

Featured Article – Apprenticeship information evening at KPMG Offices, Manchester

Before the Easter break, KPMG Offices in Manchester City centre hosted an apprenticeship



information evening for students and their parents/carers. Employers who offered an insight into their programmes were from the professional firms BDO Accounting Firm, IBM Consulting Services, KPMG Professional Services, PWC Professional Services and Barratt Homes House Building Services (HBF).

Each employer mentioned the benefits of working at their organisation.

- BDO – There is a work/life balance, putting their employees at the forefront.
- IBM – Look after their apprentices and respect the individual and the benefits they can bring to the organisation.
- KPMG – There are social and cultural benefits to working at KPMG, with the opportunity to work in their offices around the world.
- PWC – Positive, flexibility for career progression within the organisation for new apprentices.
- HBF – The house building sector can be varied and interesting for new apprentices.

Each employer provided an insight into their apprenticeship and degree apprenticeship opportunities who are recruiting students straight from their college studies. IBM mentioned their 4 year degree apprenticeship programme which consisted of four days working with the employer and one day at university. Their packages offered benefits including university tuition fees paid with a starting salary of £18,000.

Recruitment times can vary depending on the employer so the advice is to research the employer and their opportunities directly on their website. If unsure, please get in touch with the Aquinas Careers team!

What's been going on at Aquinas – “After Aquinas” careers event

Last month, we held our annual ‘After Aquinas’ careers guidance event, supporting our students to make informed career choices.

This event, for students and their parents, was a great opportunity for them to find out more information from the various universities, employers and apprenticeship providers in order to help students think about their options when they leave Aquinas.

The evening was a success as we welcomed over 70 universities, apprenticeship providers, employers and Gap year organisations! This year’s new additions included the new university, UA92, School of Journalism and a talk from Harvard University!

Representatives from the Manchester Metropolitan University and Laing O’Rourke offered important information for students to consider degree apprenticeship opportunities.

The representatives from the various institutions, services and companies were available along the college’s student street, being more than willing to speak with students and their parents, providing them with prospectuses and other printed information to help them inform their choices. Representatives commented it was a very busy night and our students were polite and respectful, asking appropriate questions.

A series of presentations also took place covering themes such as, selecting the right universities and courses, university applications – support presentation for parents, student finance, apprenticeship routes, university life, healthcare professions, gap years and studying abroad!



University Open days

Making decisions is tough, especially if you are a young person today deciding which option to take after Aquinas! It is advisable for students to seek to gain an understanding of all possible options after they complete their college studies. Students can apply to both university and apprenticeship options at the same time to keep routes open until they are ready to make a

decision. There will be events to attend, both from university providers and apprenticeship providers. It is important for all students to attend University open days as they can give a flavour of what to expect when studying a degree course. Recommended resources to use are below.



- Open Days.com list of universities and when they are holding their university open days - <https://www.opendays.com/>

Manchester Metropolitan University Apprenticeship Workshops, autumn 2019



Higher and Degree apprenticeships offer students an opportunity of gaining work experience, whilst getting a recognised qualification and a salary. It has been a

number of years since Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), first started offering higher and degree apprenticeship opportunities alongside their university courses. This autumn, they are offering four workshops for students to prepare them to apply and be successful at gaining a high level apprenticeship opportunity! The first session will begin in October with registration for the exclusive workshops now available through their website.

For more information and for students to register, please follow the link -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/degree-apprenticeships-aspire-apply-achieve-2019-tickets-59952411276>

Work experience hints and tips

Gaining relevant work experience can be a rewarding opportunity to help focus career ideas and making confident future career decisions. Our work experience week in July is an opportunity for students to develop their understanding of the world of work before making important decisions of either applying to university or looking at the apprenticeship route or employment as their preferred choice. It is tricky to gain relevant work experience due to a number of factors. Not every employer can offer a work placement based on issues concerning the size of the organisation, if they have a person to oversee the placement, the age of college students, e.g. being under 18 years old and the competition from other students and university students. Therefore, it could also be useful to think about other ways of having a 'meaningful' experience. Students will have the chance to hear from employers through a series of careers talks during our Aquinas Careers Day. On Thursday 20th June, Aquinas will host up to eighty career talks to help students gain an insight into competitive job industries and sectors with skills shortages. The website provided can offer other ways for students to use their time well to gain appropriate and effective experiences of the world of work.

Work experience further advice and tips - <https://targetcareers.co.uk/careers-advice/skills-and-experience/388-work-experience-for-school-students-what-you-need-and-how-to-get-it>