

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER

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This edition of our newsletter is focusing on building skills. When we think about skills in relation to careers, we automatically lean towards employability. However, to be fully prepared for the working world and to get the best outcomes for ourselves we need to work on a variety of different skills to become the best version of ourselves that we can be. The range of skills we need includes communication, numeracy, literacy, ability to study independently and openness to learning as well as all of the transferable skills that we have discussed in previous issues.

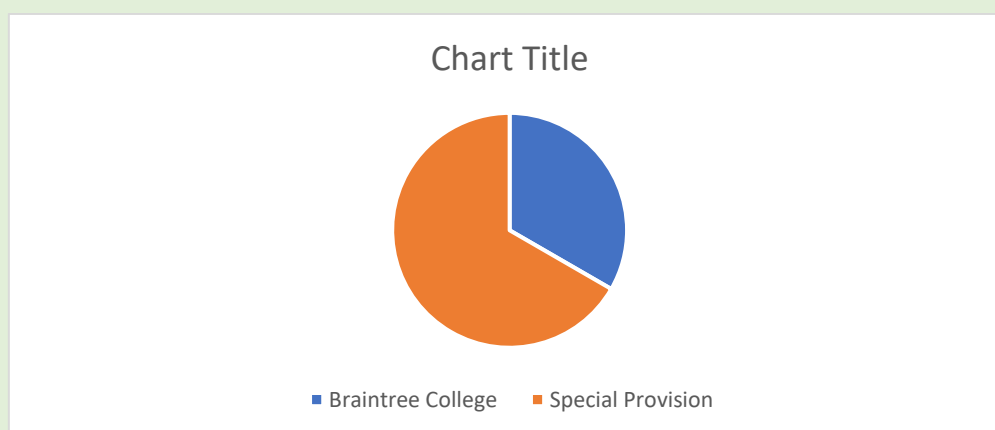
Enhancing these skills enables us to be more effective, potentially have the edge over any competitors and will generally help us to manage our study and working lives better.

You can send any ideas you have for future newsletters to [alisongoode@exceptional-ideas.co.uk](mailto:alisongoode@exceptional-ideas.co.uk)

## DESTINATION DATA 2022 - 2023

Here are the different destinations that our year 11 students moved on to last year:

We transferred students to:



**Braintree college** – a small college which operates as a satellite college to Colchester Institute.

**Chelmsford College Special Provision** – providers who offer students the opportunity to build their skills and independence in a supported environment. This work is done with a view to preparing the students for a course or employment in the future.

**“SKILLS ARE FREEDOM, GET SKILLED UP”**

**- Pat Fulvey, Irish Explorer**

## Our numeracy and literacy improvement drive

We have had a massive drive to improve numeracy and literacy across all schools. This is with a view to improving these skills across all students and, so far, engagement has been fantastic from all. Students are working through levels via the online programmes of 'Lexia Powerup' for English language and 'Mathletics' for maths. Students are encouraged to do 15 minute chunks of these and are beginning to fly through the levels completing many minutes more than scheduled; some students are even doing this at home in their own time. Numeracy and literacy are such an important part of being able to communicate effectively and this work directly links to the types of transferable skills that our students will need in the future, so long may this continue!

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## LMI: Did you know...?

In June to August 2023, there were 32.97 million people aged 16+ in employment in the UK. The employment rate (the proportion of the population aged 16-64 in work) was 75.7%

In the UK there are 11 million people with some form of hearing impairment but as there is only 1 qualified audiologist per 16,805 people to look after their needs their services are in high demand.

From Sept 2025, new qualifications will be available. Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) will be equivalent to one A level specifically to assist learners to progress to higher education. Initially these will be in STEM subjects but will eventually cover Sport, Art, Digital Media, Policing & Criminology and Cyber Security.

Younger workers (under 23) were the most likely to lose employment during the pandemic. This recovered rapidly throughout 2021 and 2022. Currently their employment rates are close to pre-pandemic levels, aided by the tight labour market and strong demand for labour in youth-friendly sectors.

**Spotlight on...**

## **Volunteering**

Volunteering is an excellent way of boosting your general skills and improving your knowledge of the working world. It is also extremely beneficial to the groups you are volunteering for by enabling them to give you work without having to pay you for the luxury of this. Volunteers often work for charities and groups that help others and provide services that can support the needy. Although many volunteering opportunities require you to be over 18 years of age, there are still many options available for young people from the age of 14 and upwards. These opportunities can range from shop work to cleaning and fundraising. Mentioning that you provide your services on a voluntary basis in a CV, job or university application is also well perceived by recruiters. It demonstrates that you value your time and the fact that you are willing to donate that time in the support of others shows that you are a generous, kind and supportive person with a strong work ethic. These are all traits that recruiters for university places and jobs want in their students / employees and are likely to give you the edge over the competition. The additional work experience you will gain and any reference you can provide from a volunteer placement will also give you an added advantage. Just as with a work experience placement, for a voluntary role you would also need to attend on time, follow instructions, give your best efforts and be professional. These behaviours would be demonstrated in a reference whether you are being paid or not.

So where can you find volunteering opportunities?

There are lots of websites that can help but one specifically for the Essex area is:

<https://www.volunteersessex.org/>

You could also approach local services and groups, care homes and charity shops to see if they need volunteers.

Have a look at the website below to understand about your rights as a volunteer, what you can expect and to see more opportunities for this.

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

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**“The simple truth is that in order to become good, you have to be obsessed. You have to put in an awful lot of time and hard work and couple that with desire and unflagging perseverance.”**

*- Yngwie Malmsteen, Swedish Musician*

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## **Enrichment Trips**

**by Lucy Faulkner, Senior Student Mentor for Curriculum**

This year it was decided to introduce enrichment trips into our way of working. The purpose of these trips is to afford our students opportunities they may not ordinarily get or have missed out on previously. These trips enable students to extend subject learning, improve social skills as well as considering career opportunities that may not ordinarily be considered.

In the autumn term we visited Saffron Walden Museum, where students were immersed in both world and local history, with opportunities to discuss careers with the skilled and knowledgeable staff at the museum. The village itself is rich with local history and quaint independent businesses which the students enjoyed visiting in the afternoon.

Our annual panto trip recently took place in December. This allowed students an experience that may have previously been unavailable to them or too overwhelming. Students had the opportunity to discuss all aspects of employment within the theatre and production industry and consider the skills necessary to pursue this avenue.

Oh no it doesn't!...

Oh yes it does!!



SAFFRON WALDEN  
MUSEUM



### **Key dates:**

Friday	02.02.2024	Careers Event – Lost at Sea Challenge
Wednesday	13.03.2024	School Trip for Enrichment
Monday	15.04.2024	Proposed start date of Year 10 mock exams
Friday	26.04.2024	Proposed end date of Year 10 mock exams
Wednesday	15.05.2024	ELC submission date
Friday	31.05.2024	AQA Art submission date

**Next Issue: April 2024**