



**Weekly Student Bulletin
for Notley High School Sixth Form Students
Friday 20th June 2025**

Dear BSF Students,

This has been another busy and productive week in the Sixth Form. Thank you to the students who took the time to meet with Mrs Hooks the link governor for the sixth form last Friday, we appreciated the time you gave and sharing your thoughts and helpful feedback on the personal development programme. I would also like to take the opportunity to say we are always welcome to hear any thoughts or feedback on your lessons and the Sixth Form as a whole, please do pop and speak to us at any point.

The final exam period for year 13s is nearly finished! If you still have exams in the next week then keep going, you are nearly there. If you have finished already, I hope you are enjoying the feeling of completing all your exams. Do keep an eye on the bulletin still as there will be opportunities added to the bottom that may be relevant to you.

Notices

Progression talk for parents/carers

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the talk on Monday and for enduring the presentation in the heat. A copy of the presentation slides are attached to the bulletin for anyone who was unable to attend or to follow up on the information/links provided. If anyone has any questions following this talk, please do contact us to ask.

Year 12 assembly

Stephen Wall, who worked in the British Diplomatic Service, came to speak to Year 12 on Tuesday to introduce them to a possible career in the civil service. The story of his life and his experiences were inspirational and many of you stayed behind to ask him questions.

Personal statement workshop

There will be a personal statement for all year 12 students on Tuesday 8th July during period 1 delivered by UEA university.

University open days

Please let Ms Watson know if you have any university open days booked. The open days will be authorised if you can provide a booking confirmation email.

Academic Reading

Please could Year 12's return your academic reading books if you have finished with them. They can be left on the trolley in the library or the returns box. If you wish to continue reading your book please ensure this is returned no later than Friday 11th July. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Library Competition – Win a Euro 2025 Football!!

A competition will run for the next 2 weeks to design a football kit for the Women's Euro tournament 2025. There will be one 1st prize for the school library and one for the sixth form. The winning entry will receive a Euro 2025 football and all entries will receive a sweet when they submit their entry. Design templates can be collected from the sixth form library desk from next week. Closing date for entries is Friday 4th July. Good luck!

Leavers' Event

Just a reminder to Year 13 about the arrangements for your Leaver's Event. The event is being held at Little Channels (There is a separate venue called Channels as well) – address is: The Waltham Barn at Little Channels, Pratts Farm Lane West, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, **CM3 3PR.**

Arrival will be from **7pm** and the event will end at **12pm**. There is a car park outside which you can be dropped off right outside the venue and then you will walk through into the courtyard. There is not a driveway that pulls up outside the venue. The buffet will be served from 8pm. Please make sure you **have ID** with you to purchase drinks from the bar. We are really looking forward to celebrating with you all on this evening.

End of term BBQ

All students should have received an invitation to attend the end of term BBQ. It will take place on Wednesday 16th July starting at 1.30pm. The prefect team will be discussing any additional ideas over the next couple of weeks.

Opportunities for you

This section contains opportunities that are sent through from a variety of different organisations. The opportunities will vary in nature and be suitable for different students, some of the opportunities will be free and others may have a cost associated to them.

Find a university open day

<https://www.opendays.com/>

<https://www.whatuni.com/open-days/>

Links from the UCAS talk:

- Learning from others – [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit you.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

Free parent webinar – Elevate Education

How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated

Tuesday 1st July 6:00-7:00pm (BST)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- Using praise and reassurance to motivate your child
- Setting relevant and effective goals for your child
- Helping your child to stay motivated long-term

Free online session - Think you know apprenticeships? Think again – Tuesday 1st July 6pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-apprenticeships-as-a-parent-tickets-1410317871719?aff=oddtcreator>

Once seen as a route for those stepping away from academic study, apprenticeships have evolved. Today, they offer over 700 career options, from traditional trades to high-level roles like doctors, pilots, lawyers and vets.

Young people can start their career at 16, earn while they learn, and progress all the way to a degree, without university debt.

Join Claire Mackaness from ASK Apprenticeships for this FREE online session and discover how you can support your child in exploring apprenticeships as a high-quality alternative to full-time education after 16.

What we'll be covering:

- ☒ Apprenticeships and what they are
- ☒ Roles and levels - what apprenticeship options are available
- ☒ How to search and apply for apprenticeships
- ☒ Useful website, guide and resources

Open to Essex-based parents and carers.

Medical – New virtual work experience opportunities

I'm excited to share that the new rotation of our Virtual Work Experience (WEX) is now available. This month, your students have the opportunity to delve into Palliative Care, gaining invaluable insights into these specialised fields. The medical programme spans 6 months, offering a wide range of specialties for them to explore.

More details can be found here:

<https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

To ensure your students don't miss this fantastic opportunity, they need to attend our upcoming Get Into Medicine conference, granting them IMMEDIATE ACCESS to the Virtual Work Experience programmes.

Students and parents can register for free

here: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

If your students haven't attended a Get Into Conference, but would like to join the Virtual Work Experience, they can sign up for the next upcoming conferences on these dates:

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Medicine conference dates:

- Sunday 22nd June from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Throughout these conferences, students will have the opportunity to interact directly with doctors

and medical students. They'll gain critical information on deciding if a career in medicine is for them, and how to make a competitive application to study at university.

Students aged 14 - 18 are invited to attend with a parent or guardian, equipped with a working camera and microphone.

Medical Registration Link: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

Accelerate: free architecture course for 16-18 year olds

Accelerate is a free course for sixth form or college students from under-represented groups interested in careers in the built environment (architecture, engineering, planning, or landscape architecture).

Running from October 2025 to May 2026, it includes 10 Saturday workshops at top universities, site visits, peer learning, mentoring, portfolio and university application guidance, and an optional Arts Gold Award worth 16 UCAS points.

Hosted by Open City and five leading universities, Accelerate boosts diversity and supports strong university applications. Share [this link](#) with students to apply before 15th September.

For more information, contact [Sirraaj](#).
[Accelerate 2025/26 Student Application Form](#)

Key websites to search for/find out about apprenticeship opportunities

National Apprenticeship Service

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships - scroll down to the Higher and Degree vacancy listing.

Careers information and job board websites

<https://careerfinder.ucas.com> www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

www.essexopportunities.co.uk/search-opportunities/apprenticeships

www.indeed.co.uk www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

University websites – for example Anglia Ruskin University lists vacancies.

<https://aru.ac.uk/study/degree-apprenticeships/employer/current-vacancies>

Apprentice stories and profiles

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/inspirations

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprentice-stories/>

www.schools.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/student-success-stories

Parents packs –

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parent-zone/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/?parents=1>

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/advice/apprenticeships-parents

Have a good weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Brewis-Shephard'.

Ms A Brewis-Shephard
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Destinations 2025

What next after Sixth Form?



Destinations 2025

- University?
- Degree Apprenticeship?
- College course?
- Employment?
- Forces?
- Gap year?



Why Higher Education?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Broaden experiences.
- Show what they can do.
- Invest in their future.



Decisions to make

When to study:

- Straight after sixth form
- After a gap year
- After working for a period of time

How to Study:

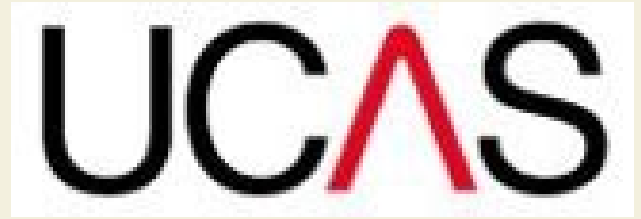
- Full time
- Part time
- Distance Learning



Questions to start them off

- Which subjects do I like/am I interested in?
- What am I good at?
- Which jobs am I interested in? (Try it out!)





Before applying

- Register in the UCAS Hub to explore options
- find and 'favourite' over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into tariff points
- All 2026 courses are on their search tool now
- Go to: ucas.com/hub



Research

- Learning from others – [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit you.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).



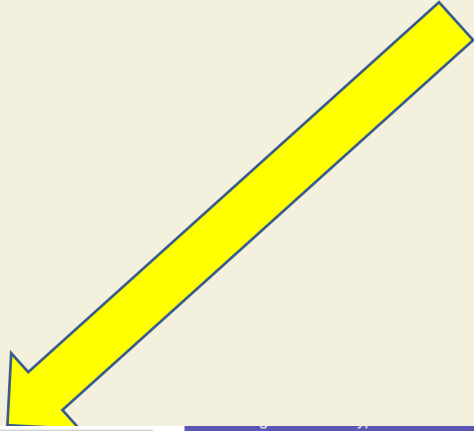
The Unifrog tools

unifrog

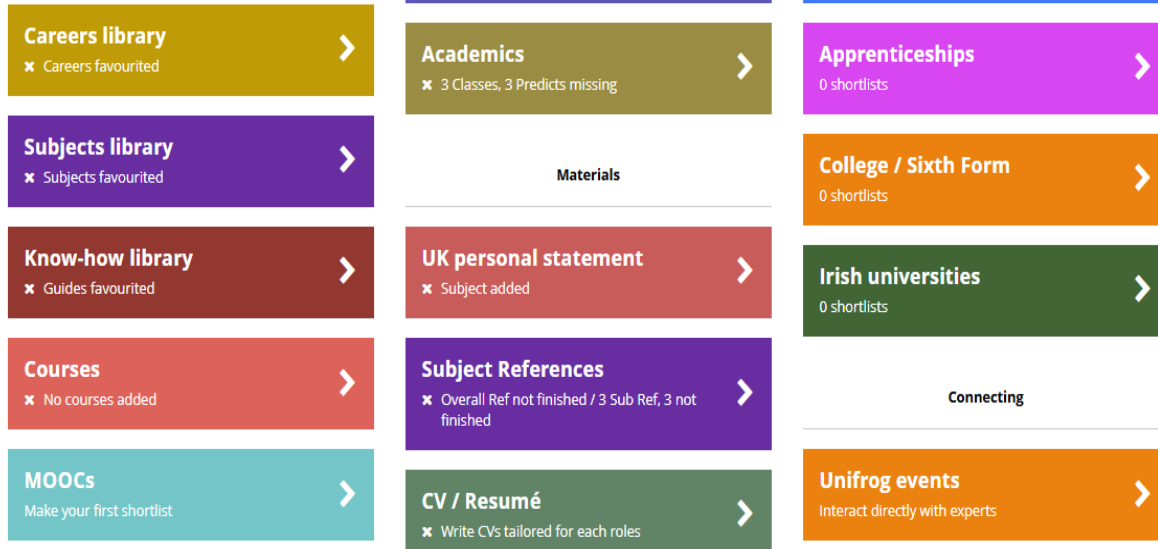
Quizzes	Recording	Searching
Skills profile ✕ Quiz not taken	Activities ✕ Recorded at least 10	UK universities 0 shortlists
Quiz profile ✕ 0 of 4 quizzes complete	Skills ✕ Completed all 12	European universities 0 shortlists
Exploring	Interactions ✕ Missing 5 Interaction types	Oxbridge 0 shortlists
Careers library ✕ Careers favoured	Academics ✕ 3 Classes, 3 Predicts missing	Apprenticeships 0 shortlists
Subjects library ✕ Subjects favoured	Materials	College / Sixth Form 0 shortlists
Know-how library ✕ Guides favoured	UK personal statement ✕ Subject added	Irish universities 0 shortlists
Courses ✕ No courses added	Subject References ✕ Overall Ref not finished / 3 Sub Ref, 3 not finished	Connecting
MOOCs Make your first shortlist	CV / Resumé ✕ Write CVs tailored for each roles	Unifrog events Interact directly with experts
Read, Watch, Listen ✕ Profiles favoured	Notes for Reference writers ✕ 4 notes missing	Talent pool ✕ Not joined



Careers Library



- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like

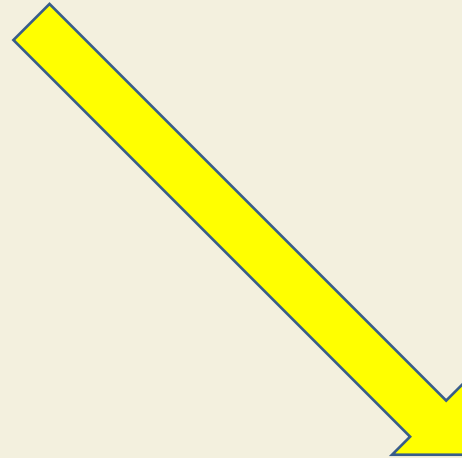


unifrog



UK Universities

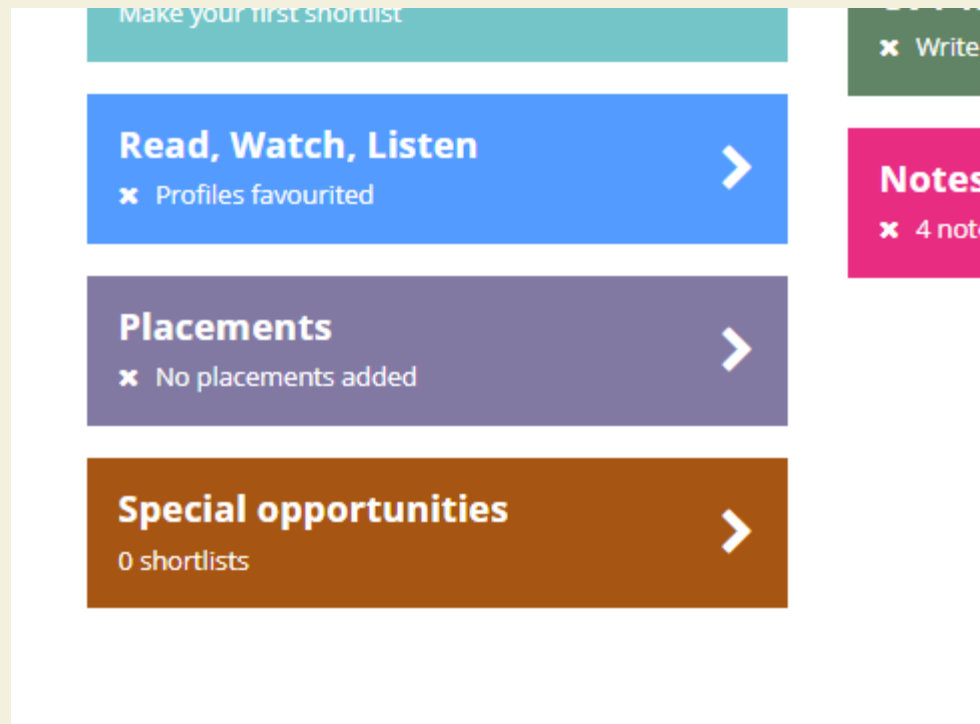
- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later



Quizzes	Recording	Searching
<div>Skills profile > ✕ Quiz not taken</div> <div>Quiz profile > ✕ 0 of 4 quizzes complete</div>	<div>Activities > ✕ Recorded at least 10</div> <div>Skills > ✕ Completed all 12</div>	<div>UK universities > 0 shortlists</div> <div>European universities > 0 shortlists</div>



Special Opportunities



- Includes £5 million-worth of grants, bursaries, scholarships, contextual offers and extracurricular activities
- These can be filtered by circumstances or characteristics, depending on the access requirements of the opportunity
- Includes direct links for applying
- Unlimited shortlists can be created and referred back to

unifrog



Choosing the right degree

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on **subject-based** courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on **vocational** courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns. This can have a major influence on the environment and lifestyle on offer.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.



Making Your 5 Choices

- Know where they are
- Go to Open days
- Read online student forums
- Ask experts
- Variety of entry requirements
- Realistic expectations
- There will be fewer offers at the top end
- Read the course specifications



Key application facts

- Online application
- Maximum of 5 choices
- Choice restrictions
 - medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry – maximum of 4
 - Oxford OR Cambridge
- One application cost of £28.50
- Equal consideration
- Invisibility



Oxford OR Cambridge Applications

- Early application – 15th October (*can apply for rest after the deadline)
- Choose a college or make an open application
- Will need to be able to justify why they have selected a certain college
- Entrance tests



Key dates for university applicants

2 September Applications can be submitted from this date

1 October Our deadline for early entry personal statements

15 October* Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford **or** Cambridge.

31 October Personal statement draft in to tutor; all research to be completed

17 November Final copy of Personal Statement due in; application form to be completed.

1 December Our target to send off all applications

14 January* Equal consideration application deadline.

End of February Student Finance opens (additional information will be provided nearer the time for students, parents and carers)

* 18.00 (UK Time)



Personal Statement

- Only chance to market themselves individually
- The same for all 5 choices
- A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines
- A minimum of 1,000 characters
- There isn't a spelling or grammar check
- No formatting is allowed
- Similarity detection service: every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.



Personal statement

- **Start Early!**

- Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- why they're interested in the subject area
- their knowledge of the subject area
- Their enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus (work experience; summer placements; wider reading etc)
- what they enjoy about studying
- details of independent study skills

3 questions:

- 1) Why do you want to study this course or subject?
- 2) How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
- 3) What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?



Tips for parents

- Make them do it but don't do it for them!
- Encourage them to show their interest by:
 - reading around the subject (books, articles, journals)
 - watching relevant documentaries etc
 - contacting experts
- Remind them about key experiences and achievements (but not too historic)
- Focus on skills learnt
- Show don't tell



References

- **Changes last year:**

- Extenuating circumstances
- More subject specific

Please make sure we know!

Tell their subject teacher if they intend to take that subject

- **Attendance at tutorials and communication is vital**



Apprenticeships – the basics

What is an Apprenticeship?

An Apprenticeship is a paid work based learning programme which leads to nationally recognised qualifications in specific vocational areas.

Levels of Apprenticeships

- ▶ Degree - Level 6/7 is equivalent to Bachelor's/Master's Degree.
- ▶ Higher - Level 4/5 is equivalent to Higher National Diploma/Foundation Degree.
- ▶ Advanced - Level 3 is equivalent to 2 'A' Levels at grade C.
- ▶ Intermediate - Level 2 is equivalent to 5 GCSE's grade 9 – 4.



Apprenticeships – the basics

How long does an apprenticeship take to complete?

- ▶ Degree apprenticeships last between 3 – 6 years.
- ▶ Higher apprenticeships last between 1 – 4 years with many moving onto a degree apprenticeship.

What are the entry requirements?

These will vary from employer to employer with some requiring specific grades and subjects.

- ▶ Degree apprenticeships – tend to require 3 'A' levels or an equivalent Level 3 qualification (similar to entry requirements for a traditional degree course).
- ▶ Higher apprenticeships – typical requirements are a minimum of 2 'A' levels or an equivalent Level 3 qualification.



Apprenticeships – the basics

What does a Higher/Degree apprenticeship involve?

- ▶ There is an apprenticeship standard for each job role which sets out the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for that role.
- ▶ A minimum of 20% of an apprentice's time must be spent on off the job training/study. The employer will partner up with a specific college, training provider or university to deliver this.
- ▶ An apprentice may study in a number of different ways:
 - day release
 - block release
 - online
 - a combination of the above



Apprenticeships

What sectors are higher and degree apprenticeships currently available in?

Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care	Engineering & Manufacturing
Arts, Media and Publishing	Health, Public Service & Care
Business, & Administration	Information & Communication Technology
Catering & Hospitality	Legal, Finance & Accounting
Construction, Planning & Built Environment	Protective Services
Creative & Design	Retail & Commercial Enterprise
Digital	Sales, Marketing & Procurement
Education and Childcare	Science and Maths
Transport & Logistics	

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education website lists individual job roles.
www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/



Apprenticeships - advantages



- ▶ No student debt as tuition fees are paid for.
- ▶ Earn a salary while learning.
- ▶ Gain hands-on experience in your chosen career.
- ▶ Start on career path earlier.



Apprenticeships - disadvantages



- ▶ It is not an easy option. An apprentice needs to balance academic study with work commitments — time management skills required.
- ▶ Although studying a higher education qualification, the student life experience will be different compared to those studying full-time.
- ▶ Location of vacancies – what is available locally/within commuting distance?
- ▶ Might not be a possible route for career choice.



Apprenticeships

- Many are later in the year – more information to follow.
- Still need personal statement
- CV should be up to date
- Highly competitive so worth applying to university too
- Use UCAS and Unifrog too



Apprenticeship vacancies – where to look

National Apprenticeship Service



Company websites



University websites



Careers Information and Job Board websites



Social Media



High expectations
Effort
Active listening & Learning
Respect
Teamwork

Vacancy websites

National Apprenticeship Service

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships - scroll down to the Higher and Degree vacancy listing.

Careers information and job board websites

<https://careerfinderucas.com>

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

www.essexopportunities.co.uk/search-opportunities/apprenticeships

www.indeed.co.uk

www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

University websites – for example Anglia Ruskin University lists vacancies.

<https://aru.ac.uk/study/degree-apprenticeships/employer/current-vacancies>



Selection process

This may involve some or all of the following -

- ▶ **Initial application**
- ▶ **Online tests – for example aptitude tests.**
- ▶ **Telephone interview**
- ▶ **Video interview**
- ▶ **Assessment centre – may include group activities, role play, presentations.**
- ▶ **One to one interview(s)**



Questions?



Apprenticeships

Need more information?

Apprentice stories and profiles

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/inspirations

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprentice-stories/>

www.schools.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/student-success-stories

Parents packs –

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parent-zone/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/?parents=1>

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/advice/apprenticeships-parents

