

October 2015

# Inspiring Futures

**DON'T  
FORGET!**

**I AM ON SITE  
0830 –1700 EVERY  
DAY AND AM  
VERY HAPPY TO  
OFFER  
ADVICE ON**  
**Work Experience**  
**Career Ideas**  
**Degree Courses**  
**CV Writing**  
**Employability Skills**  
**& Lots More**

## **Top Tip of the Month**

**Don't fall behind with  
your work!**

**Don't put it off and  
say 'I'll do it later'.  
Later, there will be  
other work to do and  
you won't have  
enough time to go  
back over everything  
you should have done  
previously.**

**If you are struggling  
with work load, come  
and see one of your  
teachers, or your  
tutor. We are here  
to help you!**

## **Careers update for 6th form**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Thursday 5th November**—Living with a  
Teenager (coping with exam stress).

This talk will be on from **4-5pm** in the  
Senior Hall and is open to parents and  
students in 6th form and U5.



**Tuesday 10th November**—Jo Baldwin talk  
for 6:2 on Money at University. Jo is from  
*Fiscorum Financial Intelligence* and will be  
delivering the second talk on managing  
money after leaving school.

This talk will be on from 2.00pm—3.30pm  
and is compulsory for all 6:2 girls

### **UCAS Update**

**Applications are well underway and  
the first few have already been  
submitted. Avoid the worry of not  
having any offers at the same time as  
your friends by getting your forms  
completed ASAP!**



# Thought for the month....

....work hard, dream big!



They say 'Nothing worth having comes easy'. You might meet a few lucky individuals who are handed life on a silver platter, but for most of us (the ones who make the world go round) life isn't that simple.

Your 6th form years are all about strength and endurance. Not in a physical sense but in the sense that you need the mental strength to keep going. You will all have goals

and aspirations for the future and in order to get there, hard work and perseverance are required in abundance. Don't be the student who arrives on results day, opens their envelope and wishes they had done more when they had the time. The start of the year is the perfect chance to be as productive as possible. Telling yourself that you will "do it later" is not an option. That might work at home when you are asked to tidy your room or walk the dog, but time in school is precious so don't waste it.



If you are not coping with time management or work loads already, don't wait before you get help! Find your tutor, or a teacher that you know can give you advice and get it sorted before it's too late. Don't forget, we are all here to help you, don't sit and struggle alone, and please don't give up.

Unfortunately life is not all rainbows and fairy dust! There will be dark days, there will be obstacles, there will be mistakes and there will be moments that make you want to throw your chair at the wall. "But it's worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains" (Steve Jobs)



Miss Kneen

# So you want to be a... Structural Engineer?

Structural engineers help to design and build everything from hospitals and sports stadiums through to bridges and oil rigs. They also work on improvements to existing buildings, for example, adding extra structural safety features. To do this job you'll need to have skills in maths and science and be good at solving problems. If you're interested in the design and structure of buildings and have a lot of creative ideas, then this could be the ideal career for you. To get into this career, you'll normally need to complete a degree or postgraduate qualification in engineering or construction.

As a structural engineer you'll work closely with clients, architects, contractors and other engineering professionals. On an engineering project, you could:

- develop engineering plans using computer aided design (CAD) software
- investigate the properties of building materials like glass, steel and concrete, and advise on which is best for the job
- work out the loads and stresses on different parts of a building like the foundations, beams, arches and walls
- use computer models to predict how structures will react under different weather conditions
- work out ways to improve the building or structure's energy efficiency
- inspect unsafe buildings and recommend options for repairs or demolition

Depending on your area of expertise, you may be involved in forensic engineering, working out why and how buildings have collapsed, for instance after a natural disaster like an earthquake.

## Typical Requirements

To do a degree course, you'll need at least five GCSEs (A-C) and two or three A levels, including maths and a science subject (normally physics). Equivalent qualifications may be accepted, like an Access to Higher Education course or Level 3 Diploma in Engineering. Check exact entry requirements with individual colleges and universities.

To qualify, you'll normally need a degree or postgraduate qualification in structural or civil engineering. You may also be able to get started with a degree in a related subject such as construction, the built environment or maths, but it may take you longer to qualify. An alternative is to start off as an engineering technician by completing an HNC/HND or foundation degree in an engineering subject. You can then become a fully qualified structural engineer with further training on the job.



### Typical Salary

Starting salaries are good at around £22,000

With experience you could earn up to £50,000

### Further Reading:

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

[Www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/](http://Www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/)

Career profiles with thanks to National Careers Service

# So you want to be a... Midwife?

As a midwife you would care for and support pregnant women and their babies, before, during and after childbirth. If you would like taking care of the mother's welfare, and the responsibility of helping to bring babies into the world, this could be the perfect career for you. To qualify as a registered midwife you need to complete a degree in midwifery. You will also need to agree to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Courses take at least three years to complete. To be a midwife you need excellent communication and 'people' skills. You need the ability to inspire trust and confidence. And you will also need a calm manner to deal with stressful situations.

## Work Activities

- giving pregnant women advice on issues such as healthy eating
- explaining options such as giving birth in hospital or at home, natural childbirth and types of pain relief
- running classes about pregnancy (antenatal) and parenting
- checking the health of the mother and baby during pregnancy

Once the baby is born, your work could include giving advice to families on feeding, bathing and generally caring for their baby. As a midwife based in the community, you would visit people's homes to check on the health of the mother and baby.

## Typical Requirements

To qualify as a registered midwife you need to complete a degree in midwifery leading to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Courses take at least three years to complete. If you are already a registered nurse, you can take a shortened 18-month programme to qualify.

To do a degree, you will need:

- at least five GCSEs (A-C), including English and maths and a science
- two or three A levels, including at least one science or health-related subject
- good references

You will also need to pass occupational health checks and agree to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. See the DBS website for details.

## Typical Salary

Starting at £21,000 once trained and rising to £45,000 with experience

Consultant roles can increase to around £68,000



Further Reading:

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/Midwife.aspx](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/Midwife.aspx)

Career profiles with thanks to National Careers Service

# It's your career...

...here's how to start researching it on the web!

## Job profiles

[www.nationalcareersservice.  
direct.gov.uk/advice](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice)

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk)

## Apprenticeships

[www.etrust.org.uk/  
year\\_in\\_industry.cfm](http://www.etrust.org.uk/year_in_industry.cfm)

[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

## Gap Year

[www.frontier.ac.uk](http://www.frontier.ac.uk)

[www.realgap.co.uk](http://www.realgap.co.uk)

[www.aventure.co.uk](http://www.aventure.co.uk)

## Personal Statements

[www.studential.com/guide/  
write\\_personal\\_statement.htm](http://www.studential.com/guide/write_personal_statement.htm)

## Higher Education

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.ukcoursefinder.com](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com)

## Advice & study skills

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/  
revision](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revision)

## Compare Universities

[www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)

[www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com)

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

[www.theguardian.com/education/  
universityguide](http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide)

## Self-Employment

[www.shell-livewire.org/](http://www.shell-livewire.org/)

## Money for studying

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

[www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk/](http://www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk/)

## Volunteering & Work Experience

[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)  
[www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

If you have any questions about any of these websites do come  
and see Miss Kneen in her office



# POST CARDS FROM THE FRONT

.....advice to the 16 year old me



**Name:**

Ruth Brennan

**Left Northampton High**

2011

**School in:**

**Degree studied:**

Photographic Arts at the University of  
Westminster

**Where I am now:**

I moved to London in 2011 to read Photographic Arts at the University of Westminster and graduated with a first class honours degree in 2014. In the year between graduating and now I went on to work at Frieze Masters before heading off to travel by train in continental Europe. I've stayed in London and I now work full time holding down two jobs, one at a film/tv charity in East London and the other at a photographic lab; as well as working I continue to produce photographic artwork and to curate exhibitions - the last of which was in May. In October of this year I will be taking up my place at the Royal College of Art, recently named the best arts and design university in the world! I'm so happy to be building up my own little community of artists, writers, curators here in London and do not see myself leaving anytime soon. Alongside all of this, I am involved with starting a collective that looks at combating sexism in Art Schools, our group is a bricolage of university professors, lecturers and art students (at all levels; BA, MA, PhD); and with starting an artist in residency programme in central France.

**Easiest decision:**

Moving to London

**Hardest decision:**

I was very lucky to be asked to join the Master of Fine Arts programme at the San Francisco Art Institute last year but after much back and forth I sadly had to decline the offer. As you can imagine saying no to two years in sunny California was a very, very difficult one... Ultimately, after not being awarded funding from several institutions I had to be realistic about the astronomical costs of study in the US.

**Advice to the 16 year old  
me:**

Keep going—it gets better!