

Careers & Higher Education Fair

# CHEF 2024

## Welcome to the Careers and Higher Education Fair

This event is designed to bring students from Years 9-13 and their parents together with a wide range of employers and universities. This will enable students to consider which jobs and university courses they are most interested in, and to work out which qualifications and skills they will need to develop. Of course, students' ideas constantly change and evolve; the purpose of this Fair is to give students new opportunities to test out their latest thoughts by hearing from industry and university experts.

The school is extremely grateful to all the employers and universities who have given their valuable time to attend this event.

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# **Universities Attending**

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- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Reading
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- University of Sheffield
- Solent University
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- UCL University College London
- University of Winchester

All the University representatives will be located in the Main Hall.

## **Local Colleges Attending**

#### **Organisation: BCA (Berkshire College of Agriculture)**

Representative:

(Windsor Forest College Group)

Details:

BCA is a further education land-based specialist college based in Burchett's Green, Maidenhead within a 400-acre estate. We offer a variety of vocational courses across the Land-based, Creative, Technical, and Active sectors and a variety of Land-based Apprenticeships. We recognise that choosing a College is a big step but if you decide to join us you will be part of an inclusive, successful, and vibrant community where your success and positive learning experience are our top priority.

www.bca.ac.uk 01628 824444

#### **Organisation: Langley College**

(Windsor Forest College Group) Representative:

Details:

Langley College offers an innovative technical curriculum with superb facilities, exceptional teaching and learning, and outstanding student experience and outcomes. Our courses are designed to help you gain skills directly linked to the industry of your choosing and will qualify you for the working world - with courses from entry level right up to higher education, including apprenticeships - you can take the right steps at Langley.

www.windsor-forest.ac.uk/langley-college

01753 793288

#### **Organisation: Windsor College**

(Windsor Forest College Group) Representative:

Details:

Windsor Sixth Form College is a vibrant college offering a mixture of A Level and BTEC options. You will find superb facilities, exceptional teaching, and a supportive welcoming and friendly environment. Whether your ambition is to go

to university or into employment, we will successfully prepare you for your next steps.

https://www.strodes-windsor.ac.uk/

01753 793288

#### **Organisation:**

### **Henley College**

#### Representative:

#### Details:

The Henley College offers a wide range of A Level and Vocational courses to students aged 16-19. Subjects range from Business to Engineering, Travel and Tourism to Performing Arts, and Public Services to Animation.

#### **Organisation:**

## **Reading College**

## Representative:

#### Details:

Activate Learning is a group of learning organisations including Reading College and Bracknell and Wokingham College, that offers further and higher education options, including A Levels, T Levels, Vocational Courses, and Apprenticeships.

## **Gap Year Organisation**

#### **Organisation:**

#### **Tilting Futures**

#### Representative:

Rebecca Warren

#### Details:

Do you want to learn how to make a meaningful impact on global issues? Do you want to live and work in another country in a community of changemakers from all around the world? Are you considering a Gap Year? Take Action Lab is an immersive learning semester for students aged 17-21 run by Tilting Futures, a non-profit that offers up to full financial aid to students. Our Human Rights program is in Cape Town, South Africa and our Environment and Sustainability program is in George Town, Malaysia. You'll live, work and learn with a deliberately diverse cohort of students, undertake an apprenticeship in a local organization and expand your global perspectives through our research-backed curriculum.

## **List of Employers**

All employer representatives will be located in the Theatre.

## **APPRENTICESHIPS Organisation:** ASK apprenticeships Varsha Menon Representative: Details: The ASK programme was launched in 2015 and offers schools, teachers and parents/carers information about the Apprenticeships, Traineeships and T-Levels. ASK stands for Apprenticeships Support and Knowledge and a staff member at the careers fair will be able to talk to you about what these routes look like, how to access them and answer any questions that you may have.

ARCHITECTURE		
Organisation:	NBBJ	
Representative:	Inderpal Bhogal	
Details:	Inderpal is a fully qualified Senior Associate Architect at NBBJ, London. NBBJ are both a national and international practice working across the globe. Inderpal specialises within the Science, Technology and Further Education sectors. NBBJ also have projects within Healthcare, Education and Hospitality sectors. I am more than happy to share my knowledge and provide advice on the profession.	

## **BUSINESS**

#### Start-up

#### **Organisation:** Hygge

#### Representative: Max Bateson

#### Details:

Max is a Furze Platt alumnus. He left here in 2018 and went to Bournemouth University where he started to develop Hygge, for which he has won awards and funding. Hygge offers an innovative solution for elderly care in the UK, using advanced technology, adaptable living spaces, and a supportive ecosystem to enhance dependents lives and support caregivers. Hygge's modular units can be quickly installed in a caregiver's garden, providing a safe, independent, and costeffective alternative to traditional care homes. This approach fosters independence, social interaction, and family proximity, redefining elderly care with dignity and scalability.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

#### **Organisation:** Skanska

#### Representative:

**Nick Ingram** 

#### Details:

Skanska is one of the world's largest construction companies. They have built buildings like the Gherkin, Paddington Crossrail station, and are currently working on the HS2 section out of Euston. They also maintain schools, hospitals and offices for clients once they have built them. The company often recruit Civil Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, Construction Management, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Digital specialists and Data Analysts, as well as the usual head office type roles. Nick has previously been Head of Recruitment, and Head of Emerging Talent/Early Careers and has been responsible for the teams bringing people at all levels to Skanska, from apprentices, T Levels and Work Experience students up to Directors.

**Organisation:** Satro

**Kevin Cowan** Representative:

Details:

SATRO are a regional educational charity working in the South Central England for nearly 40 years. We inspire and educate young people in STEM, construction and employability skills. We work as a partner between business and education bringing careers learning to students through all we do. We deliver construction skills to around 450 students per year in Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire, Sussex, West London Boroughs. We awarded 159 BTEC qualifications to those completing their course in July 2023.

# CONSUMER GOODS COMPANY

**Organisation:** Unilever

Representative: Farah Ahmed

Details:

We are Unilever, an ambitious organisation and home to over 400 purposeful and global brands. Established over 100 years ago, we are one of the world's largest consumer goods companies. At Unilever, you're much more than your job title. Here, you can create real impact across the world. Whether that's by making our business more sustainable, by working on one of our world-famous brands – like Ben & Jerry's or Dove – or by helping to drive our social commitments. Our apprenticeship programmes allow people from all backgrounds to find their purpose and rise to their full potential, whilst learning invaluable skills and earning a wage. You can build a better world with us and bring your purpose to life.

## COUNSELLING

Lisa Miller Representative:

Details:

**TBC** 

## **EMERGENCY AND UK ARMED FORCES**

#### **Army**

#### **Organisation:** Army

#### Representative:

Corporal Deon Owen

Colour Sergeant Megh Gurung

#### Details:

Cpl Owen is a Combat Support Specialist Royal Engineer trained in Driving, Plumbing, Carpentry, Bricklaying and Welding. All training and skills achieved during service in the Army. CSgt Megh Gurung serves in the Infantry, Gurkha Rifles, as well being skilled as a Paratrooper and chooses to jump out of serviceable planes. Both soldiers have served in many different Operations around the world including Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Afghanistan. We are here to talk about over 270 different jobs the Army can offer you, which can range from Infantry Soldier to Musician. All roles are offered with an Apprenticeship package, we can even offer Financial Support for Further Education. In the Army it's not just about working, it also about personal achievement, development and challenge. There are not many jobs where taking part in sports is part of your weekly work rota!

#### **Royal Navy**

#### **Organisation:**

Royal Navy

#### Representative:

**CPO Paul Ashworth** 

#### Details:

Chief Petty Officer Paul Ashworth is the Senior Royal Navy Careers Adviser at the Armed Forces Careers Office in Reading City Centre. The Royal Navy is actively recruiting and offers many diverse and exciting career opportunities for young students, including scholarships, bursaries, and accelerated apprenticeship schemes for both surface fleet and submarines.

Police	
Organisation:	Thames Valley Police
Representative:	Aneta Welnitz Luke Jenkins
Details:	Aneta Welnitz is Police Community Support Officer and has worked in the local neighbourhood team for 15 years. Police Constable Luke Jenkins is currently Neighbourhood Officer in Maidenhead but was also traffic officer and response officer for quite some time. They will be able to provide information on all the different pathways taken and careers in the Police Force and share experiences.

FINANCE	
Organisation:	KPMG
Representative:	Kimberley
Details:	TBC

FLORISTRY	
Representative:	Hannah Cheeseman
Details:	With 15 years in the floristry industry, Hannah has experience across all facets of the industry, from retail and luxury weddings to creating floral designs for elite venues like Claridge's, The Ritz, and The Mandarin Oriental. Recently, she was head florist on a film set for Warner Bros and Sky Studios. She is now a freelancer for luxury brands and teaches floristry at Westminster Adult Education Services. Hannah will be available to discuss the different options and career opportunities available to students interested in pursuing a career in floristry.

# **HEALTH CARE**

#### **Sensory Needs**

#### **Organisation:**

**Indigo Access** 

#### Representative:

Josie Fray

#### Details:

Indigo Access is a small company providing a range of services to people who have a sight, hearing or combined sight and hearing loss. Our services include Specialist Support Workers who enable people with a sensory need to have access to information, communication and mobility and support them to be independent and have control over their lives. This is just one of many jobs within the Sensory Needs field and Indigo Access is able to provide information on a range of careers, including BSL-English Interpreting, Social Work, Specialist Assessing and Rehabilitation.

#### **Organisation:**

Thames Hospice

#### Representative:

**Louise Jones** 

#### Heidi Johnson

#### Details:

Thames Hospice is the hospice for South Buckinghamshire and East Berkshire caring for those with life limiting illnesses at our hospice in Bray and in the community. We have 23 shops locally supporting fundraising having recently opened a huge superstore in Reading. We employ over 350 staff and over 1000 volunteers. Heidi Johnson and Louise Jones will be able to tell you about careers at the Hospice in clinical or fundraising and administration roles. In addition we can support with volunteering work or gap year jobs to help build your CV and enable you to gain invaluable experience in the workplace, with communication skills and compassionate and care in the workplace.

## **Midwifery**

**Organisation:** 

**NHS** 

Representative:

Samantha Coombs

Details:

Samantha is a former pupil of FPSS sixth form. After A-Levels she went to university to pursue a degree in Midwifery. She

has been qualified for 3 years and has now rotated through all the different areas of midwifery. She is on hand to answer any questions you have about the application process, the degree itself and life as a midwife and working in the NHS.

NHS Careers		
Organisation:	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	
Representative:	Lida Ivani Emma Downes James Slade	
Details:	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist mental health and community health services trust. Rated 'outstanding' by the CQC, they are committed to providing the best possible care to people across Berkshire. The trust employs almost 5,000 people over more than 100 sites and community settings across Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, Bracknell Forest, Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire. They offer a range of clinical and non-clinical career pathways, including nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, HR, Finance, IT and more.	

## **Pharmacy Organisation: NHS** Adam Sommerville Representative: Details: Adam is a Furze Platt alumnus, leaving here is 2018 to study pharmacy. He completed his training with Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust (FHFT). FHFT provides NHS hospital services for around 900,000 people across Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey and south Buckinghamshire. As well as delivering excellent general hospital services to local people, we provide specialist heart attack, vascular, stroke, spinal, cystic fibrosis and plastic surgery services across a much wider area. We have three main hospitals - Frimley Park in Frimley near Camberley, Heatherwood in Ascot and Wexham Park near Slough.

# HORTICULTURE AND GARDEN DESIGN

**Organisation:** Horticulture and Garden Design

Franzi and Ian Cheeseman Representative:

Details:

Ian and Franzi Cheeseman manage their own Garden Design and Care company. Franzi is also Head Gardener at the Grade 1 listed Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens. They are keen to talk about careers in horticulture; a hugely varied industry that incorporates everything from gardening and grounds maintenance to design and technology. Whether you are a practical person, have a science brain, a passion for our natural environment or love art and design, there is a career in horticulture for you.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Organisation: NHS** 

Representative:

Amy Lockhart

Details:

## **HOSPITALITY**

**Catering** 

**Organisation:** Accent

Candice, Harmit and Fabrice Representative:

Details:

Since 2001, when Accent Catering was founded, we have always taken pride in offering our teams unparalleled resources, attention and support. At the heart of everything we do is our love of good, fresh and healthy food, prepared by teams who care. We create tailored service plans to meet the individual needs of our clients, specialising in business & industry staff restaurants, independent schools, state primary schools, secondary schools and academies. We are a talented bunch and pay close attention to detail in every aspect of our operation: from sourcing the freshest ingredients to recruiting

and training the best Chefs. We deliver outstanding food – the best within our industry!

## **JOURNALISM**

**Organisation:** 

**Baylis Community Media** 

Representative:

**David Lee** 

Details:

David is deputy editor at Baylis Community Media, the independent publisher of the Maidenhead Advertiser and its sister titles, the Slough and Windsor Express. We are focused on providing trusted local journalism to our thousands of readers across Maidenhead, Slough and Windsor. Our small but hard-working team are committed to continuing the legacy of our historic print titles while also growing online subscriptions to adapt to the changing digital world.

## **LAW**

**Organisation:** 

Blaser Mills Law

Representative:

Tracy Jones

Details:

Blaser Mills is an all-service law firm with local offices in High Wycombe, Marlow and Amersham. The firm prides itself on its people friendly approach, with responsible business values at the heart of its operation. With innovative inclusion, wellness, community and environment initiatives and colleague led interest groups, the firm has recently won the LawNet ESG Initiative Award. The firm actively supports less traditional career paths - more than one of our partners who started out as secretarial support are now at partner level. Tracy studied law at UCL and has spent over 20 years practicing as a lawyer. She also has experience in business development and marketing within a law firm and most recently has become the Responsible Business Partner at Blaser Mills. Tracy can let you know what it's like to study law at university and what pathways there are to becoming a solicitor. There are lots of

other jobs within law firms and Tracy can chat to you about these too or try to answer any other questions you might have!

## **MANUFACTURING**

**Organisation:** 

AkzoNobel

Representative:

Adam Clarke

Details:

AkzoNobel are a global enterprise started originally by Alfred Nobel. (a.k.a. the Peace Prize guy.) Globally we create coatings to make the world more sustainable and colourful. A Research, Development and Manufacturing business like ours has roles and career paths for everybody, be it Chemistry, Engineering, Interior Design, Marketing, Sales, Painting or even teaching in our Dulux Academy. No matter your level or function in our business we continue education and development including 'in-role' apprenticeships. Adam and Paula are from the Decorative part of the business 'Adding Colour to Peoples Lives' and work in Technical Advice ensuring people have beautifully decorated buildings.

## **MARKETING**

**Organisation:** 

Milwaukee

Representative:

Tom Hine

Details:

Tom is a FPSS alumnus, he left here in 2012 and is now in a marketing role at MILWAUKEE® Tool, an industry-leading manufacturer of Heavy-Duty Power Tools, Accessories, Outdoor Power Equipment, Hand Tools, Storage and Personal Protective Equipment for Professional Users worldwide. Since the company began in 1924, MILWAUKEE® Tool has led the

industry in both durability and performance. These solutions are developed, communicated, and delivered to the market by the motivated, ambitious, skilled people that make up our team. We believe that our people and culture are the secret to our success, and our rapid growth has created exciting new job opportunities across all areas of our business throughout Europe.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

#### **Organisation:**

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts

#### Representative:

Jess Thompson

#### Details:

Norden Farm is an arts centre in Maidenhead. We're a registered charity and built on the site of an ancient farm (hence the name!). We are a thriving arts centre, with two performance spaces including a theatre with 220 seats, a gallery, a café and bar, and meeting rooms. We average 150 events a season and are open 5 days a week. We are passionate about what we do and know that the arts have the power to change lives. We put on live events such as drama, gigs, classical concerts, family shows and comedians. We also have a cinema and run classes and workshops for children and adults. Our education department works with primary and secondary schools, plus community groups and charities working with disadvantaged children and families.

#### **Organisation:**

**Peer Productions** 

#### Representative:

Sophie Maher

#### Details:

Peer Productions is a unique youth arts charity dedicated to transforming young people's lives through theatre. Our Actor Development programme has been running since 2007, offering free training and experiential performance opportunities for actors and theatre makers aged 18-24 years. At Peer you will go on tour, gain a Level 4 diploma, receive professional actor training and support for your drama school applications and auditions.

Go to <a href="https://www.peerproductions.co.uk/">https://www.peerproductions.co.uk/</a> if you want to know more.

## **PROPERTY**

#### **Chartered Surveying**

#### **Organisation:**

JLL

#### Representative:

**TBC** 

#### Details:

Harry is a Furze alumnnus, he left here in 2015 and is now a chartered surveyor at JLL with 5 years experience in the commercial property industry. JLL is a leading international property consultancy with over 2000 staff in the UK. Commercial property surveying is an exciting and in demand profession. It involves a range of activities such as selling/leasing multi-million pound properties, refurbishing buildings to improve efficiency and carbon ratings and negotiating leases. Harry can answer your questions about careers in this industry.

Additionally, as a former Furze Platt Senior School pupil Harry understands the difficulty of choosing the right career path at early age!

## **SOCIAL CARE**

#### **Adult Social Care**

## **Organisation:**

**Optalis** 

#### Representative:

Victoria Holt

#### Details:

We are the social care partner delivering a full range of adult social care services, for Wokingham and Windsor & Maidenhead Councils. We are not an agency, we are owned and funded by both the Councils. Our remit covers supported living, learning disabilities, older people's day services, physical disability and lifelong conditions, residential care, reablement services, independent living, dementia services and extra care. Our job is to deliver safe, innovative services. Inspired by our customers and founded on our values of fulfilling the potential of every customer, colleagues and community we work with.

## **SPORT AND LEISURE**

Organisation:	Leisure Focus

Representative: Lauren Barnes Nicola Shelley

Kasuni Gankanda

Details:

Leisure Focus is a not-for-profit Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) dedicated to working with local communities to support clubs, organisations, and individuals in achieving their sporting and lifestyle ambitions. Committed to inclusivity, Leisure Focus ensures every individual—regardless of race, gender, age, religion, financial situation, or physical and mental abilities has access to activities that promote wellbeing. Leisure Focus provides diverse career opportunities in roles such as sales, front of house, catering, recreation, fitness, and group exercise.

# STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & **MATHEMATICS)**

## **Audio Video Technology**

**Organisation: Carillion Communications** 

**TBC** Representative:

Details:

Carillion Communications supports organisations by designing and installing audio-visual & collaboration spaces which, while technologically advanced are simple to use. With more than 30 years' partnering cutting edge tech companies like Microsoft, Sony, LG and Crestron we provide Teams rooms for companies all over the world, improving performance, reducing costs and supporting climate sparing policies. We encourage learning, development & continual growth from within. We are 50% female owned, over a third of our leadership team are women

and we have an associate scheme to bring young people with little or no AV knowledge into the industry.

#### **Organisation:**

Ultra Cyber Ltd

#### Representative:

Simon Smith

#### Details:

Ultra Cyber Ltd. is a UK cyber security company, with a deep sovereign history and expertise in securing communications for those operating under the highest threat. Our core capabilities in cryptography and data security protect sensitive information from unauthorised access and breaches, maintaining our position as a UK and world-leading provider of advanced cyber capabilities – with solutions including cyber encryption and robust key management all formed by a core of deep sovereign cyber technical expertise.

#### **Engineering**

#### **Organisation:**

**AVK** 

#### Representative:

**Tianna Hawkins** 

#### Details:

AVK powers tomorrow's data. We are the leading and fastestgrowing supplier of innovative power solutions for data centres and the financial sector across the UK and Europe. We specialise in the complete process of design, planning, implementation, control, and ongoing maintenance. Our team is transforming the industry's approach to energy connectivity and consumption by creating innovative and sustainable solutions. We collaborate across various disciplines to address complex, large-scale, and pioneering engineering and energy projects.

#### **Mechanical Engineering**

**Organisation:** 

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Representative:

John Robinson

#### Details:

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers strives to improve the world through engineering by inspiring the next generation and developing professional engineers. John works at Gestra, a division of Spirax Engineering Itd, who manufacture steam systems to supply steam to pharmaceutical, oil and gas, food and beverage industries as well as power stations across Britain.

Medical Engineering		
Organisation:	Occuity	
Representative:	Matthew Brazier Jamie Serjeant	
Details:	Occuity is developing medical devices to improve the screening and monitoring of chronic health challenges including diabetes, glaucoma, myopia, and Alzheimer's disease. Occuity's products use advanced optical technologies and are handheld, non-contact and pain-free, improving patients' lives everywhere. PM1, which helps clinicians diagnose glaucoma, was designed by Occuity in Reading and is proudly assembled on-site.	

Multidiscipline	
Organisation:	Syngenta
Representative:	Chris Martin Lim Pei Pei
Details:	Syngenta is a leading multinational agriculture company with > 28,000 people in 90 countries working together to improve global food security. Through world class science and innovative crop solutions, we aim to enable millions of farmers worldwide to make better use of their available resources. Jenny, Pei and Chris represent research at the large Jealott's Hill R&D site near Bracknell, each of them hold PhDs in Chemistry. The site of >700 people covers a range of scientific

disciplines including chemistry, biology, biochemistry, formulation, product safety & environmental science.

Space Industry	
Organisation:	Airbus Defence and Space
Representative:	Emily Johnston
Details:	Airbus Defence and Space is the largest space company in Europe and a leader worldwide. Part of the wide Airbus Group employing over 100,000 people worldwide and 15,000 people in the UK. Airbus offers Level 3/4 craft and technical apprenticeships, Level 6 degree apprenticeships and industrial placements. The nearest site for Airbus Defence and Space is Stevenage where you could work on the ExoMars rover or many other European Space Agency Projects. Emily is on an Industrial placement at Airbus and can tell you all about the opportunities at Airbus and the degree paths for getting into the Space Industry.

## **TRANSPORT Organisation:** Transport for London (TFL) Representative: Catherine Brown Details: Transport for London (TfL) help millions of people to make journeys across London: By Tube, bus, tram, car, bike, cable car, ferry – and more. Getting people to where they need to go has been our business for over 100 years. We invest a lot in our apprentices and graduates because we want you to be the future of our business. We have roles in engineering (including Infrastructure Maintenance on the Elizabeth Line which serves Maidenhead!), Technology (think Cyber Security and Software Development) and Business (ranging from Recruitment to Commercial Real Estate). Along with gaining recognised qualifications, you will benefit from ongoing and personalised support, employee benefits (such as free travel on the TfL network for you and someone who lives in the same

household) and working in a diverse environment. For more information about our apprentice and graduate roles please see Apprenticeships - Transport for London (tfl.gov.uk) and Graduates - Transport for London (tfl.gov.uk).

# **TEACHING**

Details:

#### **Primary Education**

**Organisation:** St Edmund Campion Primary School

West Wycombe Primary School

Representative: Jen Mulvany

**Becky Hughes** 

Jen and Becky are both Furze Platt Senior School alumni. Jen is now Assistant Head Teacher at St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School and Rebecca is part of the leadership team at West Wycombe Primary School. They can tell you all you need to know about primary school teaching – the best job in the world!

#### **Secondary Education**

**Organisation:** Teach Maidenhead

Claire Eadie Representative:

Details: Teach Maidenhead (University of Reading ITE Hub) is the

foremost teacher training provider west of London offering a fantastic place to work and learn. It provides a unique schoolbased learning opportunity in partnership with the University of Reading. The University of Reading's Institute of Education has just been rated OUTSTANDING by Ofsted. The partnership consists of six secondary schools in Maidenhead, overseen by Furze Platt School. All trainees with Teach Maidenhead gain PGCE and QTS status and many start their careers at one of the Teach Maidenhead schools.

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