



**CENTRAL
FOUNDATION**
BOYS' SCHOOL

Central Futures

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Successes

Opening the Door

Central Futures is our dedicated programme designed to prepare you for your future beyond Central Foundation Boys' School. Whether that be continuing your studies at university, looking for an apprenticeship or going straight into employment; we aim to help you develop the right qualities, skills and experiences to be successful.



To ensure that these doors are open for you, we ask you to focus on four qualities to feed into your academic qualifications:

- Be **Dedicated** to your studies.
- Be **Organised** in your approach.
- Make the most of **Opportunities**.
- Be **Resilient** in the face of set-backs.

Opening the DOOR

Dedicated

Organised

Opportunities

Resilient



Opening the DOOR

Dedicated

- 100% attendance—maximise the contact time you can have with teachers and other students.
- 100% homework completion—each piece of work should take you two hours; the work you do in class is not sufficient for getting the door open to universities and employers.
- Go the extra mile—read widely in both fiction and non-fiction, and read literature both related to, and unrelated to, your course.
- Be broad in your approach to your studies—watch documentaries, visit galleries, go to museums, travel.



Opening the DOOR

Organised

- Use Show My Homework—ensure you never miss a piece of homework, and use teachers' extra resources.
- Meet deadlines—use your planner, write down upcoming coursework, essay or assignment deadlines, and plan which weeks you will be busiest.
- Use the Central Futures website to take opportunities.



Opening the DOOR

- Use the Central Futures website to find eye-opening and helpful opportunities such as lectures and events.
- Make the most of free public lectures hosted by the London School of Economics, among others.
- If you have a Key Project tutor, or any tutor, ensure you attend every tutorial.

Opportunities



Opening the DOOR

- Learn from exam mistakes and do not be disheartened by them—every new qualification you take supersedes in importance the previous one. In other words, if your GCSEs did not go as well as you would have liked, then work hard as your A-levels or vocational subjects will matter more.
- Take advice—all staff are experts in their subjects and use their advice on your work to learn from mistakes and improve.
- Stretch yourself—put yourself in difficult situations.

Resilient



Habits

Habit	Week commencing 16th September	Week commencing 23rd September	Week commencing 30th September	Week commencing 7th October	Week commencing 14th October	Week commencing 21st October
I attended school every day						
I was on time at 8:55am every day						
I used my planner to keep track of my deadlines and events						
I completed every piece of homework						
I did six hours of independent work per subject this week						
I read widely around my subject						
I read for pleasure						
I applied for opportunities on the Central Futures website						

Year 12 calendar

September	Year 12 Success Evening 23rd September First round of Year 12 AP exams
October	Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh application deadline
November	Year 12 CV Workshops Year 12 Central Futures Mentor Programme matching Year 12 AP2 exams
December	
January	Year 12 Vocational external exams Year 12 Central Futures Interviews - discuss post-sixth form pathways and options
February	Year 12 Mock job interviews Year 12 Parents' Evening at Highbury Grove
March	Year 12 AP3 Exams Year 12 Pre-Application Deadline
April	
May	Year 12 Vocational external exams AS external exams
June	Year 12 Vocational external exams AS external exams Year 12 AP4 exams
July	Year 12 Work Experience Year 12 Personal Statement deadline - first draft submitted on SMHW
August	

Year 13 calendar

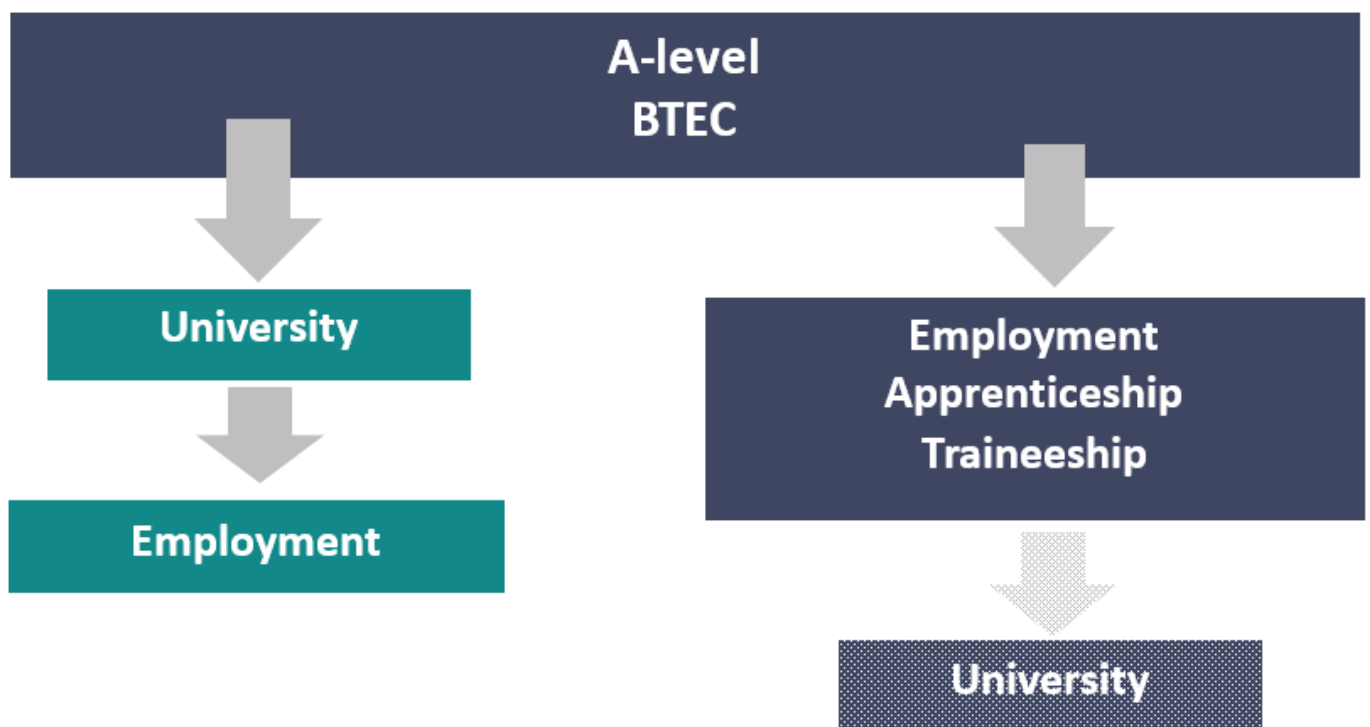
September	Personal statement deadlines: 18th September; 25th September. Oxbridge admissions decisions Year 13 Success Evening: 17th September.
October	Oxbridge, Medicine and Dentistry application deadlines: 8th October. Personal statement deadline for all others: 9th October; 30th October. Entrance exams for Oxford and Cambridge: 30th October.
November	Deadline for all other UCAS applications: 15th November. University offers start coming in.
December	Year 13 exams.
January	Vocational exams.
February	Visits to all universities under consideration as Firm and Insurance choice.
March	Year 13 exams. Final decisions on Firm and Insurance choices. Apply for Student Finance
April	
May	Final exams.
June	
July	
August	Results Day including Clearing and Adjustment.

Pathways

Our aim is that on leaving school at the end of Year 13, all of you have a choice on your pathway. We strongly believe that if each of you takes all the opportunities afforded to you by the Central Futures team, focuses well in lessons and completes all homework, each of you will have a number of different doors open to you at the end of Year 13.

There is a university degree out there for all of you. We have had both A-level and vocational students go on to the most selective universities in the country, and if you achieve highly, each student can choose between a number of degree programmes. If your qualifications, skills or experiences do not match up to one of the most selective universities, there are still foundation degrees at these institutions. After completing a degree, each graduate will then go on to start a job; this is why the Central Futures workshops on jobs and careers are still essential for everyone.

There is also a job or apprenticeship out there for everyone. There are apprenticeships with entry requirements more stringent than the best university degrees – including AAA at A-level – and although these are very competitive, they are worth considering for all of you. If you are unsure about whether you want to do a degree or start an apprenticeship, it is worth remembering that you can do an apprenticeship or job for a few years and then start a degree.



Is university best for me?

Whichever pathway you chose when you leave school, it must be a choice you have made for a positive reason. We want all of our students to have the option to choose between a number of different options and make a decision based on what will be best for you, rather than simply falling into your only available option.

Academic discipline

University is a wonderful opportunity to become an expert in a subject that students have enjoyed at Key Stage 5. It is crucial to choose that subject carefully – you should consider going to the free public lectures that we advertise on the Central Futures website to test your interest in a subject. You will have the chance to be taught by experts in their fields with qualifications above Masters Level and to talk about your subject with like-minded people.

Soft skills

Many graduates of university degrees will not go on to use that subject in their day-to-day life as they enter careers or take on jobs. For example, History graduates will often go into law, advertising, accountancy or journalism, it is unusual for them to become professional academic historians. This is because undergraduate degrees teach the soft skills that are required to be excellent employees. At university, you will be expected to write fluently, and talk confidently in front of a large group of people, skills which are invaluable in all jobs. You will also be expected to meet deadlines and work independently for large periods of time.

Social opportunities, including sports and activities

By meeting people with similar interests you will meet life-long friends. Furthermore, these friends are likely to be from very different backgrounds and locations to what you are used to, which gives university students a diversity among their friendship group.

Not all degrees are created equal

Now that degrees do cost around £50,000, we need to recognise that some universities provide better degrees than others and this will have an impact on future earnings and the “worth” of your degree. In particular, degrees from the most selective universities are more well regarded than others.

Is university affordable?

Our unequivocal answer to this is, yes. We do not want any of you to be put off by the cost of university. The student loans cover all the costs, and all of you can take up part-time jobs during term-time and full-time jobs during the holidays, which are longer than school holidays. However, it is worth remembering that not all degrees are born equal: some will offer better prospects than others and will be more “worth your while”. Remember, all universities offer bursaries too, so research these.

Fees

As things stand, the maximum tuition fee a university can charge for its teaching for one year is £9,250. This means that most three year degrees cost over £27,000 in tuition fees. However, every student who is a UK national, has “settled” in the UK, normally lives in England or has been living in the UK for three years, is entitled to a loan that covers all the tuition costs. The Student Loans Company, run by Student Finance England, will pay the university directly using that loan; this is significant because it means that you will never see the money that is being paid to the university and you will not have the opportunity to spend it.

Living costs

All those eligible for student finance can receive a maintenance loan. The amount you receive will depend on where you go to university and where you live. If you live away from home but go to university in London, you will receive the most. Below are the basic details for this year. There is a Maintenance Grant available for those of you that are from “low-income” households, which you would not need to pay back. This would reduce, however, the amount of loan you receive. A Special Support Grant is available for those who get or qualify for Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, or the housing element of Universal Credit. This Special Support Grant is the same as the Maintenance Grant but does not reduce the amount of loan you will receive.

Loan repayment

All student loan repayments are affordable. Furthermore, the loan is totally wiped out after 30 years and it is more akin to a tax as it is not considered a debt and does not affect a credit score.

Student's living arrangements	Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2019/20 academic year
Living with parents	£7,529
Studying in London and not living with parents	£11,672
Studying outside London and not living with parents	£8,944
Living and studying abroad for at least one term as part of their UK course	£10,242

Yearly salary	Monthly repayments (2019/20)
£22,000	£0
£25,140	£1
£30,000	£38
£40,000	£113
£50,000	£188
£65,000	£300

Is university affordable?

We have also included some information around extra financial support available for students:

University bursaries and grants - students who are in higher education are also able to apply for additional financial support directly from their university or college on top of any funds secured through student finance. These funds are distributed as bursaries, scholarships, or similar financial awards, and do not have to be paid back. Each university will have different criteria around the awarding of these funds, and will be based on information such as:

- who qualifies
- how much you can get
- how to apply

Information about these bursaries and scholarships can be found on your chosen university's website, and you should read awarding criteria carefully to ensure you are eligible.

Extra loans - There is also additional support available to those who are experience financial hardship. These funds are available through your university or college, and any application must be made directly to the university or college's student services department. These funds can be made available for young people who align with the below criteria:

- a student with children, especially single parents
- a mature student with existing financial commitments
- from a low-income family
- disabled
- a student that was previously in care (a 'care leaver')
- homeless or living in a foyer

The amount you can receive is decided by your university or college, and can be paid in a lump sum or instalments. These funds usually will not need to be paid back, but in some cases in can come in a loan that will need to be repaid. These funds would be in addition to a student finance loan.

Links (an electronic copy of this handbook is available on the Central Futures website at <http://centralfutures.co.uk>):

- Further [information](#) on extra financial support for students.
- [Details](#) on how to find bursaries or grants during your application process.

Is university affordable?

We have included some information for Muslim students who have questions about taking out a student loan. Some other options do exist:

Part time and self fund - enroll on a course as a part-time student. This will mean that you study the course for half of the number of hours per year and will usually double the length of the course. You could then work to pay the cost of your tuition fees (about £6,000 per year) and have enough money to live off. It would double the length of your course and mean you'd have to get a job that paid enough money to cover the cost of your fees, plus you'd have to balance working and studying.

Private Islamic loan - take a loan from an Islamic bank (such as Al Ryan bank) which doesn't accrue interest to be able to pay for the cost of tuition and living. This loan isn't from the Government so paying it back will be very different to a Government Student Finance loan. For example, your rate of pay back won't be based on your earnings, the debt won't be wiped after 30 years, the loan might be for a shorter period of time and need repaying by a certain date. It could be likely that a bank would be unwilling to lend you the large amount of money needed to fund tuition (minimum of £27,750) as you haven't got any guarantee of being able to repay it.

Ask for fee waiver - Only King's College London appears to be offering this at the moment. They are waiving tuition fees for the students' that don't feel they can take out a student finance loan (i.e give you the course for free). Remember this doesn't take into account living costs, like travel, either. Other universities, may start to offer bursaries or fee waivers. For example, the University of Oxford started that this year.

Overdraft current account Lloyd's - Lloyd's bank is currently the only non-Islamic bank to offer an interest free overdraft on a current account. It wouldn't cover the cost of your tuition as it's only about £1,000 but could be useful for living costs.

Links (an electronic copy of this handbook is available on the Central Futures website at <http://centralfutures.co.uk>):

- A [document](#) giving arguments for and against student loans being Halal.
- Potential [options](#) if not taking a student loan
- [Scholarship](#) for Muslims students at University of Exeter
- Summary from [Queen Mary University](#) about options, particularly some interesting advice on how not taking a student loan could affect other financial options
- Details of what [Kings](#) offer - they may waive fees or subsidise fees if your are able to show all other options for financing your degree have been explored

Which degree is best for me?

There are no set rules when considering which universities and which courses to choose when applying for university. The best way to approach this, is for you to make a list of what factors would make an excellent university experience for you, and find universities that match those factors. To help with this process you might consider:

The academic reputation of the university and the course at the university

Some universities are more well-known than others. This can be an advantage in many cases as it may get you an interview for a job based on the type of university they attended. However, the most important thing is whether the university can deliver high-quality teaching and learning. A university with a strong reputation might get someone an interview, but if the teaching was poor, you will get no further than the interview. Because of this, it will be worth checking the academic reputation of the course you want to study at specific universities. For example, the University of Reading might not be as well-known as the University of Manchester, but it far exceeds Manchester with regards to its teaching of Earth Science. The quality of teaching may not be known to future employers, but at interview and in the course of a career, the students who have made the most progress at university will go the furthest.

The location

We encourage all of our students to apply for courses outside of London where possible. This is because it will broaden their horizons and encourage them to develop some independence. Of course, this is not possible in all cases, but if there are no barriers we recommend that they apply to, and visit, some universities in different areas. It will also be worth considering if you would prefer to live in a student campus – with all university buildings separate from the local city or town – or a city-based university.

The funding opportunities

Some universities offer more generous bursaries and grants than others. University is affordable, so this might not be the primary factor affecting your decision, but it might sway a decision for a firm choice.

The course structure

Some courses come with opportunities to study abroad or to work in a placement for a year. These opportunities broaden horizons greatly and are often a fantastic learning opportunity. However, often they rely on high-quality provision from the university abroad that they send people to or the employers they have connections with, so it is worth investigating this. It is also worth checking how much teaching time you will have. If they offer you 30 hours of lectures a week but all lectures have 200 people in them, you will not have much contact time with the tutors. If you have 14 hours of lectures a week with 200 people in them but also two hours a week of contact time as a group of four, you will be getting a lot of supervision.

The Top Third Universities

Aston University	The University of Lancaster
Cardiff University	The University of Leeds
Courtauld Institute of Art	The University of Leicester
Glasgow School of Art	The University of Liverpool
Goldsmiths College	The University of Manchester
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	The University of Oxford
Heriot-Watt University	The University of Reading
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	The University of Sheffield
King's College London	The University of Southampton
London School of Economics and Political Science	The University of St Andrews
Loughborough University	The University of Strathclyde
Queen Mary University of London	The University of Surrey
Queens University Belfast	The University of Sussex
Royal Academy of Music	The University of Warwick
Royal College of Music	The University of York
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	University College London
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	University of Abertay Dundee
Royal Northern College of Music	University of Durham
St George's Hospital Medical School	University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Stranmillis University College	University of Nottingham
The City University	
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	
The Royal Veterinary College	
The School of Oriental and African Studies	
The University of Aberdeen	
The University of Bath	
The University of Birmingham	
The University of Bristol	
The University of Cambridge	
The University of Dundee	
The University of East Anglia	
The University of Edinburgh	
The University of Exeter	
The University of Glasgow	

Should I move out of London?

There are over 100 universities in the UK, including those as far afield as Inverness in Scotland and those that are a short trip across the Irish Sea such as Belfast. For many reasons, we ask every student to apply for at least one outside of London and can provide a £50 travel reimbursement to visit them. There are also countless job and apprenticeship opportunities outside of London, though finding accommodation away from home will be easier through a university than an employer.

The time is right

This time of your life is the perfect time to move out of London; you have a natural break from your time at school to the next stage of your life, and many of your friends will be moving away. Furthermore, if you are in the fortunate position of having no caring duties at home, then now is a good time to move away from home before you develop ties at home, such as having a family of your own to look after.

Inflated London requirements

In our experience, London universities that are outside the Russell Group have higher entry requirements than their equivalents outside London, particular for City, Westminster and Brunel. This might be due to the increased number of applications to these universities resulting from their location; the universities therefore might feel justified in increasing their requirements. Our advice would be to apply to universities outside London of similar reputation and standing as their entry requirements are frequently lower.

Broadening horizons

Many of you have spent all of your life living in London and all of you have lived in London at some point! It is really important that you broaden your horizons by living somewhere else for a while. This will give you a sense of identity with the rest of the UK and a wider frame of reference. You will also meet people from different backgrounds and different perspectives.



Three years

For those of you applying to university or for an apprenticeships, these are particularly good opportunities to live away from London and as they are time limited; at least you know that in three years you can return to London if you want to!

Independence

Sooner or later you will need to move out of your family home. The longer you delay this, the more difficult the process will become.

How do I study abroad?

Studying abroad is becoming an increasingly attractive proposition for many school leavers. There are a number of great universities in Europe which are as close to London as some of the universities in the UK.

Why?

There are some fantastic universities in Europe that can provide you with an excellent education and a great degree. Plus nearly all of these universities offer degrees in subjects that are taught in English, so there is no need to speak the language. The degrees in Europe are also considerably cheaper than degrees in the UK, while most UK degrees will result in repaying £50,000 of loans, some French and German degrees will cost £15,000 in total. However, there is no student loan available for these overseas degrees.

Where?

Anywhere. Clearly, countries like Australia, Canada and USA offer high-quality, reputable degrees taught in English. However, all over Europe there are established and well-regarded universities that offer degrees taught in English.

How?

The most affordable way to get a taste of university life abroad is via an exchange programme, where you are enrolled in a UK university degree but take part of their course overseas. You remain eligible for student loans in the UK and may even be able to access grants to help with their costs. One of the best-known exchange schemes is the Erasmus programme, an initiative of the European Union that is run by the British Council in the UK. As well as whatever maintenance loans they are eligible for at home, Erasmus participants also receive a grant from the European Commission to cover the additional costs arising from living abroad. This varies from €300 (£270) to €350 (£315) per month depending on the country they are studying in. Students do not have to pay any tuition fees to the international university and at present the fees due to their UK institution are also waived for the period they are away, providing the study period is a full academic year of 24 weeks.

For individuals who want to take an entire degree overseas, the financial situation becomes a bit more difficult. Student loans are not available via the Student Loans Company for students who plan to study outside the UK. Most EU countries do have some type of scheme that provides loans and financial aid to students, however these are not usually open to students from other member states. While tuition itself is free in some EU countries, prospective students can often find themselves with no way of funding their living expenses. The Scandinavian countries present a good example of the funding dilemma many students face — on the one hand there are no tuition fees in Denmark, Finland, Norway or Sweden, but on the other hand, these are notoriously expensive places to live and a significant sum of money will be needed for living costs. You will need to have saved in advance and have found a part-time job.

Another option for funding overseas study is scholarships. There are scholarships available to those looking to study abroad but competition is fierce, particularly at undergraduate level. These can be awarded on merit or need and vary in the level of assistance provided. In the US, universities award about 1,000 scholarships to foreign students each year, ranging from partial scholarships to what's called a "full-ride", where all of a student's tuition fees and expenses are covered.

Is employment best for me?

Increasing numbers of school leavers are choosing employment over university, and rightly so. There is a plethora of fantastic school leaver, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities out there, many with high quality training opportunities and salaries comparable with university graduate salaries. It would be sensible for you to weigh up all options taking into consideration rising university fees, graduate unemployment and employment market trends, before making a decision.

There are many different routes into employment you can take including school leaver programmes, apprenticeships and traineeships.

What is a school leaver programme?

School leaver programmes, often called higher apprenticeships, are aimed at high achieving Year 13 students with A-levels or equivalent qualifications, who are intelligent enough to go to university but have decided instead to enter the world of work. Increasingly more and more companies are offering school leaver programmes as they find taking students on at this stage very attractive. You will often end up, after three to four years, at a similar stage as a graduate would entering the organisation.

Industries include:

Asset and Investment Management, Banking & Finance, Construction, Engineering, Hospitality, Media, Professional Services, Public Services & Science & Technology

Levels and entry requirements:

Most programmes involve studying for further professional qualifications or a degree. These are paid for by the employer. Generally companies are looking for at least C grades at A-level or MMM in vocational.

Businesses offering School Leaver Programmes



What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is an opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and develop professional skills while also earning a salary working in a business or public sector organization. Apprenticeships can last between one to four years and are available in a wide range of industries.

Industries include:

Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care; Arts, Media and Publishing; Business, Administration and Law; Construction, Planning and the Built Environment; Education and Training; Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; Health, Public Services and Care; Information, Communication and Technology; Leisure, Travel and Tourism; Retail and Commercial Enterprise.

Levels and entry requirements:

Intermediate (Level 2) – Five GCSEs or equivalent.

Advanced (Level 3) – Five GCSEs at A* to C, (9 to 4) and some employers may ask for A-levels or vocational qualifications.

Higher (Level 4) – Five GCSEs at A* to C (9 to 4) and three A-levels or equivalent.

What is a traineeship?

A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that unlocks the great potential of young people and prepares them for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'.

Designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who do not yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment.

Levels and entry requirements:

You can apply for a traineeship if you are aged 16-24 and are qualified below Level 3. You can also of course start in an entry level role in a company. Entry level roles tend to train you on the job however do not require you to work towards a formal qualification.

How much will employment pay?

The reason going straight into employment from school is an attractive alternative to university is that you will be paid a salary while gaining industry experience. However, the salaries employers offer vary greatly between different sectors. Below are some guidelines on what you can expect.

School leaver programmes

The reason that school leaver programmes are such an attractive alternative to university is the fact that you will work towards a Level 4 qualification without having to pay lots of money for expensive tuition fees. What is even better is that you will be paid a salary by your employer. As most of the school leaver programmes do not fit into the accredited apprenticeship frameworks and you will not be employed on a 'Contract of Apprenticeship', companies are obliged to pay you at least the National Minimum Wage rather than the standard apprenticeship wage of only £3.70 an hour. Many employers pay much more than this; although lots do not disclose how much they pay, below are some examples.

KPMG—£20,000

National Audit Office £23,788

National Grid Engineering programme—£18,000 - £23,000

Marks & Spencer—£18,000

These salaries are comparable with many graduate salaries but by the time your peers finish university you will already have three to four years industry experience.

Apprenticeships

Unfortunately apprenticeships tend to have a lower salary; although the National Minimum Wage for apprentices is £3.70 the apprenticeship providers that we work with as a school encourage their employers to offer at least the London Living Wage. There are some amazing apprenticeships out there but you need to carefully consider if an apprenticeship is the right option for you. It is unlikely that you would be able to afford to move out of home on an apprentice wage so it is worth speaking to your parents about whether or not they are happy for you to continue living at home and how much they would expect you to contribute to the household once you are working.

Entry level jobs

Again these will vary from employer to employer but as this is not an accredited apprenticeship employers will have to pay you at least the minimum wage. The employers that we have dealt with over the last couple of years have been City Firms and below are examples of the wages/salary they have offered for roles that our students have moved into.

Junior Accounts Assistant—£20,000

Junior IT Technician—£18,000

Client Services Assistant—£6.50/hour

Which route is best for me?

Although it may be tempting to go for the roles with highest starting salaries it is important that you consider the training provided and opportunities for progression. This is something you may want to discuss with an employer at the time of interview. You need to consider all options for the career or industry you are interested in and look at what each programme has to offer and how much you want to commit. If you feel that you have had enough of studying it would not be wise to apply to a school leaver programme where there is significant study involved; you may be better suited to an entry level job where you will gain skills and experience in the role.

Can I work abroad?

There are a number of different gap year programmes for school leavers, as well as various opportunities to study and work abroad. You may be undecided about what you want to do; having a break before starting university, perfecting a language or gaining some valuable experience are just some of the great reasons to consider time abroad.

Working abroad can have a host of benefits including learning a new language, experiencing a new culture, meeting new people, gaining independence and bolstering your CV. If you have decided to move abroad it is essential that you carefully consider what you will do, as well as how you will finance your trip. Although you may secure paid work, you will need enough money to cover your first few months living costs.

English teaching

As an English speaker there are many opportunities to teach. Although it may be possible to find work without a teaching qualification you can enhance your chances by completing a short TEFL course. There are many companies to choose from to gain your TEFL award and they even help you find work after completing the course. It is important to carefully research the options before purchasing a course. Some can be expensive and even illegitimate.

Volunteering

There are hundreds of gap year volunteering projects in areas such as conservation, education and sports coaching, and many organisations to choose from.

Paid work

Although it is possible to find employment independently it may be a good idea to do this via an organisation that can support you with travel arrangements, insurance, visas and provide links to employers. Going abroad as part of a programme will also mean that you are likely to meet people just like you, who are keen to learn about a new country, culture and experience new things.

Organisations that can help



How can I prepare for employment?

Finding out what you want to do

As you are in Year 12 you have the luxury of time. You do however need to use this time wisely to figure out what it is that you want to do. The best way to do this is to do as much research about the careers that interest you. Find out the different entry routes, qualification requirements and experience needed. We would also advise you to open up your mind to careers you have not previously considered. There may be a perfect job out there for you but if you don't know it exists. Sign up for as many career insight sessions and talks as you can. If you decide it's not for you then it is time well spent.

Getting work experience

There will be opportunities for all Year 12s to have a work experience placement. We will take your preferences and try and arrange this according to your needs.

Employability Skills

What are employability skills?

Employability skills are the skills that you need not only to gain employment but to progress within your chosen career. Employers are not only interested in your grades and experiences but also your transferable skills. Transferable skills are those skills which can be applied in a variety of different contexts. Examples of these are communication, team work, leadership & problem solving.

Where can I learn these?

As part of the Central Futures programme we will be running employability workshops, some of which will be compulsory and will teach you the basics. Others will be optional however if you are serious about getting work ready then you will be signing up. We are also very lucky that lots of our partner businesses are running employability sessions for our students. Places on these are usually limited so again keep an eye on the website for up and coming opportunities.

Build up networks

Every contact you make could be a future opportunity. You are lucky that through the Central Futures programme you will come into contact with lots of businesses and professional from a wide range of industries. Always make a good impression and try to maintain contact where possible. You never know when you might need to call on someone to help with an application, provide advice or be a referee.

Useful contacts

School Contacts

Mr Samuel

For careers and university questions
samuelw@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Mr Stevens

For employment questions
stevensl@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Mr Moulding

For Key Project questions
mouldingc@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

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Ms Nadjdet

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University

www.ucas.com – Where to register and search for courses

www.unifrog.org – Course & university search engine, ask the Central Futures team for login details.

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/> - Information on the 24 Russell Group universities

<http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk/> - Find undergraduate scholarships, grants and bursaries

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview> - Student Finance official website

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/studying-overseas/funding-overseas-study/> information on studying abroad

<http://www.fundingusstudy.org/> information on funding studying in USA

University League tables

The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>

The Complete University Guide: <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

Employment

Sites to register for advice and guidance

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

<http://icould.com/>

Sites to register for updates on apprenticeships and jobs

<https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/>

<http://www.futuretalent.org/>

<http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

<http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/> - NHS and healthcare apprenticeships

Useful resources

The Central Futures website

<http://centralfutures.co.uk>

Our website of opportunities and resources.

Show My Homework

<https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/login>

Your homework planner and timetable.

Unifrog

<http://www.unifrog.org>

Your university and apprenticeship search tool. Your username and password will be distributed to you.

Notes