



FEBRUARY 2025

CAREERS NEWS



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are almost at February half term after a very busy start to the year. Unsurprisingly, there's more to come after the break such as the Year 9 Preferences Evening on February 27th and Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening on the 3rd March. Ludlow College interviews have taken place this week at school and Hereford Sixth Form will be visiting us to do the same at the end of the month. All other colleges and apprenticeship providers will be scheduling their interviews outside of school.

Talking of apprenticeships, it was National Apprenticeship Week from the 10th to 16th February. This led to some key tutor time discussions and lesson starters for all year groups across the curriculum. Our students have also had some visitors come in to speak to them about their careers, as well as offer advice about making different choices after leaving high school.

One of our visitors, Adam Bell, is a Year 9 parent; it was wonderful to have him lead a 'lunchtime talk' with a group of students. If any of you parents or carers feel you can contribute to our careers programme, we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you would be happy to come and talk about your own job to small groups who are interested in a similar career, or maybe you would let some of our students come and visit your workplace to find out more about different industries. Whatever it is, we welcome your experience! Feel free to email vausten@wigmore.hereford.sch.uk to get involved.

Thank you again for your support - and enjoy!
Victoria Austen
Careers Lead





Ugandan dream

This term, Mrs Link is on her own career adventure!

At the start of January, one of our fantastic TAs, Mrs Link, did a whole school assembly alongside retired midwife, Kay Pritchard. They told us all about the adventure they were about to embark on together, the 'Ugandan Dream'. Kay has previously volunteered as a midwife in Africa - her experiences of which were fascinating to hear about. She continues to volunteer at a government funded hospital in Uganda, as well as two midwifery homes. Mrs Link explained how she had been invited by Kay to volunteer at a local school and a therapy hub.

Kay and Mrs Link left for Fort Portal in the early hours of January 27th. We caught up with Mrs Link to find out how it is all going:

“Volunteering in Uganda has got to be one of the highlights of my life. It truly is an honour to be here.

Each day something takes my breath away, from the street sellers who sell chicken on a stick, samosas or fruit, to the school students wanting to help each other and support their peers with so much kindness.

This month I am working in a school, Monday to Friday, from 8:30am till 3:30pm. I am supporting students with a mixture of disabilities and abilities, looking closely at life skills. Last Monday, for example, we walked to the nearest fruit and veg hut, brought oranges and mangoes, then returned to school to make juice we could all enjoy! On Thursday I sat in a music lesson where all the children were singing and dancing. They took it in turns, smiling and laughing, creating music together. I sat back and watched them, taking it all in. It was an incredible moment and one of my highlights so far.”

We are all so proud of what Mrs Link is doing, even enjoying a live video call with her as part of a whole school Teams assembly. She is making a hugely positive impact on the community there, helping those who need her, all the while showing our students at Wigmore the value in volunteering. “It is an amazing experience and I highly recommend it to anyone to try it at least once. Not only have I been able to share my knowledge, but I have learnt about another culture by living within it.”

Mrs Link, we can't wait to see you when you return at the start of March!



Careers Outreach Event



On Tuesday 21st January, students in Year 9 took part in a live event organised by the Civil Service Language Network, British Council and GCHQ to promote language learning and career routes using languages.

It is clear from the feedback below that our students loved it!

“I really enjoyed the assembly – it was fun. I learnt that from languages you can do loads of jobs even MI5. The assembly helped me understand how helpful learning other languages are.” Billie

“The assembly opened my eyes to potential jobs that are available. It was useful to hear about experiences you can enjoy through languages and how learning languages makes you more employable.” Anya

“I enjoyed the assembly because if you learn a language, you can get paid more money. I think this is a good reason to learn a language with the current economic state of the world and with inflation you should always have as much money as possible.” Seth

“I enjoyed the assembly because there was a diplomat and that might be something I would like to do. You represent the government abroad so languages are needed so can communicate with their representatives. If you had a language, you would be chosen over someone else.” Henry

“I really enjoyed the assembly, and it was interesting hearing how different languages can help in different jobs.” Seb

“The assembly was an interesting way of finding out about all the different paths languages can take you on.” Ellie



Year 11 Highlights



Mike Hughes - Careers Adviser

“All Year 11 students have now had at least one careers meeting , allowing them to explore college choices and course choices.

They have all been busy attending the various college open events, together college visits with school, and the priority since Christmas has been to ensure that they all have at least one application submitted.

College interviews are now taking place which can be a little daunting for some people, so I have been supporting some students with preparation for these interviews.”



Mrs Crooke - Support

“We started the year by looking at the local colleges of choice available to them, including Hartpury. We looked at the general progression routes after Y11 and the impact of GCSE grades on their level of entry. I showed them virtual tours of the college and made various college prospectuses available to them very early on so they could see what was available.

We had Leominster Recruitment come in for a visit and they all had the opportunity to write, and send, follow up thank you emails.

Most visited Ludlow and Hereford colleges with their cohort, and did write ups on their return. We followed this up with Personal Statements, with a real emphasis on their personal skills and qualities. A couple of students have had their extra visit to Hereford last Monday and await dates for them to go and do a trial day; we will ensure this works around their exams.

All of those in the Support group have submitted their college applications and several have interview dates. I have done some interview practice with several of the boys in readiness.”

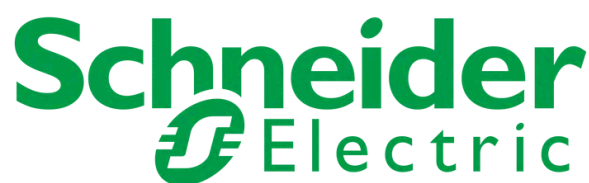


HSFC Taster Day

On 29th January, our students who have already applied or are interested in applying to Hereford Sixth Form College went for a taster morning.

Prior to going, students had selected three subjects they wanted to know more about. The college provided a programme of talks and discussions to help pupils make an informed choice about their individual courses and subjects.

The taster morning proved to be a valuable experience for all who went, helping them feel more secure about the post-16 decisions they are making for September.



Ben Hopkinson Assembly - Schneider Electric

On Thursday 6th February, Ben Hopkinson spoke to students about his career journey in Electrical Engineering and Sales with Schneider Electric. They gave him an opportunity at just 18 years old to do a degree apprenticeship, allowing him to work, train and complete his degree simultaneously.

Ben explained the importance of teamwork, a technical mindset, confidence, time-keeping and reliability. He focused on the various choices our students have after leaving Wigmore, firstly choosing between a college, sixth form or apprenticeship provider, then further on either going into the world of work, going down the apprenticeship route or off to university.

He finished his assembly with a reassuring message. "Don't worry about if it turns out you have made the wrong decision for you. Just make a decision. You will eventually be in the right place for you and often that takes time to figure out."

**Lunch Time
Talk**

Adam Bell
Software Engineer
Computer Gaming Industry



On Wednesday 12th February, Adam Bell spoke to students about his career in the computer gaming industry. He talked about his experience of school, college and university before going into the details of his job and the companies he has worked for. Our students interested in coding, gaming and computers were hooked!

There was a brilliant Q&A session at the end when our students asked lots of insightful questions. We really look forward to welcoming Adam back again to speak to even more of our pupils. Thank you for visiting us!

halo

06 March 2025

Halo Leisure Assembly

Halo Leisure will also be joining us to do a whole school assembly to explain about different careers in the leisure industry.

POST16 OPEN EVENTS

**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire
Group Training
Asccociation -
Hereford**

Thursday 20th
February
4pm-6:30pm

**Hereford College -
Folly Lane**

Tuesday 4th March
5pm-7pm

**Holme Lacy
Campus**

Saturday 5th April
10.00am-12.00pm

**Shrewsbury
College**

**London Road
Campus**

Thursday 13th
February
5:00pm-7:00pm

**Discover
Apprenticeships**

Thursday 13th
February
5:00pm-7:00pm

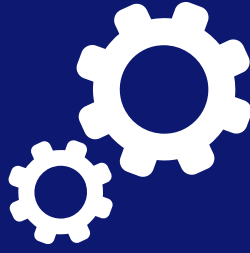
Hartbury College

Saturday 15th
March
9am-1pm

*Go online to
book your
place!*

THIS TERM COMING UP...

Do Think!



Don't Think!

What am I good at?

I want to do what my friends are doing...

Year 9 GCSE Options!

HOW CAN I DECIDE?

What do I want to do in the future?

I really like my teacher...

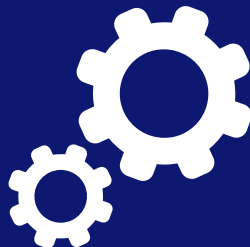
What subjects do I enjoy?

I think it will be an easy choice...



How can I achieve a balance of subjects?

My brother or sister took it...



Understanding Local Market Intelligence (LMI): Supporting Your Child's Future

Helping your child to make informed decisions about their future

Join our live broadcast to explore the local labour market and discover how you can support your child's next steps.



Topics:

- Why should parents/carers care about labour market information (LMI)
- LMI & Transition Decisions
- LMI for the Marches (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin)
- Where to find LMI
- What next?



Wednesday 5th March
09.15–10:00 (AVAILABLE ON
DEMAND FROM 10:00AM)



Virtual Event

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN



www.marchescareershup.co.uk



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council



Shropshire
Council



Herefordshire
Council



Forestry Commission

NEWS



Trailblazing apprenticeship for the Forestry Sector REOPENS

Applications for the next cohort of our Professional Forester Apprenticeship programme have re-opened. This 3-year, paid programme has been designed to kickstart a career in forestry.

Open to school leavers, graduates, or anyone looking for a change in career, the programme provides a wide range of forestry experience and knowledge, not just from within the Forestry Commission but across the entire sector.

The deadline for applications is Sunday 16 March.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE!](#)



Wigmore Alumni



Ella Strangwood

Ella Strangwood is part of our Wigmore alumni and we have been lucky enough to have her doing a placement with us at school over the last couple of weeks as she studies her degree in Sport & PE at Cardiff University.

So Ella, what do you remember the most from your time at Wigmore?

I loved being a part of all of the sports on offer. I was always really sporty and I got to do what I enjoyed the most. I also remember doing a lot of cooking and playing games in my form. We did a lot as a form group. The friends I had at school are still my best friends now.

Looking back, I'm really proud of being selected to be a prefect. I loved being a prefect and enjoyed the responsibility it gave me.

What did you do after leaving Wigmore?

I went onto Herefordshire and Ludlow College to study sport. I've always known I wanted to be a PE teacher.

How did your time at school help to prepare you for your future?

Having rules was a good thing. I knew attendance mattered as well as being on time and being organised. These all matter in the workplace and I learnt the importance of them at school.

What advice would you give to new Wigmore students?

Don't be afraid to ask teachers questions. Everyone is so helpful and it'll stop you worrying about things. Also, get to know everyone, not just the people you knew at primary school.

I was shy at school and I wish I had been more confident. My advice would be to try new things at school - I look back and wish I had done more in textiles!

What advice would you give to our older students thinking about their futures?

Start off by doing something you enjoy doing and go down that path. Don't be afraid of the unknown and not having a plan. After college I didn't know if I was doing the right thing - thinking about getting into teaching. I decided to take a gap year out to figure it out; I really wasn't sure I was going to go to uni after all.

During my gap year I worked at Weobley High School and realised that I did want to get into education. Now I'm at Cardiff University and hope to go to Worcester University to do my PGCE after.

What is it like returning to Wigmore?

It's weird to be back but nice. Nothing's changed! It's interesting to be on the other side, hearing how teachers talk and work together to support the pupils. I'm seeing it all from another perspective.

Thank you so much to Ella Strangwood for being our Feature Alumni! Good luck at University and please let us know how you're getting on!

If you know anyone else who would love to join our growing alumni database, please get in touch.





Wigmore High strives to prepare our students to make well informed decisions about their futures, equipping them with the tools and confidence to set ambitious career goals. Together we can achieve this by ensuring young people are aware of their skills, abilities and potential, as well as their options, opportunities and the world of work. It is important we provide strong provisions for this at school. To do this, parental feedback is invaluable so that we can focus on key areas for improvement and the issues that are important to you and your child. Please could you fill in this quick survey: [CLICK ME!](#) Your feedback will enable us to continue to develop an educational and supportive careers programme. Thank you!

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED OUR LATEST EDITION OF CAREERS NEWS!

**‘SOON ENOUGH YOU’LL FIND
YOURSELF IN THE SHOES YOU ALWAYS
IMAGINED YOURSELF TO BE IN.’**

**WE’LL BE IN TOUCH SOON WITH SOME
MORE ‘CAREERS NEWS’!**