things happen collectively. There was a genuine commitment to establishing opportunities for young people and learners to showcase the very best of West London.

[Watch highlights of the event here.](#)



[Spark!](#), [West London Careers Hub](#), [West London Business](#) and [West London Alliance](#) are busy planning a range of further ways to drive the conversation and collaboration, turning talk into action, which we are hoping will lead us into the second West London Youth Careers Summit next year.

Keynote speaker highlights:

[Seema Malhotra MP for Hounslow](#) spoke about how vital it is to close the gap between education and industry, talking about Labour's plans for 'Skills England', a new national task force.

[Laura-Jane Rawlings](#), CEO of Youth Employment UK, talked about a Youth Voice Census which detailed that young people feel "disaffected and disconnected" going on to say that whoever they are, and wherever they live, ALL pathways should be available to ALL young people.

[Jenna Nicolls](#) shared the START London LMI platform a fantastic resource that can be used across West London by students, teachers, parents and practitioners.

[Barry Fletcher](#), CEO of Youth Futures Foundation, led an excellent panel discussion.

[Oli de Botton](#) closing remarks focused on [The Careers & Enterprise Company](#) priorities for England and the work of career hubs in providing the infrastructure to bridge the gap between education and business.

Access the [post-event delegate pack here](#).



"When we can bridge the gap between education and employers, to collaborate, to learn and to create sustained long lasting relationships that complement and not duplicate, change will happen." Aarti Jaswal, Strategic Hub Lead, WLCH



Spotlight on Enterprise Advisers...

Julie Crabb, Life Coach, 20/20 Coaching Convos



"I have been privileged to lead an 8-week online Careers Coaching Programme to year 10 students at Whitefield School over the Autumn term.

The programme focused on the traditional GROW model of coaching (goal, reality, options, way forward) – teaching students the coaching model and helping them apply the model to their own career interests. Students commented that the programme was "helpful" and "beneficial" and were interested in thinking forward for themselves. They spent time in different activities from considering how they can use their existing skills and knowledge to learning what actions they need to take to move them towards achieving their goal.

All students received a certificate of attendance and additional awards were given for higher levels of participation and engagement. The weekly communication, and "live" support of both me and the students from Louise Cavanagh, Assistant Head Teacher were essential. I hugely appreciated Louise's interventions in making the sessions run as smoothly as possible. Thanks to Louise and Leah John-Baptiste, Enterprise Coordinator."

Neil Corcoran, Engineering and Technical Manager at Babcock International, joined the Enterprise Adviser Programme in 2022 bringing with him 41 years of industry experience.



Working with Queensmead school, Neil invited their Careers Lead, to visit the business to get an understanding of his role. Neil was also able to offer work experience opportunities to year 12 students during the summer break.

"We decided that rather than simply selecting students, we'd run a mock job application and interview process. In total, we received 13 applications, and we eventually accepted eight students from Queensmead. We also had a further two students from Featherstone High School join us.

Since then, we've offered one of those students a Mechanical Engineering apprenticeship and two others from Queensmead are starting apprenticeships with us this year. I'm personally delighted that one of the female students was accepted for an apprenticeship, it's tremendous news for our industry."

Neil has also supported by taking part in mock interviews, CV workshops, employability projects and careers fairs, not just at Queensmead School but also at Park Academy, Oakwood School and Vyners School.

About the role of Enterprise Adviser, Neil commented "I'm finding it extremely rewarding and would encourage anyone considering it to give it a go!"

James Casey – Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer at Royal Holloway, University of London



“Volunteering as an Enterprise Advisor has been a fantastic experience. Being able to support students, educators, and parents on the wide variety of different opportunities that

young people have in front of them is a highly rewarding and impactful task.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to support Harefield Academy as an ‘EA’, working with two different Careers Advisors to support their careers provision, including some fantastic talks and workshops.

I am very excited that we are currently working towards a visit for their students to our beautiful campus at Royal Holloway in 2024. More widely, we are always grateful to the Hub for their support in promoting events that might suit our work as a Schools & Colleges Liaison Team. There is great value in connecting all our efforts across West London, and I

am fascinated to see how our work specifically in Higher Education could be a good point of collaboration for any educators, advisors, or employers.”



A day in the life...

Oak Wood School Careers Fair



In November Lynette Webb, Enterprise Coordinator for Hillingdon Borough, and Melanie Kindley-Deeks, Careers Advisor and Education Coordinator for Education Development Trust, attended Oak Wood School’s Careers Fair

along with over twenty representatives from industry and educational establishments.

The Careers Fair was targeted at students from Years 9-11, although students in Years 7-8 could attend the event with their parents after school. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to meet with representatives and chat about careers areas they are interested in. They were also able to talk to experts about different education, apprenticeship, employment and training opportunities available to them locally. The event, organised by Mrs Cepel (Careers Coordinator) at Oak Wood School, was extremely well received by the pupils and representatives alike.

“This was a great opportunity for me to introduce myself as the new Enterprise Coordinator for Hillingdon, promote the great work that the West London Careers Hub team do, and at the same time get to meet students, parents and network with local employers, colleges and university representatives too”.

Lynette Webb, Hillingdon Enterprise Coordinator, West London Careers Hub

Work Insight Day at Jubilee Academy, Harrow

Heena Patel, EC for Harrow, recently organised a fantastic workplace encounter at Wates Group, alongside Enterprise Adviser Christina Byrne. The year 11 students at Jubilee Academy, got to hear all about careers in Construction.

It was the first school visit to Wates Group at their new Finsbury Park offices, which are very 21st Century, upmarket and trendy!

Students participated in workshops, gained employer insights and career journey detail from Regional Managing Director, Gary Wilkinson. They interacted with trainees Kamran Rahman, and colleagues Richard Mardle, Jed Livermore, Jamie Earl and enjoyed an inspirational talk from special guest William Bayley MBE, professional table tennis player.

Will also guided the students through a lively game of table tennis, taking time out of his busy schedule training for the Paris 2024 Paralympics, to share his inspiring journey. His drive, passion and determination shone through, and everyone was delighted that he brought some of his medals along too!



Making an impact...

Employability Skills Workshop Pilot

This term WLCH partnered with Pathway CTM, an award-winning Social Enterprise, to run a pilot project delivering a series of Employability Skills sessions to four schools across Barnet and Brent, helping young people make informed decisions about their next steps post GCSE and A-Level.

The sessions were packed with a wealth of information covering Personal Branding, Transferable Skills & Strengths, Apprenticeships and Mock Assessment support, Interviews and finally CV and Cover Letters. The programme also includes ongoing support offered to students through the Pathway CTM Programme.



Students that took part in the Employability Skills Sessions shared some fantastic feedback:

"It was very insightful and beneficial and gave me good practice at speaking publicly and stepping outside of my comfort zone."

"Very informative and a lot of new information learnt that helped me to understand what I want to do when I'm older."



- [More about Pathway CTM](#)
- **Free Employer events:**
<https://pathwayctm.com/events/>
- **Apprenticeship Opportunities:**
<https://pathwayctm.com/opportunity/>



Hot topic

Focus on Compass+ & Future skills questionnaire Article

If you're using Compass Classic, it's time for an upgrade

Compass+ is an online tool designed in collaboration with the careers education sector. It enables schools and colleges to plan, manage, track and report on their careers programme and monitor progress towards achieving the Gatsby Benchmarks – all in an easy-to-use platform.

A key difference from Compass Classic is the inclusion of pupil-level data. This has been designed to help Careers Leaders deliver tailored careers provision for each and every pupil, as well as for groups.

Compass+ also includes the Future Skills Questionnaire

The Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) is a student self-completion questionnaire that gives students the opportunity to reflect on their career-related knowledge, allowing Career Leaders to be responsive based on student perception. A baseline is set in year 7, when the first FSQ is completed. Then each year as a new FSQ is completed and students' progress their careers learning journey, the results will evolve.

An FSQ can also be used to help identify students who may be at risk of NEET and track students who are responding consistently negatively to the FSQ questions. Responses can be used to tailor support and intervention.

- [Upgrade to Compass+](#) with step-by-step instructions

Once you've upgraded you will have access to the Future Skills Questionnaire to rollout.

FSQ summary one-pager

[This one-pager](#) covers what the FSQ is and when to use it, key transition points for use, how to engage students to complete the FSQ and potential next steps.

“Moving to Compass+ could not have been any easier. As soon as we were set up, I was quickly able to generate a benchmark questionnaire to use with year 7s. This has yielded some excellent data that will help me to both shape my future careers plans, and to evidence improvements the next time they take the survey. I recommend it to any school careers leader”.

James Kane, Assistant Head



Webinars – on demand

SEND CPD

1st November saw WLCH deliver its first SEND Careers Leader CPD. This session focused on Year 9 Annual reviews and how to secure young people into employment.

Our esteemed guest speaker and presenter was Linda Jordan, from The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) who delivered a very engaging interactive two-hour session. Forty-five individuals came and it was a roaring success.

[Click here](#) to watch it now.



Spotlight on Apprenticeships...

2022-23 Apprenticeships and traineeships DfE figures

Data on apprenticeships and traineeships in England covering the period August 2022 to July 2023 (based on data returned by providers in October 2023).

Also includes the latest available apprenticeship service data and 'Find an apprenticeship' data (to October 2023).

- Apprenticeship starts were down by 3.5% to 337,140 compared to 349,190 reported for 2021/22.
- Under 19s accounted for 23.1% of starts (77,720).
- Advanced apprenticeships accounted for 43.9% of starts (147,930) whilst higher apprenticeships accounted for a 33.5% of starts (112,930).
- Higher apprenticeships continue to grow in 2022/23. Higher apprenticeship starts increased by 6.2% to 112,930 compared to 106,360 in 2021/22.
- Starts at Level 6 and 7 increased by 8.2% to 46,800 in 2022/23. This represents 13.9% of all starts for 2022/23. There were 43,240 Level 6 and 7 starts in 2021/22 (12.4% of starts).
- Starts supported by Apprenticeship Service Account (ASA) levy funds accounted for 68.1% (229,720).

ASK

Apprenticeships



The ASK team recently presented a series of fantastic T Level Webinars, which are now available if you missed them live.

T Levels:

An overview of T Levels including what they are, how they work, where to find courses, when to apply, and the pros and cons of T Levels.

View now: <https://youtu.be/xkXmATCcZpU>

Employers:

Featuring a T Level employer who discusses the T Level opportunities within their organisation and explains how T Level work placements work, including the benefits for students!

View now: https://youtu.be/i2o2d7w_5Dw

Training Providers:

Featuring T Level schools/colleges running T level courses. The pro and cons of T Levels relative to B-techs and A-Levels. How T Levels are structured and assessed and hear about the courses these establishments run.

View now: <https://youtu.be/T0e2ykrYDzU>

Student Panel:

Actual T Level students describe their T-Level experiences including 'day in the life of a T-Level student', how they balance work and study, and what's next after the T-Level?

View now: <https://youtu.be/euo51Bm1ho0>

ASK also have some great sessions planned for Apprenticeship Week in February 2024. See full details of these new webinars in our 'Upcoming events' section.



Upcoming events

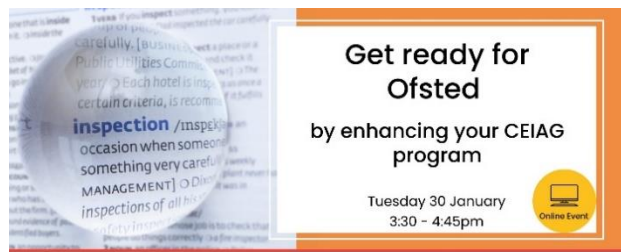


Compass+ webinars

Lots of great topics covered, so register now!

- [Exploring Compass+](#)
- 18th Jan, 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- [Deep Dive : Future Skills Questionnaire](#)
- 25th Jan, 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- [Next Steps with Compass+](#)
- 8th Feb, 3.30-4.30pm
- [Using Compass+ effectively in a SEND Setting](#)
- 29th Feb, 3.30pm-4.30pm
- [Exploring Compass+](#)
- 7th Mar, 3.30pm-4.30pm
- [Deep Dive : Future Skills Questionnaire](#)
- 14th Mar, 3.30pm-4.30pm
- [Deep Dive : Dashboard, Evaluations & Activities](#)
- 21st Mar, 3.30pm-4.30pm
- [Next Steps with Compass+](#)
- 28th Mar, 3.30pm-4.30pm

It's always great to attend webinars live, so you can ask the experts any questions you may have, but don't worry if the timings don't work for you, sign up anyway and you'll be sent a link to the recording afterwards.



WEST LONDON
CAREERS HUB

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Get ready for Ofsted by enhancing your CEIAG program

[Sign up now](#) - 30th Jan 2024 at 3.30pm

Bob Neame is a specialist in the Careers Education field and in this session, Bob shares his expert knowledge around CEIAG and how it can have a positive impact on Ofsted inspections.

Apprenticeship Week 2024



Festival of Apprenticeships 2024

Online Careers Fair (5-11 Feb 2024)

This FREE event is a one-stop shop for anyone looking to find out more about apprenticeships.

Find out more and register [here](#).



National Apprenticeship Show

27/28 Feb 2024 – Sandown Park (Travel Bursary)

All levels of Apprenticeships, from entry level to higher and degree. Engage, face-to-face, with Apprenticeship employers and providers.

Find out more and register [here](#).

ASK Webinars for National Apprenticeship Week 2024

5th to 9th February



WEST LONDON
CAREERS HUB



WLCH and the ASK Programme are excited to introduce you to their webinar series for National Apprenticeship Week 2024!

Starting in February, each day will be dedicated to a different theme, which will explore the apprenticeship and vocational pathways landscape.

Every session is tailored to either students and teachers or parents and carers, so please make sure to register for the relevant slot.

Day 1: Awareness of Technical & Vocational pathways

Here we will explore apprenticeships, traineeships and T-levels including an overview of apprenticeships, apprenticeship myth busting, apprenticeship levels, higher and degree apprenticeships and the range of apprenticeships available.

Day 2: Apprentice Ambassador Panel Discussion

Hear from apprentices directly. There will be an apprenticeship ambassadors panel with apprentices from a range of sectors who will cover the a variety of topics, including: their apprenticeship journeys, their application process, a day in the life of an apprentice, career progression opportunities, challenges, and the joys of being an apprentice. This session will be interactive with attendees having the chance to ask the apprentices questions and have these questions answered by people who know apprenticeships best!

Day 3: Employers

This session will explore apprenticeships from the perspective of employers. A cross sector selection of employers will discuss what apprenticeships they run, what their application process looks like, when to apply, what they look for in applicants, and what applicants can do to maximise their chances of success.

Different employers will be represented across the three sessions, so if an employer that you want to hear from is not represented in the session that you view live, a recording of the other employers can be sent to you on request.

Day 4: Higher Education Institutes

The session will explore apprenticeships from the perspective of higher education institutions. You will hear from some of London's top universities who will showcase some of their apprenticeship programmes and discuss the pros and cons of higher and degree apprenticeships vs the traditional university route.

Day 5: How and where to apply for apprenticeships

You'll get some signposting to some major apprenticeship database sites such as 'find an apprenticeship', 'rate my apprenticeship' and 'not going to uni', as well as well as other helpful sources to find apprenticeships. We shall discuss when best to apply and layout the standard application process including application top tips.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE FULL SCHEDULE](#)
(3 SESSIONS PER DAY) AND TO BOOK YOUR SPOT.



Other events...



Sat 13th Jan, 12 – 2.30pm
[Mayfair Campus: January Saturday 13th - Open Day \(In-person\)](#)



Tues 16th Jan, 1-2pm
 Amazing Apprenticeships
[Time for Change: Tackling Social Mobility through apprenticeships](#)



CITY AND ISLINGTON COLLEGE

Wed 17th Jan, 4.30-7pm
[Centre for Business Arts & Technology Open Day City and Islington 17/01/24](#)



Thurs 18th Jan, 5-7pm
[Be Inspired: Brunel Entrepreneurs 2024](#)



Mon 22nd Jan, 3.45-4.15pm
[Sharing information about HTQs with your school/college community](#)



Thurs 25th Jan @ 3.30-6pm
[ASK Webinar: Everything you need to know – Autumn term round-ups – Amazing Apprenticeships](#)



1st Feb 4-5pm
[British Army Apprenticeships](#)



6th-10th Feb
[WorldSkills UK: Spotlight On Careers for National Apprenticeship Week](#)



4th - 9th March 2024

National Careers Week
 4th-9th March 2024
[ncw2024.co.uk](#)



Resources

New Careers Leader?



Check out these handy links

- [CEC Careers Leader Training](#)
- [CEC Careers Leader Induction](#)
- [Create a Compass Account](#)
- [CEC resource directory](#)
- [Careers Leaders UK | Facebook group](#)
- [Start London \(LMI platform for teachers, students and parents\)](#)

Next Steps Training & Qualifications Guide



For young people, careers professionals, teachers, and parents/carers

For many young people, thinking about the next steps can be a daunting task. This guide will help to provide clear information on the pathways and routes to get to where they want to be.

[Click here](#) to download the PDF.

THANKS FOR ALL OF THE GOOD WORK YOU DO
I AM VERY LUCKY TO HAVE YOU TO GUIDE ME
OUR LEARNERS HAD A VERY INFORMATIVE SESSION FROM EACH OF THE VOLUNTEERS
IT WAS A REALLY PROACTIVE AND PRACTICAL SESSION
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND HARD WORK WITH US AS A SCHOOL
IT WAS REALLY INSPIRING, INFORMATIVE AND FUN
THE HUB IS VERY SUPPORTIVE
STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE ARE SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE EMPLOYER PILOT YESTERDAY **WHAT A FANTASTIC PILOT**
PROVIDING SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND GUIDANCE IN CAREERS
YOU OFFERED ME SO MUCH USEFUL ADVICE AND GUIDANCE THIS YEAR
I JUST LOVE HER, SHE IS SUPERWOMAN..
ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC TO HAVE HAD SCHOOLS COLLABORATE AND WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN
YOU ARE A DIAMOND, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT
HAVING YOU HERE GIVES OUR STUDENTS A GREAT INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF WORK AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES
MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT
EVERYTHING YOU SEND IS VERY VALUABLE AND ALWAYS APPRECIATED
YOUR HELP THIS YEAR WAS INVALUABLE AND HELPED US TO MAKE A LOT OF PROGRESS
GOOD USEFUL INFORMATION PROVIDED WEEKLY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PASSION
YOU HAVE BEEN AN INCREDIBLE SUPPORT TO THE ACADEMY IN ENGAGING WITH OUR STUDENTS
EXCELLENT SESSION FOR RAISING THE PROFILE OF CAREERS ACROSS THE SCHOOL **WHAT AN AMAZING AND COMMITTED PERSON TO HAVE IN YOUR TEAM!**
SHE PUT EVERYTHING TOGETHER MEETING WITH US ALL AND EMAILED EVERYONE WITH PLAN
MARIA'S PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM SHONE THROUGH **POSITIVE ENERGY**
THE SESSION INVOKED EXCELLENT DISCUSSION BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS
ABSOLUTELY AMAZING AND GAVE ME AND THE TEAM SOME FANTASTIC TIPS, TOOLS AND STRATEGIES



Thank you...

As you can see above, we've had some lovely feedback this term. To all who took time to submit a comment, thank you, it's hugely appreciated.



Stay in touch...



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