



Be inspired

Careers and Alumni Newsletter

Welcome to our Careers and Alumni newsletter for NSSFC

There are many developments taking place in Careers Education nationally and this newsletter will keep you informed of what's happening in Northallerton School and Sixth Form College to build on the good practice already in place at the school.

Also each half term we will bring you real stories from ex-students of the school, telling you about their career path since leaving school. We hope these stories will inspire our young people to strive for their best.

Alumni Focus

We are delighted to be able to share an account from ex-student Helen Goodwin

'I attended Northallerton College from 1988-1992 completing my GCSEs and A Levels. I didn't quite make the grade to study at my first choice of university and whilst initially disappointed, it enabled me to reconsider the available options and I was accepted for a BSc degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Sunderland; a course which combined the two subjects I enjoyed, Biology and Geography, along with a breadth of other topics.

Between the second and third year of my degree, I took a year out to take part in an expedition to Lake Baikal, Siberia with the First Battalion The Green Howards. Advertised in the local press, the regiment were looking for civilians to join the small team of military personnel to assist a group of Russian Scientists complete a survey of the Nerpa Seal, an endemic species to Lake Baikal. The lake is frozen to a metre thick from November-May and we would be riding along its length on quad bikes to complete the survey. Following 3 months of navigation, first aid and survival training in Germany, we travelled to Siberia to consolidate our training before undertaking the expedition. This was an amazing experience which exposed me to an organisation and provided me with a particular skill set that, unbeknown to me at the time, would have a considerable influence on my future.



Following graduation, I still had no definitive career path in mind, so decided to apply for a PGCE to teach Geography, while gaining experience from working for a year as a classroom assistant and office clerk at a secondary school in Middlesbrough. Although I thoroughly enjoyed the PGCE course, having sampled 'life in the military' I felt I wanted to experience more of this lifestyle and decided to apply to join the Royal Air Force.

In 1998 I graduated from RAF College Cranwell as a Royal Air Force Officer and was selected to undertake Air Traffic Control training, but unfortunately didn't pass the professional training course, so I transferred to the Medical Support Officer Branch. This role required no clinical training but supported the delivery of medical care to military personnel. During my 18 year career I undertook a range of roles from assurance and governance of military medical facilities, training Officer Recruits, liaising with the NHS for the provision of healthcare to military personnel and writing policy and management plans. My RAF career led me to numerous postings throughout the UK, 2 years in Germany, and deployments to the Oman, Iraq and Afghanistan.

By choice I left the RAF in 2016, returned to Northallerton to be near family, and subsequently started a family of my own. Having had a break from work, I now find myself back in my RAF uniform as a Reservist at RAF Leeming.

When I look back at how I came to be where I am today, I didn't always follow my planned pathway, but the paths I ended up taking led to some exciting destinations. Whilst you might be faced with disappointment, don't be disheartened and look towards the opportunities that are subsequently on offer.'

If you are an ex-student of the school and would like to be part of our school Alumni group and inspire our young people, please contact Mrs Harris (Careers Leader) by calling 01609 773340 or email to harris.b@northallertonschool.org.uk.

'Discover' day at Teesside University

On Wednesday 13th March a group of sixth form Health and Social Care students went to Teesside University to attend a 'Discover' day. The focus was on careers in Nursing and Midwifery and the day was packed with sessions which enabled the students to talk with lecturers, find out about the courses on offer at Teesside and learn about the many routes into nursing: adult, mental health, learning disabilities and child nursing, as well as midwifery. The sessions were interactive and provided the students with the opportunity to use some of the fantastic resources at the university and experience simulated hospital wards, including a maternity ward.

The students found the day hugely beneficial and enjoyable and for many it was the first time they had experienced a university setting.

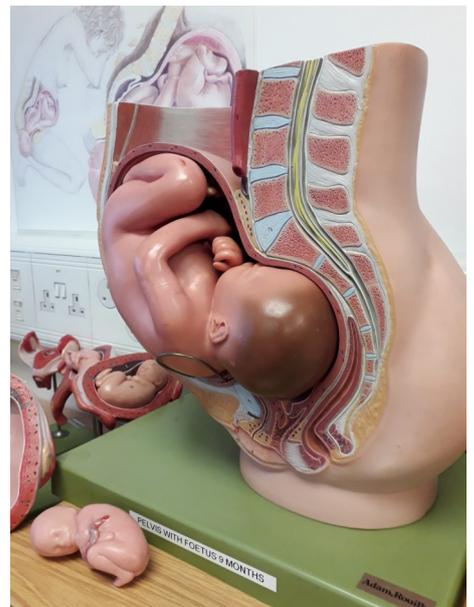
What our students had to say:

"Visiting the university gave me a good idea of the courses on offer and what they involve."

"I really enjoyed the practical workshops, particularly in the midwifery ward."

"The visit helped me to decide on the career I want to pursue."

"The trip was very informative. All the lecturers were helpful and it's made me look forward to going to university even more!"



Sampling Choices - life beyond GCSEs

On Friday 8th March all our Y11 students were off timetable and took part in our Taster Day. There were three option routes for the students to choose from on the day:

- Being a sixth form student and trying out A level or OCR subject choices
- Visiting Middlesbrough College and taking part in workshops for vocational subjects
- Getting prepared for applying for an apprenticeship

The event was part of our careers programme at the school and the aim was to help students check out their planned choices to make sure that they had a secure career plan in place for when they've completed their studies.

We have gathered feedback from the students and the responses across all three options are significantly positive. The feedback shows that 94% of the students who stayed here to sample the sixth form thought the day was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience, with 81% stating that the lessons had given them a good idea of what it will be like to study the subjects.

Students quoted that:

"It helped me make decisions on my options and my future"

"The teachers were very engaging and gave useful information about each subject course, and why we should study their courses"

"I stayed at NSSFC for taster day; I enjoyed the lessons having smaller class sizes, as it was easier to answer questions and give input".

"Taster day was informative; it provided me with the opportunity to explore a range of different subjects, and what to do in my future".

Similarly, the students who had visited

Middlesbrough College were happy to have been given the opportunity to go there on a supervised visit and to try out different courses on offer, with 87% stating that the day had helped them think carefully about their subject choices.

The students who took part in the apprenticeship workshops worked alongside more than 10 employers during the day and took part in a range of practical activities, including completing a job application form and undertaking a practice interview with one of the employers, who then provided detailed feedback. The students also took part in a speed networking session and at the end one student was quoted as saying:

"I enjoyed meeting new people, particularly those who own their own businesses and discussing how they achieved what they achieved and the process of how they got there".

If any Y11 student has any questions following on from Taster day regarding their career plans, please ask them to speak with their tutor who can pass on their questions to either Mrs Harris, the Careers Leader in school, or to Kate Bowers our careers advisor. For specific queries regarding the sixth form, please speak to Mrs Redpath, Head of Sixth Form.



Students thinking outside the box and being creative in A level Art using recycled products.

Have you considered the apprenticeship route as an option after your GCSEs?

Have a read about one of our ex-students, Ewan Bell, who has successfully pursued this route in Northallerton.

Ewan Bell, lives in Northallerton and attended Northallerton College where he gained ten GCSEs. He was very interested in the engineering side of construction and when considering his future, Ewan thought about going to University; however a friend mentioned the opportunities available to apprentices. Ewan decided to progress this opportunity and became aware of the vacancy at ADH via the National Website advertising apprenticeships, <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>.

Ewan is employed as a Trainee Land Surveyor at ADH Site Surveys based in Northallerton. They carry out topographic and measured building surveys, produce Land Registry compliant conveyance plans and elevational drawings for Architects.

ADH has an established private and public sector client base consisting of a variety of Architects and Engineering practices; Housing Associations; Building Contractors; County Councils and Land Agents.

Ewan enjoys the variety of tasks associated with his role which includes 3D laser scanning (which produces 3D models of existing buildings), carrying out Topographic surveys and having learnt the processes involved, Ewan now has the confidence and ability to do this alone. He then draws up the plans in the office prior to a submission.

From received coordinated drawings Ewan can strip and load the necessary data to the set out buildings for clients. In addition he does Conveyance planning and where necessary measures site boundaries and plots onto digital OS maps for the submission to Land Registry.

Andy Harding, Managing Director of ADH Site Surveys said the reason he chose to employ an apprentice was that he felt "It is only right to bring new young blood to the industry as this will help the industry to continue. Young people are familiar and very competent with technology and that is hugely beneficial to our ever changing industry".

Ewan and Andy both feel well supported by the training provider and ADH has received some additional funding from them. He also added that the support and advice he received from Hambleton District Council was very good.

Andy said "Ewan has fitted in very well, is conscientious, adaptable, absorbs information and doesn't mind an early start".



Key Dates:

Wednesday 1 May
UCAS Conference

Thursday 6 June
Aim Higher Careers
Evening

for Year 10 and Year 12

**Monday 28 June -
Wednesday 26 June**

Bridging Days
for Year 11 transition
into the Sixth Form.

Friday 28 June
Year 12
Careers Afternoon

RESULTS
2019

A level and OCR
Thursday 15 August

GCSE
Thursday 22 August



It's not too late to apply to the sixth form.

Application forms are available from reception or log onto the website to apply online.