

# NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

NOV/DEC



*Yes this is a very old photo!*

## Hello, and thank you!

For those of you who I haven't had the chance to meet yet, I am the new Careers & Guidance Lead at The Piggott School. Those I have met, students, teachers and parents alike, I just want to say thank you so much for making me feel so welcome and supported.

I am new to both the role and school life so there's lots for me to learn but I am incredibly excited to get cracking and build upon the [already excellent careers provision](#) The Piggott School has to offer.

One of the [challenges that school and university leavers face](#) at the moment is in finding a job when they don't have any meaningful work experience. In fact, a lot of universities are now recruiting new teams to help [build work experience into their degree programmes](#). I want us to be ahead of the game on this so liaising with local employers and maximising opportunities is going to be one of my goals in this role.

I'm also incredibly passionate about making sure our older students understand just how many options there are for their future. The traditional 3 year degree is the perfect fit for some, but there are some really great [foundation degree](#) and other 1 or 2 year courses out there which offer that slice of uni life and a valuable qualification without the longer commitment. I think apprenticeships sometimes suffer from a bad reputation, but there are over 500 frameworks available now, including [Degree Apprenticeships](#) which can take you into careers which historically required a traditional degree, Physiotherapy, Chartered Accountancy and certain branches of the Law to name a few.

It's my job to help you decide what you might like to do Post-16 and Post-18, and build a plan of how to get there. So whether you know what you want or don't have a clue where to start, come and find me and we'll figure it out.

*Miss Smith*

**CAREERS & GUIDANCE LEAD**

## KS3

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, fifteen of our year 8 and 9 students headed over to Henley College to support local charity [Greener Henley's](#) Science Fair.

A bit of a last minute opportunity, our students first learned about the impact that the 5 main pollutants have on our environment before supporting Yr 6 students from 16 local schools in conducting science experiments to see the effects themselves.

Thank you to Mr Quaille (Head of Yr 12) and Ms Godden (Science) for accompanying them.



**CAREERS AT PIGGOTT**



## KS4

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November brought us the Year 10 Careers Day, masterfully planned by Mr Malyon (Head of Year 10).

Students spent the morning rotating between sessions designed to get them thinking about their options post-16 and beyond, including from local college [BCA](#) (who have a zoo by the way!), [The University of Reading](#), employers such as HSBC, and expert careers guide [Laura Nesbitt](#).

With no pressure to make any big life decisions just yet - we just wanted to get your thinking started.

Our annual 6<sup>th</sup> form open evening was as successful as ever, with around 600 parents and potential students checking out the school's facilities and getting into the details with our awesome subject teachers.

It was a busy night for me, with lots of questions about school vs college vs apprenticeships, how best to choose post 16 subjects and what The Piggott School offers in terms of careers support.

And what a pleasure it was to help! But if you're a Piggott student and missed me, please get in touch with your queries via [smithi@piggottschool.org](mailto:smithi@piggottschool.org).

### Full time study: School or college

The majority of students stay in full time education after their GCSEs, either staying on at Piggott (read about our [entry requirements here](#)) or heading to one of the local colleges.

There are [pros and cons to each](#), but if you're not sure what might suit you best you can make an appointment via [smithi@piggottschool.org](mailto:smithi@piggottschool.org) and we'll happily talk it through.

### Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are real jobs which combine work with training and study. You can apply for an apprenticeship whilst you're still at school. You'll earn a wage, gain a qualification and experience and can put what you learn into practice. In some cases, you may be offered a job at the end of your programme.

Find out more [here](#).

### Part time work + part time study

From 16-18 you are required to be doing some sort of education or training, but you can do that part time as long as you are working or volunteering for a minimum of 20 hours per week as well.

Find out more about volunteering [here](#).

### ENTER A NO-CODE HACKATHON FOR PRIZES UP TO £1,000

[Tech Mentor](#) is hosting their annual Hackathon for students ages 14 to 18 on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**.

You don't need any coding experience to participate, just sign up and you'll get to work in a team to design an App to help with a real-world challenge in health, the environment or whatever you're interested in.

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

**13<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Online**  
**10:00-16:00**  
**£15 entry fee**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: £1000**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: £750**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: £500**

### IN YEAR 11 AND 16? WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering is a great way to gain real-world work experience as well as supporting your local community.

The British Heart Foundation has [a lot of volunteering vacancies](#) available in the run up to Christmas and beyond. Ongoing volunteering does require you to be 17, but timed placements are available for 16 year olds so if you're interested, contact Mr Sparks from the foundation via [sparkesc@bhf.org.uk](mailto:sparkesc@bhf.org.uk).



## KS5

For **Year 13** it's all about UCAS applications. The internal deadline is **5<sup>th</sup> December** so that we have time to support you in making sure everything is perfect before the official deadline which falls on the **14<sup>th</sup> January**.

Even if you're not planning to head to uni, we still **encourage you to write your personal statement** - it can form a great basis for your CV or any other course you might be interested in.

Having (hopefully!) settled in to the 6th form routine, **Year 12** are in the earlier stages of deciding what comes next. We've got loads speakers coming in throughout the year as well as the day trip to visit a university in February, but in the meantime, **please log on to Unifrog** and start exploring the wide range of resources available.



The Armed Forces are like any other organisation - they need accountants, lawyers, IT specialists, doctors and nurses, operations managers...the list goes on.

And the experience might not be what you think!

You can find out what joining the Royal Air Force really looks like day to day through their next insight session.

**Tuesday 25th November - 5pm to 6:30pm**

Register [here](#)

## THINKING ABOUT MEDICINE OR DENTISTRY?



Coordinated by University Hospitals Birmingham Trust, the FREE mentoring programme, aimed at Year 12 and 13 students who want to enter the medical/dental profession is open.

Students will work with a mentor over 4-6 months, attending virtual learning and work experience sessions at the end of which they will receive a certificate which will help to strengthen their university application.

**[For Medicine, click here](#)**

**[For Dentistry, it's here](#)**

Don't Forget: Contact Miss Penson ([pensone@piggottschool.org](mailto:pensone@piggottschool.org)) to join the MedSoc so you're getting all the latest information

## FANCY SOMETHING A BIT MORE SPECIFIC?

The British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics offer a really incredible work experience programme. Not only would this offer a really interesting story to tell at interview, it's an incredibly interesting and rewarding field, right at the cutting edge of bio-technology.

Find out more here:



## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OPEN DAY

Henley Business School has an open day for Year 13 students interested in Business or Real Estate Management.

You can **[register for it here](#)** but **MAKE SURE YOU GET PERMISSION FROM YOUR TUTOR TO ATTEND!**

**WED  
3RD  
DEC**

**13:00-15:30**

