



Designed by Gauravi Deegwal (9C1)

A WEEK OF CAREERS AT ST BART’S

Last week was an extremely busy one for our Careers Education Programme. On Wednesday we hosted a full day of interviews for our Year 11s and on Thursday it was the return of our brilliant Key Stage 3 Careers Fair. Both events would not be possible without the support of over 70 volunteers; former students, parents and local residents, who generously gave their time... [read more.](#)



CALENDAR:

Y9 Author Visit, KS4 Awards Evening, Sixth Form Parliament Trip, Y10 Reports issued and Y13 Subject Parents’ Evening.

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES:

Legal Solicitor Apprenticeship

VACANCIES:

Teaching Assistant: English as an Additional Language, Teaching Assistant: Personalised Learning and Catering General Assistant.

CCF AUTUMN UPDATE:

Year 10–13 CCF Cadets have had the opportunity to take part in one of two weekends hiking/camping this term



‘SPECTROSCOPY IN A SUITCASE’:

Year 13 Chemists were treated to a problem solving workshop run by Chemists from Southampton University

APPLE PRUNING:

Nestled beside the old cricket pavilion lies a hidden gem of St Bart’s - our school orchard. We are on a mission to restore it to its former glory.



BOOK DONATIONS PLEASE!:

If you are having a book clear out before Christmas, we will be gratefully accepting donations for Jolabokaflod until Monday 9 December.

FAYINA - SWIMMING CHAMPION!:

We are delighted and proud to announce that Fayina (11C2) has again brought multiple medals home from the British Down Syndrome Swimming Championships.



ELSIE DANCES TO THE TOP!:

On 17 November, Elsie (7C2) competed in the annual Mabel Ryan Awards at the Central School of Ballet in London.

FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS:

As a school, we have a variety of different sanitary products that we provide to students for free.

PE:

[St Bart’s in Top 25 Cricket Schools!](#)
[U13 Football](#)
[Year 10 Football](#)
[Year 10 Rugby](#)
[Netball](#)

A WEEK OF CAREERS AT ST BART'S

Last week was an extremely busy one for our Careers Education Programme. On Wednesday we hosted a full day of interviews for our Year 11s and on Thursday it was the return of our brilliant Key Stage 3 Careers Fair. Both events would not be possible without the support of over 70 volunteers; former students, parents and local residents, who generously gave their time to provide these important opportunities for over 1000 of our students. Some volunteers joined us for the first time and many were returning, having supported us in previous years. **St Bart's would like to extend a huge thank you to all those involved.**

Year 11 Interview Day

The Year 11 Interview Day offered students the chance to experience a 'real-life' interview with a representative from the world of work and to work on their employability skills and interview technique. Prior to the day, Year 11s used their PDP sessions to examine the skills required for work, research career choices and to produce CVs and letters of application. On the day itself, each student benefited from an individual mock interview and feedback on their performance from our interviewers.



The event is supported by the Education Business Partnership, and this year the organisations interviewing the students included AWE, Barclays, BWB Technologies, Gardner Leader, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Horsey Lightly, Infineum, Network Rail, Priors Court Foundation, Royal Air Force, TEK Systems, Tutoring Company, University of Winchester and Vodafone. It was fantastic that the volunteers also included former St Bart's students, Hozan Edwards (B2B Technologies), Ellie Evans (AWE), Sabrina Luck (Vodafone), as well as Lois Ryan and Beth Parker (both from Gardner Leader) – now passing on advice to the next generation of St Bart's students!

The feedback from students was fantastic. Here are just some of the comments:

- *"It has given me a greater understanding of what is expected at an interview, what to prepare and what to say."*
- *"I think this experience has helped to make me feel more confident about interviews and given me a better understanding of the interview process."*
- *"Extremely useful, I learnt a lot and I didn't need to be so nervous."*
- *"It was a great first-time experience and I will be more confident knowing what to expect for next time"*
- *It was incredibly insightful, enjoyable and helpful in learning about the interview process."*
- *"I really enjoyed it and found it useful as I now know how to act and what to talk about. I feel really confident and prepared for the future."*
- *"Very positive, I had a lovely interviewer who made me feel more confident!"*



Career Fair

The following day the school hall was buzzing with Year 7, 8 and 9 students exploring the many job roles represented at the annual Career Fair. Amongst others, these included armed forces, air traffic controller, architect, audiologist, broadcaster, buyer, cyber security advisor, customer service manager, designer, doctor,

electrician, estate agent, journalist, lawyer, marketer, musician, occupational therapist, paramedic, plumber, policy maker, radiographer, solicitor, stud manager and youth worker.



Students chatted to volunteers about their day to day responsibilities and tasks and then completed a specially designed booklet to record their conversations. Following the discussions, students then spent time in tutor sessions reviewing all they had learned and their experiences.

"It was really interesting to speak to the Architect. I really enjoy design and he gave me lots of advice about what to study and spoke about how he gained qualifications and got started with his own studio." Holly and Florence (9E2)

"We enjoyed speaking to Joe from the Armed Forces. He explained how his work involved lots of travel, sport and adventure activities like canoeing – it sounded great." Adam (8C1) and Charlie (8E1)

"I chatted to the lady from Careers in the Arts and learnt all about their workshops. I'm an Expressive Arts Rep and so I feel really passionate about getting involved with these subjects." Martha (8E3)



The Careers Fair is a key event in our wider Careers Education Programme and a fantastic opportunity for students to ask employers in person any questions they may have, such as why they chose their career?, what it is like to do their job?, what is their favourite part of their role?, and how did you get into your job? St Bart's is so grateful to all our visitors for giving their time so generously and for their wonderful encouragement of our students. It was great to have such a range of jobs represented and also that, as with the Interview Day, so many former students

were involved in supporting the Careers Fair. Our alumni included Alex Blake (sales consultant), Jeanette Cheeseman (planner) Tom Cole (cyber security advisor), Jonah Hood (apprentice), Melanie Mildenhall (customer service manager), Aidan O'Neill (paramedic), Archie Perks (lawyer) and Joe Seward (doctor).

Our [Careers Programme](#) is all about ensuring that students are informed and inspired about a wide range of opportunities, that they have meaningful encounters with employers and that they are prepared for future pathways – whether this is further education, an apprenticeship or employment. If you are reading this article and thinking that you might be interested in supporting these events in the coming years, please do email our Careers Lead, Mrs Seward, who will add you to next year's contact list (dseward@stbarts.co.uk).

Calendar

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Y9 Author Visit | Thursday 28 November | Hall, P3/5 |
| KS4 Awards Evening (Y12 students) | Thursday 28 November | Hall, 7.00pm |
| Sixth Form Parliament Trip | Monday 2 December | London, all day |
| Y10 Reports issued | Tuesday 3 December | |
| Y13 Subject Parents' Evening | Tuesday 3 December | Remote, 4.30-7.00pm |

[View all school events in our online calendar. Click here to go straight there](#)

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CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

SPOTLIGHT: Legal Solicitor Apprenticeship

Law firm, TLT, is offering a 6-year Legal Solicitor Apprenticeship with the opportunity to grow legal knowledge and business development experience whilst studying for a law degree. [Find out more and apply here.](#)

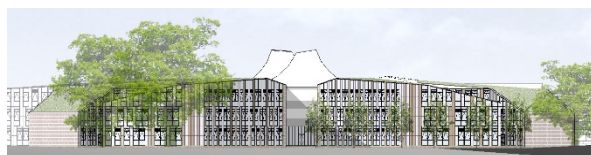
St Bart's Careers Education Programme is delivered through PSHE lessons, assemblies and a portfolio of careers events. [More information on the programme can be found on our website.](#) You will also find [Careers Guidance](#) and [Further Resources](#) on our website, in addition to information about how parents, carers and local businesses can [get involved](#) in our careers events.

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VACANCIES

TEACHING ASSISTANT: ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

We are looking for a Teaching Assistant (EAL) to join us as soon as possible on a permanent basis.



We are looking for someone to work with teachers in the delivery of differentiated high quality lessons, and to support students, where English is an additional language, in their learning and development and encourage them to participate in all aspects of school life. We are seeking applicants with good educational qualifications and organisational ability, who have empathy with students, and are able to motivate and encourage them.

HOURS: Up to 30 hours and 30 minutes per week working Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 3.10pm, Friday 8.30am to 2.50pm, term-time only, plus 5 training days per year. *We would be happy to consider fewer hours, to fit in with individual and school requirements.*

SALARY: £24,404.00 - £25,992.00 gross pa (£12.65 - £13.47 per hour), term-time. Starting salary £17,245.30 gross pa for 30.5 hours pw.

Closing date: Sunday 8th December 2024

TEACHING ASSISTANT: PERSONALISED LEARNING

We are searching for a Teaching Assistant to join us as soon as possible on a permanent basis. You may be looking for a Teaching Assistant post or wondering what it is like to work in a school and looking to gain some experience before applying for teacher training. Either way we'd love to hear from you.

We are looking for someone to work with teachers in the delivery of differentiated high quality lessons, and to support students in their learning and development and encourage them to participate in all aspects of school life. We are seeking applicants with good educational qualifications and organisational ability, who have empathy with students and are able to motivate and encourage them.

HOURS: Up to 30 hours and 30 minutes per week working Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 3.10pm, Friday 8.30am to 2.50pm, term-time only, plus 5 training days per year. *We would be happy to consider fewer hours, to fit in with individual and school requirements.*

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Closing date: Sunday 8 December 2024

CATERING GENERAL ASSISTANT

We are looking for a part-time Catering General Assistant to join us as soon as possible on a fixed term basis until 31 May 2025.

We are looking for someone to join our Catering team providing healthy food for our students and staff. Previous experience in a catering environment and a basic knowledge of food hygiene would be an advantage, however, full training will be given.

HOURS: 17 hours and 30 minutes per week, Monday to Friday 10.30am to 2.15pm (including a 15-minute break), term-time only, plus 5 training days pro rata.

SALARY: £23,656.00 - £25,183.00 gross pa (£12.26 - £13.05 per hour), pro rata for part-time, term-time. Starting salary equates to £9,591.56 gross pa.

To find out more details about all the roles, and to apply, please [click here](#) and scroll to the bottom.

Closing date: Monday 9 December 2024

All applicants shortlisted will be subject to an online search. Successful candidates will be subject to a DBS enhanced check along with other relevant employment checks.

Tel: 01635 521255 E-mail: recruitment@stbarts.co.uk

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CCF AUTUMN UPDATE

Adventurous Training Weekends Autumn 2024

Year 10–13 CCF Cadets have had the opportunity to take part in one of two weekends hiking/camping this term.

In September, 11 cadets completed two days on Dartmoor. Leaving Friday lunchtime, we travelled to the campsite and then enjoyed a fish and chip dinner after setting up the tents.



On Saturday, we had a 18km hike across the challenging South Moor, with great opportunities to learn how to navigate and choose better routes through tricky terrain. Both groups used these skills to successfully locate the well-hidden (in the middle of nowhere!) Ducks Pool letterbox (Dartmoor's version of a geocache) and returned to camp in good time. There were also encounters with the Dartmoor wildlife, including the rare sighting of an adder and many wild fungi. Mr Talbot was the expert in spotting these! The Year 10 cadets then had their first experience of army ration pack meals.

Sunday's activities included a shorter walk, with more bog and some woods. The weather was kind, and the rain didn't set in until the last half an hour of our walking.

In November, 25 cadets travelled to the Isle of Wight for a different walking experience and army beds instead of tents. The weather was ideal for walking with no wind or rain (the weekend before Storm Bert!) and we were able to enjoy the views across the channel and back to the mainland as we walked along the cliff tops. One group also managed to find "bramble alley", to add some discomfort and extra challenge to their walk on Sunday. There were also several encounters with the local farm animals – pigs, cows, sheep, horses, and also the odd (model) dinosaur.



Both trips were a great success and we look forward now to the upcoming Ten Tors training (see Mrs Scourfield ASAP if you are in Year 10 or 12 and interested in getting involved with this) and to a full week trip at the start of the Easter holidays – if you are in CCF, keep an eye on the notices for more information about this soon.

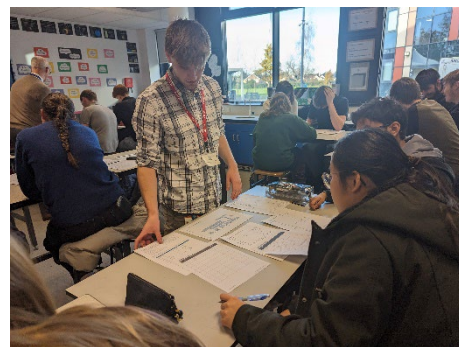
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'SPECTROSCOPY IN A SUITCASE'

Year 13 Chemists were treated to a problem solving workshop run by Chemists from Southampton University. Our students had the opportunity to have a go at using an infra-red spectrometer that cost over £16,000. Alongside the results from this, students also completed a series of problem solving exercises to identify eight unknown chemicals. A real highlight of the afternoon was using the spectrometer to analyse a



sample of aspirin that the Sixth Formers had made earlier in the term. Comparison with a sample of pure aspirin showed that the student sample was of high purity too.



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APPLE PRUNING

Nestled beside the old cricket pavilion lies a hidden gem of St Bart's - our school orchard. Though time has taken its toll in recent years, we are on a mission to restore it to its former glory, and crucially, to preserve the knowledge we gain on how to care for it, so that it can be appreciated for many generations to come.

Last week marked the beginning of this journey as The Horticult, our KS4 co-curricular Horticulture group, welcomed local apple expert, Tony Hammond, for a masterclass in apple tree pruning.

During this hands-on session, we discovered that while there's no single "correct" approach to pruning, several key principles guide the process:



- The "One-Third Rule": Conservation is key - never remove more than a third of the tree's total growth in a single pruning session
- Sunlight and Air Flow: Proper spacing between branches ensures adequate sunlight penetration and fruit ripening
- Disease Prevention: Regular removal of shrivelled fruit and crossed branches significantly reduces disease risk
- Variety Matters: Different apple varieties have distinct optimal harvesting times, making identification skills crucial
- Quality Over Quantity: Strategic branch removal promotes healthier apples

We practiced identifying the new year's growth, and branches that needed attention, particularly those growing in awkward directions that could affect the tree's overall health and productivity. The session emphasised that pruning is about making informed choices rather than following strict rules. Next year, keep an eye out for our apple harvest - hopefully it will be a good one!

Tony also shared a charming story about a local Newbury apple variety called the *Miller's Seedling*, the "local dance apple." This unique tradition ties into the apple's late-August picking season, which aligns with the

August bank holiday. In the past, it was apparently customary to offer this specific apple to someone as a way of inviting them to dance.

We're fascinated by this delightful piece of local history and would love to learn more! If you or someone you know has any stories about these "apple dances" or similar traditions, please don't hesitate to email us at sustainability@stbarts.co.uk

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BOOK DONATIONS PLEASE!

St Bart's are celebrating [Jolabokaflod](#) (Icelandic for 'Christmas book flood') again! Students will be able to give a book to one another by choosing from our 'Book Grotto'.

If you are having a clear out before Christmas, we will be gratefully accepting donations in the Library (from students) or Reception (from parents) until Monday 9 December.

We will celebrate Jolabokaflod together on Friday 13 December at Activity Time when books can be exchanged. Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to take part. Students wishing to take part can sign up using a Google form sent out this week on Satchel One.



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FAYINA - SWIMMING CHAMPION!

We are delighted and proud to announce that Fayina (11C2) has again bought multiple medals home from the British Down Syndrome Swimming Championships. She won bronze medals in the 16 and under age category in 50m and 100m freestyle and a silver medal in the 100m individual medley in the same category.

Fayina came first in the 50m backstroke in a time that earned her the bronze medal in the overall age category. She was the only swimmer on the podium who was not a member of the GB National team!

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ELSIE DANCES TO THE TOP!

On 17 November Elsie (7C2) competed in the annual Mabel Ryan Awards at the Central School of Ballet in London.

Elsie is learning ballet at West Berkshire Ballet School and studying for her Grade 4. Dancing in her age category alongside a group of 38 dancers Elsie was really pleased to have won the Performance Award! It was her first competition and she was surprised to have won. Congratulations Elsie.



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FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS

As a school, we have a variety of different sanitary products that we provide to students for free. Students can take as many products as they need but can also take products from our free dispensers around the school. As the Christmas holidays approach, we are keen to provide our students with some products to take home over Christmas. Please encourage your child to pop into P033 (Mrs Cordiner and Miss Thorne's Office) or their House Office to get supplies. Another option is to order a free box of supplies from [here](#). All details can be found on the website.

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PE

St Bart's in Top 25 Cricket Schools!

We are delighted to have been named among the Top 25 state schools nationally for cricket in The Cricketer magazine's illustrious Schools Guide for 2025. This year is the first time in the decade-long history of the publication that our sector has had its own category – and there we are, rubbing shoulders with numerous grammars and sixth form colleges that are essentially specialist cricket academies!

According to The Cricketer, the entrants “were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching”. A beaming but uncaptioned Leo (now Y11) is our pictured individual. Perhaps most gratifying of all was to see Reading School declare their “Finest moment on the field” to be winning the inaugural Toby Radford Trophy, the competition we invented last year for state-school 1st XIs. Copies of the guide can be bought [here](#), although it also comes packaged with the Christmas edition of the magazine, which is a little cheaper and features a festive celebration – “Joe Ho Ho!” – of England's leading Test run scorer. Available from all good newsagents, as they say.



U13 Football

In what had to be one of the coldest fixtures Miss Bilcliff had ever attended, our U13 girls played the next round of their English Schools Cup against Piggott School in snow/rain/freezing temperatures. We knew it would be a tough game, as Piggott are always a strong team in every age group so had to be up for it from the start. The girls duly obliged and Alice put us ahead within the first minute with a great strike, full of power, that gave the keeper no chance. However, a minute later Piggott equalised after the ball fell kindly from a fantastic Lucia block to their attacker and gave our keeper, Freya, no hope.

After that, St Bart's played some fantastic football, being the better side for the remainder of the first half. This resulted in Lucia scoring just before half-time to give us a deserved 2-1 lead. The second half was almost one way traffic with Piggott pinning us in our half for large majorities of the game. Piggott made some changes and came out flying. It only seemed a matter of time before they scored, despite us defending resolutely and restricting them to very few shots. Some heroic defending from Hattie, Izzy, Rose and Lucia wasn't enough to keep them out and they equalised with 15 minutes to go.

Piggott pushed for the winner. Although St Bart's were dangerous on the counter neither side could grab the important 3rd goal. Due to the worsening light, it was straight to penalties with 3 from each team needing to step up. We won the toss and Jessie (captain) chose for us to go first, which meant Alice was up. Alice buried hers in the top corner. 1-0 Bart's. Freya got a hand to the first Piggott penalty but not enough on it, so 1-1. Jessie stepped up for the 2nd and also blasted hers home to make it 2-1. Piggott's best player and captain then took their next one but hit the bar, meaning Amy had the chance to win it for us. Amy had nerves of steel and placed it beautifully in the bottom left, leaving us 3-1 winners in the penalty shootout and into the next round. A fantastic game of football from both sides, with neither side deserving to lose, but St Bart's progressing and doing us all proud. Well done to every single girl who battled hard, never gave up and survived the freezing conditions!

Year 10 Football

Well done to the Year 10 girls' football teams who played in their second round of West Berkshire league fixtures on Thursday evening.

The A team beat Trinity School, 1-0

The A team beat Kennet School B team, 1-0

The B team beat Park House School, 1-0

Some really nice football played by both teams. We are looking forward to the finals night on Thursday 5 December.

Year 10 Rugby

The Year 10 Rugby team played Park House under lights at Newbury RFC.

The game was always going to be a strongly contested one, with a large number of boys from both teams who play together for Newbury. St Bart's defended for large parts of the game, the large powerful Park House School forwards making a lot of ground, and St Bart's showed great resilience, and also played some good rugby themselves with ball in hand and tactical kicking. The half time score (taken for the league score) was 32-0 to Park House School. In the second half a St Bart's continued to compete, and scored three excellent tries of their own. The final score was 64-17 to Park House School.

Tries were scored by Deacon Cullum (1), who also kicked a conversion, and Antonio Valdivia (2).

Players of the match were Henry Wilson, for his brilliant tackling and work at the breakdown, and Will Mason for his leadership.

Netball

We took 5 teams to play some netball against Kennet School on Wednesday.

Yr12 had the luxury of playing inside and beat Kennet School, 18-12, with Chloe and Mya being awarded best player.

Despite the freezing temperatures, the girls all performed really well subbing on and off with ease and making sure everyone kept warm.

Year 7 lost 9-13, best players were Polly and Flo,

Year 8 won 31-1! Best players were Maya and Liv

Year 9 won 19-5, best players were Sasha and Daisy

Year 11 won 21-11, best players were Izzy and Ava.

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers and parents for their support on a very cold night.

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STUDENT EQUIPMENT LIST

You must have the following items with you in school at all times.

Pens: 2 x black
1 x blue
1 x green



Pencils x 2



Ruler



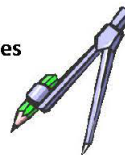
Eraser



Pencil Case

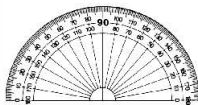


Pair of Compasses



Calculator

Protractor



Reading Book



Glue Stick



Highlighter



Year 7-10 Don't forget to charge and bring your Chromebooks!



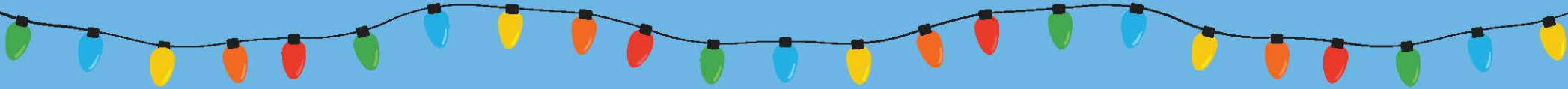
Equipment must not be shared between students and staff will be unable to issue any missing equipment.

Click and find us:



facebook





St Bart's Jolabokaflod 2024

Open for donations until Monday 9th December

Donate your good condition books to the Library or Reception for our students and staff to gift to others in our school community!



Jolabokaflod is a heartwarming Icelandic Christmas tradition in which books are exchanged as a Christmas Eve present, and friends and family celebrate a cosy and festive night together reading.



6.30pm Main Hall

Tickets available on parentpay £2 each



OXFORDSHIRE
WILTSHIRE
BERKSHIRE
TEACHER TRAINING

West Berkshire Hub



Explore Teacher Training Opportunities in your Local Area!

Are you a **graduate** looking for a rewarding career where you can truly make a difference? A **career changer** considering a move into teaching? Or a **final year university student** looking for their next step? This is the perfect opportunity for you!

Join us at our Teacher Training Information Event!

When: Tuesday 10th December 2024

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Where: St Bartholomew's School, Newbury, RG14 6JP

Register for free at:

<https://downlandalliance.org.uk/>



Full and part time options

Paid apprenticeship route

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Assessment Only Route

www.ott-scitt.org.uk

