



Thank you for reading our last bulletin of this half term. Like many of its' predecessors, this update is opportunities themed, with the Lower Sixth specifically in mind. To celebrate Liverpool winning the FA Cup for the eighth time, here are eight things for this year group to consider.

1. On Friday 20th May (12.20pm, Barnes Theatre). we are hosting OS Bob Sawers who is presenting on the theme of 'Effective Leadership'. Bob (Rt 99-04) is a crisis specialist and former Major in the British Army. He has led teams from 3 to 300 people across combat operations in Afghanistan, counter-ISIS missions in Iraq and in Whitehall, where he directed a government counterterrorism and national resilience unit. Since leaving the Army in 2020, he has provided risk, resilience and crisis consultancy to public and private sector clients. Bob currently works for the insurance broker Marsh in their Strategic Risks Consulting team. He has an MBA from Northampton University and a BA (Hons) from Newcastle University.
2. After two years of disruption, university open and taster days are very much up and running again. I personally find this [website](#), which was actually set up locally by a Shropshire professional, really helpful for identifying a range of opportunities. Utilise this and platforms such as the UCAS [site](#) to start to get some [visits](#) booked in.
3. As well as hosting reams upon reams of helpful information, Unifrog has increased the number of webinars it delivers significantly in the past eighteen months. Scrolling through the programme for the next month via this [link](#) there is a fantastic range of talks available, varying from presentations on studying Liberal Arts to working in the media. Take five minutes to have a look and register for those of interest.
4. This Monday (23rd May, Societies Hour) we'll be hosting a drop-in session in the Futures Department for any Sixth Formers looking to gain a work experience placement over the summer holidays. As well as having some fantastic opportunities via the OS Network, there are a range of national possibilities to consider. Here are three: [Discovery Work Experience \(kpmgcareers.co.uk\)](#), [Engineering Taster Weeks | BAE Systems | International](#), [Work Experience at GKN Aerospace](#)
5. Talking of the OS Network, a reminder to begin to utilise the OS Connect platform you registered on last month. With over one thousand OS professionals and university students on the site, this is an amazing resource to enable you to make valuable connections for the future. Please contact the department if you are keen to speak to a particular individual.
6. You will have heard me mention Degree Apprenticeships and I would really encourage you to explore this option alongside your university research. By no means suitable for everyone, the opportunity to gain a degree, earn a full time salary, have tuition fees paid and a guaranteed job at the end of the programme may be appealing. We hosted a [talk](#) on this topic last term, which may be of interest as a starting point if you were unable to attend.
7. We have had a few visits this week about planning for a gap year. I would argue strongly that if you are considering this option, just as much research is required into this route as any other. There's lots of helpful guides online as a starting point, with this one being fairly [helpful](#).
8. Finally, and breaking news, neither Mr Percival or I are mind readers. We are in the process of planning a UCAS afternoon next half term, but really need you to complete this [form](#) so we can shape it accordingly. You have had lots of reminders, if you have not done so already, please get this filled in!

Best wishes,

Mr Wain