



OPPORTUNITY GAZETTE

Seize the opportunity

This project has been operating since the Spring/Summer 2009. It is aimed at young people aged between 16 and 19 (and over if with LDD). Connexions will provide young people with travel expenses and lunch money (depending on the provider) and some incentives. Young people will also acquire an AQA accreditation once they have successfully completed the programme

Brentford FC Community Trust

Volunteering

The volunteer programme at Brentford FC CST continues to flourish with more and more individuals registering. The programme offers great opportunities to coach in different areas, in different sports, gain qualifications, gain admin experience and be part of a dedicated and enthusiastic staffing team.

If people have any questions regarding the Kickz project or would like to view any of the sessions please do not hesitate to contact the PAs at the Attic who will refer them to Brentford FCCST.

Brentford FCCST will refer to IYSS young volunteers who have completed/or almost completed their schemes and are now interested in gaining experience in another field of work. These young people should have already had a CRB check and therefore they would be suitable to be immediately referred for a placement where a CRB check would be essential without a long wait. They are also eligible to join any other available project (please check requirements for each case). The opportunity on IYSS Core+ is n. 67. Chris Edwards is our contact for the organization

Hogarth House

Hogarth House is the newest addition to the Seize the Opportunity project. The programme will run all year around for 2 days per week for a total of 12 hours per week, from 11.30am to 5.30pm with ½ lunch break. Placement days might vary and will be negotiated. They are looking for one enthusiastic young person who is reliable, able to be responsible for Customer Care and the cataloguing and collection caring arrangements within the House. S/he will be also dealing visitor services and exhibition and event organising. The opportunity is n. 8005136 on IYSS Core+. The young person will receive paid travel expenses, up to £3 per day for lunch money and can work towards an AQA accreditation.

Care to Care

An exciting project aimed at changing young people's ideas around volunteering and acquiring experience and qualifications. This is the right move for all young people who would like to acquire experience working with animals, toddlers and children. This project is aimed to all young people aged between 16 and 19 (and up to 25 if with LDD). Connexions will provide young people with travel expenses and lunch money as incentives. Young people who are able to fit their work experience in the prescribed numbers of hours will be able to work towards an AQA accreditation in Job Readiness. When working with babies, toddlers, children, teen agers and vulnerable people, candidates will need a CRB check.

Cultivate London

Cultivate London is an innovative urban farm based across different location in West London. They produce a range of herbs for sale to London households, restaurants and shops.

Cultivate London have three main objectives:

- To convert derelict and vacant land across London into productive food growing space
- To generate training opportunities and jobs for unemployed young people aged 16-25 in practical horticulture
- To reduce carbon emissions associated with food production and transportation.

Cultivate London was established in January 2011 by [Ealing and Brentford Consolidated Charity](#). This provider has now joined the CTC project. The Managing Director and MR have agreed that Cultivate London will take on some young people to do 12 weeks work experience (12 hours per week). Young people will have their travel expenses reimbursed (from Connexions) and the provider will supply them with lunch. This organization is quite new and what they do is extremely good and a great idea to revitalize and use proficiently what was a quite derelict car park. This new opportunity on IYSS Core+ and it's n. 8004760.

Young people who successfully complete the work experience period on the project will receive their work references, the AQA accreditation and if they are really committed to a career in Horticulture, they might have the chance to be put through an apprenticeship through Capel Manor College. The provider thinks that this is a wonderful way to gauge young people's commitment and make sure they will succeed.

Extended Day Care Team

This opportunity will be useful to young people prepared to gain work experience working with older children rather than babies and toddlers (nurseries). The scheme will start as soon as the clients referred receive their CRB clearance.

The contact is Sharon Oliver. The programme will run for 4 days per week and the duration of the placement is 12 weeks. Young people will be working from 3pm to 6pm. Days of work to be agreed within the placement. Young people must be prepared to help supervise children aged 4-11 years. Young people will help to organise games and activities, prepare snacks, engage with the children and keep the aftercare setting tidy and organised. They will be taking on 3 young people aged between 16 and 19 who will be based in schools in the Hounslow borough. Young people can claim paid travel expenses only. One of the places has currently been filled and 2 are now remaining. The opportunity n. on IYSS Core+ is 75.

Little Georges Nursery

The contact for referrals is Chandi Dharmawickrama. The programme will run for 2 days per week and they will be taking on one candidate. The programme will run on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 4pm with ½ hour lunch break. The duration of the placement is 12 weeks. The successful candidate must be prepared to take care of children and toddlers. Duties include helping to feed them, playing with them, organising different activities such as story telling and keeping the nursery tidy. The successful candidate must be aged between 16 and 19 years and will need a CRB check. The opportunity n. is 8004739 on IYSS Core+.

Places for Children

The contact for referrals is Maria Darby. The programme will run for 2 days per week and up to 4 young people can participate. This will be on Mondays & Tuesday for 2 young people and Wednesdays & Thursdays for 2 other young people from 9am to 4pm with a 1 hour lunch break. The duration of the placement is 12 weeks. Young people must be prepared to take care of children and toddlers. Duties include helping to feed them, playing with them, organising activities and keeping the nursery tidy. They will be taking on one young person aged between 16 and 19. The opportunity n. is 40 on IYSS Core+.

Buttercups Nursery

The contact is Annoo Walia. The programme will run for 2 days per week and up to 4 young people can participate. This will be on Mondays & Tuesday for 2 young people and Wednesdays & Thursdays for 2 other young people from 9am to 4pm with 1 hour lunch break. The duration of this programme is 12 weeks. Young people must be prepared to take care of children and toddlers. Young people will help to feed them, play with them, organise activities and keeping the nursery tidy. They will be taking on one young person aged between 16 and 19. The opportunity n. is 43 on IYSS Core+.

Giggles Nursery

The contact is Tegan Lodge. The programme will run for 2 days per week and up to 2 young people can participate. This will be on Mondays & Tuesday for one young person and Wednesdays & Fridays for the other young people from 9am to 4pm with 1 hour lunch break (or a shorter lunch and two negotiable breaks during the day). The duration of this programme is 12 weeks. Young people must be prepared to take care of babies and toddlers. Young people will help to feed them, play with them, organise activities and keeping the nursery tidy. They will be taking on one young person aged between 16 and 19. The opportunity n. is 65 on IYSS Core+.

George's Pre School Ltd (Day Nursery)

The contact is Nabila Ali. This programme will run for 2 days per week and 1 young person at all times can participate. This means that once a young person finishes his/her placement, another one can start. PAs will refer candidates who will have an interview with Nabila and a trial day at the nursery before PAs send for their CRB check. Candidates will be starting on the programme as soon as they receive their CRB check clearance. This will be on Thursdays & Fridays from 8.30am to 1pm with a reasonable break. The duration of this programme is 12 weeks. Young people must be prepared to take care of toddlers and young children. Young people will help to feed them, play with them, organise activities and keeping the nursery tidy. They

will be taking on one young person aged between 16 and 19. The opportunity n. 76 is on IYSS Core+.

Hounslow Youth Counselling Service

The experience will last 12 weeks. The successful candidate will be acquiring experience in Administration & IT Data Entry/Website Maintenance.

MR and Patricia David agreed that the programme would run for 2 days per week. However, the contact for any referral is now Sue Arnitt. The successful candidate will work on Tuesdays & Wednesdays between 10am to 4pm with ½ hour lunch. The IYSS Core+ n. for this is 54.

Shopping for Skills

This project aims to help young people wishing to work in the future within the retail industry. The project will involve local retail and customer care businesses offering 12 weeks work experience to young people. Young people will volunteer between 10 and 16 hours per week. They will be able to work towards an AQA in Job Readiness in Customer Care/Retails. They will receive incentives and also claim travel expenses and up to £3 lunch money. They will receive references and be in a very good position to apply for a paid vacancy if the opportunity arises.

The Hub Cafe

MR and Mandy Smith agreed that 2 young people aged between 16 & 19 (up to 24 if with LDD) could work at the Hub Café as part of the Shopping for Skills project. The work experience will last 12 weeks. Young people will work in the Café Monday to Friday from 11am to 2pm. They will receive in house training about Food Hygiene. IYSS Connexions will reimburse travel expenses to young people participating to this scheme. Young people might also work achieving an AQA in Job Readiness once they complete their placement. Young people will need to have common sense, be enterprising and have good communication and social skills. They will work in the Café and help preparing lunches, snacks and beverages, tidying up and organise things for the following day. The opportunity n. on IYSS Core+ is 74.

ASDA

There are 6 places on offer for young people aged 18 and 19 years. They are also looking for a highly motivated young person who is genuinely interested in the retail/customer care industry, with good communication skills, well presented and willing to learn.

The opportunity is n. 53 on IYSS Core+. To refer young people, please fill in a general referral form (it's on Core+ in "other documents") and leave the signed copy

with MR (or post it to MR or leave in her pigeonhole). She will round up all the referrals and give them to Dipti at ASDA. She will let us know who she wishes to interview and give the team some dates/times for interviews. Dipti would like for the group of 6 to start at the same time, so they can go through their induction together and work as a group.

WH Smith

The WH Smith placement is currently suspended due to staff change as Geeta Odedra (Placement Manager) has left. MR will keep everyone up to date with any new developments.

More news

Taste 4 Success

This is a new Connexions Hounslow led project that MR has recently set up for young people who are NEET. It consists of 5-6 weeks of work tasting and preparation in selected occupational areas. The second intake will be starting on the week commencing 27th May 2013. Young people will attend a 6 weeks (6 hours per week) provision which will be based partly at the Hounslow Adult Education Beavers Lodge salon (Fridays) and partly at a Hounslow Adult Education location (Wednesdays). On this second intake, young people will explore Hair & Beauty careers (work tasting at a salon), coupled with Maths & English skills. Connexions Personal Advisers will be referring suitable candidates for this provision. MR will conduct interviews at Hounslow JCP and the Attic to select suitable candidates. The opportunity n. on IYSS Core+ is 8005254.

Prince's Trust Volunteers

The Prince's Trust Team Programme is starting in 2013 for its second intake. It is a 12 week course that can help you change young people's life by helping them to acquire new and useful skills.

When does it start?

Twickenham Prince's Trust Team Programme starts on **20th May 2013** at Prince's Trust, Ivybridge Linkcentre, Summerwood Road, Isleworth, TW7 7QR.

For the Southall & Acton team, dates are as follows:

Start dates:

- 13th May, Acton Team
- 20th May, Southall Team

Who is this course for?

- Anyone aged between 16 and 25 years who are not in employment, education or training.
- What does this course involve?

- Working with other people as part of a Team.
- An outdoor activities week away with a focus on teambuilding.
- Fundraising, planning and managing their own projects in their community with their Team.
- Two weeks in a work placement of their choice.
- An unforgettable journey which will improve their job prospects and personal skills.

How can this course change young people's life?

- Leads to a nationally recognised Prince's Trust Certificate in Employment, Teamwork and Community Skills.
- Improve their communication and teamwork skills and build your self-confidence.
- Over 80% of their Team Members go onto further education, employment or training.

They cover travel expenses for people on the course and may provide childcare costs too. Participants can still claim Job Seekers Allowance / other benefits whilst on the course.

Any young people who may be interested in joining the programme can self refer or contact their PAs. For further information, please contact David Roughan, Prince's Trust Team Leader, at mortlake.pt@south-thames.ac.uk or phone 0208 607 9411/ 07775 022 299 for the Twickenham team and Alice Brown for the Southall & Acton Team on 0208 231 6304 or contact her at alice.brown@wlc.ac.uk

'Get Into Hospitality' is a course delivered with St Ermin's Hotel in Westminster.

The course is open to all young people from London boroughs between the ages of 16-25.

The Prince's Trust and AJW Marriott Hotel are offering a free two-week course in central London, which gives young people work experience in the hospitality industry. This will take place in April 2013.

Opportunities:

- Get hands-on training in key hospitality skills
- Have the opportunity to shadow a variety of roles within the hotel before completing a placement within one of the departments
- Learn about careers and prospects within the industry
- Receive employability training delivered by the hotel's senior management team
- Have the option of 6 months progression mentoring support post programme to help young people get into employment or training.

What young people need to know:

- Employability Day – Tuesday 9th April 2013
- Taster day – Thursday 11th April 2013
- Main Programme – 15th – 26th April 2013
- They will provide lunch and travel during the programme

To refer a young person, please fill in a referral form and send back to this address: The Prince's Trust, South of England Region, Prince's Trust House, 9 Eldon Street, London, EC2M 7LS.

For more information please call Michaela Mayes on 0207 543 1451 or email gilondon@princes-trust.org.uk

'Get started in Fashion ASOS' - Prince's Trust and ASOS will be running a one week programme in April for young people who are passionate about Fashion and Design and are not currently in employment, education or training. This course is only available to 16-25 year olds who live in one of the Greater London Boroughs.

Skills Gained

- learn how to redesign charity shop 'finds' and sell them on the ASOS website
- put fashion ideas together on a 'mood board'
- visit an ASOS factory and learn about the product development process
- learn how to use a digital camera to create 'street style' fashion images
- meet experienced on-line vintage clothes sellers and get some selling tips
- an opportunity to meet new people and build confidence.

Dates

- Taster Day - Wednesday 24th April
- This programme runs from 29th April to 3rd May. Lunch and Travel will be provided during the main programme.

For more information please call Mo Fatah on 07887 884 658 or email gslondon@princes-trust.org.uk

vInspired Cashpoint

vInspired's popular **vInspired cashpoint** youth fund is giving away grants of up to **£500** for young people aged **14-25** to lead their own community projects. Ffion Evans, a vInspired Cashpoint Coordinator, will host short sessions aimed at young people aged 14-25 who want to volunteer to make a difference in their communities and gain experience in project management, budgeting, marketing and managing volunteers.

The short sessions includes

- Case studies and ideas to generate ideas for community projects
- Top notch advice on how to write a successful grant application
- How vInspired cashpoint can promote skills for enterprise and turn your passions into social enterprise

Website: www.vInspired.com/cashpoint

More about vInspired:

[vInspired](#) helps young people discover the value of volunteering and social action – for themselves and for others. They believe that young people gain invaluable experience through volunteering, which lays the foundations for enterprise and employment and does good in the community. Established in 2006 they have delivered more than one million volunteering opportunities for young people across England. Their online volunteering hub, [vInspired.com](#) has helped 130,000 young people discover exciting opportunities to do good things with 1,800 different organisations.

Gothinkbig

O2 has joined forces with Bauer Media, the owner of Heat Magazine, to create up to 30,000 opportunities over three years, ranging from one-day work-shadowing schemes to one-year internships, for young people to gain skills and experience in the world of work. Young people who show potential will have a greater chance of getting onto graduate jobs schemes or gain further positions within the company, an O2 spokesman said. Of the 9,000 or so placements expected to be created between both companies over the next year, some 6,000 will be one, two or three-day “fast track” placements teaching young people unique skills, such as how to code using html or manage editorial publishing systems. A further 1,300 places are reserved for two-week work experience schemes, giving young people the chance to learn different areas of the business, and 550 candidates will go on internships lasting between six months and a year. The remaining places will be used to create volunteering work in the local community, the companies said as they launched their campaign called **Gothinkbig**. The chief executive of O2, said he is looking for other businesses to offer a similar range of experience days and opportunities, to help the young people gain the vital skills needed to become employable. A survey of 1,125 young people aged 16 to 25, conducted to coincide with the launch of GoThinkBig, found a third could not secure work skills and experience relevant to their chosen career. Of 500 UK businesses surveyed, over two thirds said they do not formalise opportunities for young people – despite fewer than a quarter saying education is more important than experience. For more information on the opportunities available please visit <http://www.gothinkbig.co.uk/opportunities>

VSO ICS- for UK organisations

Introduction to ICS

ICS is a global volunteering experience which supports young people from all backgrounds to make a real difference to some of the world’s poorest people. This initiative was launched by the Prime Minister in March

2011, and is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID); in March 2012 it received confirmed funding from DFID to deliver the project until 2015. The programme will give thousands of 18-25 year olds across the UK the chance to join in the fight against global poverty.

How does ICS work?

ICS is led by VSO in partnership with Restless Development, Raleigh International, International Service, Tearfund and Progressio. The programme has three clear stages:

1. ICS volunteers start their journey while still at home, preparing, training, fundraising and starting to build their understanding of what they will be doing on the programme overseas.
2. Overseas, ICS volunteers from the UK, work alongside in country ICS volunteers, on projects that have specifically requested ICS support – where the energy and skills of young volunteers can make a direct impact. No ICS project stands alone – all ICS teams work as part of a wider development programme. Programmes are 10-12 weeks long and VSO ICS programmes focus activities within key sectors: Health, education, sexual reproductive health, livelihoods, environment, strengthening civil society. Volunteers will live with a national counterpart in a local host home, volunteer with a national counterpart for local civil society organisations and take part in youth led team volunteering and learning days.
3. All ICS volunteers, from the UK and in country, carry out Action at Home after their work placement has finished. This might be social action that raises awareness about the work they have done or supports a project that is going on in their home community.

- **They are looking for-** Volunteers need to be UK residents, aged 18 to 25. In particular they are looking to recruit young people currently under represented on the ICS programme. In particular these are young people not currently in education, employment or training (NEET). Volunteers don’t need any specific qualifications or experience – just the passion and commitment to get involved.
- **The deal-** [VSO ICS](#) is open to everyone, All volunteers are asked to fundraise as part of their journey and no one will be excluded on grounds of cost. Volunteers receive professional support to help them meet their goal. Accommodation, a volunteer allowance, food, flights, visas, travel and medical insurance, medication and vaccines are all provided. Funding is also available to enable young people with additional support needs to take part. Two [VSO ICS](#) supervisors support each team of volunteers, helping them achieve

all they can, and there's official recognition for taking part.

- **The outcome** - ICS volunteers' work is of genuine value to the organisation and community and is always part of a wider development programme. ICS will create 14,000 young people worldwide who are global citizens and advocates for positive social change.
- **Marketing** – Interested people can follow the thread on [facebook](#) and follow them also on twitter @vsoyouth. For all the info visit www.vso-ics.org.uk.
- **Recruiting now** - 18-25 year olds for overseas voluntary work- a once in a life time experience- [VSO ICS](#) VSO-ICS is recruiting 18-25 year olds now to take part in 12 week projects in developing countries such as Ethiopia, India and Nigeria.
- **Young people don't need cash or qualifications to get involved** - just the ambition to make a difference in some of the world's poorest communities.
- **To find out more and also to apply**, interested young people can take a look at www.vso-ics.org.uk and speak with the organisation they heard about this opportunity from.

Slenky

www.slenky.com is a purposed social platform, connecting young people to their 'Shot' (opportunities of all description). Slenky is a socially-responsible platform (e.g. no advertising) bringing shots across all sectors to one central location, where interaction with supportive agencies and the sharing of shots with peers on Slenky and other social networks (Facebook, Twitter etc.) takes place. Young people are the most powerful servers of relevant info and Ambassadors of opportunity to their peers, and Slenky reduces unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and obstacles, empowering young people to directly connect large peer networks to agencies - based upon their individual interests and aspirations. Slenky 'Inspires' with content featuring young people and generates success 'Stories' of young people taking their shot. Slenky provides opportunities to interact at 'Events' and engage young people via 'Competitions'. These are shots and experiences that can change lives, perhaps by a nudge forward or in huge strides. Slenky connects 13-24 year olds with shots such as work experience, volunteering, jobs, internships, training, apprenticeships, sports, activities, events, competitions & more. It is said that Slenky is set to revolutionise the access that young people have to the opportunities that are available to them.

Concordia International Volunteers

For nearly 70 years now, this organisation based in Brighton have provided volunteering and work opportunities overseas and here in the UK. Today they work with partner organisations from 60 countries. Each one understands the realities of life in their own

community.

They each organise projects in their own countries, and then 'swap' the volunteer places, so every project ends up with a rich mix of nationalities. Volunteers will learn things they could never get from reading or the internet, not just about the place where they volunteer – but about the different habits, attitudes, foods and ways of life of many countries. They believe that there is no better way to promote real, lasting understanding across cultures, continents and political divides.

They can also organise volunteering for the odd day closer to home in the UK, either for individuals, or for businesses looking to put back into the community. For more information, please check <http://www.concordiavolunteers.org.uk/>

StreetChance

StreetChance is a partnership between the Cricket Foundation - the charity behind [Chance to Shine](#) - and [Barclays Spaces for Sports](#). The programme strategically partners with the Metropolitan Police Service and County Constabularies across the StreetChance cities to engage young people from a range of backgrounds in areas affected by youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

Aims

StreetChance aims to increase aspiration, promote mutual respect, and enhance relationships with others, including schools, police and the wider community by providing structured coaching and competitive opportunities for young people. Over the next three years, StreetChance aims to engage more than 16,000 young people, train and mentor more than 200 teachers, 250 local young coaches and volunteers, and to create more than 1,600 young leaders in schools, nationwide.

Where and when does StreetChance happen?

StreetChance works in urban areas lacking in green spaces where cricket is less accessible. Sessions are targeted towards areas of social deprivation; areas with large black and minority ethnic communities; and neighbourhoods identified by police where youth crime and anti-social behaviour are prevalent. StreetChance delivers free cricket coaching in selected state schools and pupil referral units as well as community venues such as leisure centres, sports halls, youth clubs and housing estates. StreetChance community and estates projects run all year round with regular competitions in every school holiday bringing together projects within each city. Sessions are held on weekday evenings, combining cricket coaching with an outreach hour where young people can discuss local issues with their peers and their coach. Coaches and police officers can also run educational workshops. In addition, there are police-led projects on 18 housing estates across the StreetChance cities

Development opportunities

StreetChance places a strong emphasis on training and developing strong leaders in the communities. A range of training opportunities are provided for those involved in StreetChance. There are young leaders' courses in

schools; a Young Ambassadors Group giving participants a voice in the running of the programme; coach education courses leading to employment for project participants over 16.

For more information, visit <http://www.streetchance.org/about>

Encompass Trust

The 'Journey of Understanding' is an intercultural programme which gives young people aged 18-24 the opportunity to meet and work together with young people from Indonesia, Israel, Palestine, the US and the UK. Encompass Trust brings together young people from countries and cultures in conflict. They share ten days of intense adventure, activity and learning. Ingrained antagonisms dissolve, to be replaced by a simple recognition of their common humanity.

They are looking for young people who work with people (such as youth workers, community workers, volunteers), and particularly those who have had fewer or no opportunities to travel and little exposure to different cultures from their own. For more information email Rori Donoghly at Rori@encompasstrust.org and he will get in touch with more details. For more information, please check out their website: www.encompasstrust.org.

Volunteer Centre Hounslow

Young people interested in volunteering or wishing to acquire work experience in occupational areas different from those Connexions projects offer can contact VCH. PAs can help client register on line through www.do-it.org.uk and search and apply for opportunities using this website. Alternatively, PAs/clients can call 0208 570 5083 to book an appointment with a volunteering adviser.

PAs can submit clients they refer to the VCH (no referral form necessary) on n. 62 on the system.

Events 4 Youth

Events 4 Youth will be offering a free Basic First Aid training (Save a Life) in April/May 2013. This will give an introduction to emergency First Aid to any interested young people aged 16-25 who live in Hounslow, Hammersmith and Fulham. Participants will receive a British Red Cross Certificate valid for 3 years. MR will let everyone know about the exact date/ time/location as soon as it is available. They currently have 7 places. To book a place or for more information contact Luisa Messina, Head of Youth on 020 8741 9876 / luisa@hfvc.org.uk

Events 4 Youth will run another free Events Management training. This provision is open to young people aged between 16 and 25 year olds. For those who will complete the provision, it will allow them to practically use events management skills in the lead up to events. Young People will also be able to complete an ASDAN portfolio of evidence to gain a Level 2

ASDAN Award in 'Volunteering at an Event'. This will help young people with their confidence building and self esteem.

For more information about this, please contact: Caroline Ludden (Youth Events Manager) caroline.l@hfvc.org.uk / 020 8570 5083 or 020 8741 9876. This opportunity is n. 63 on IYSS Core+.

Volunteering with the Youth Service

The Youth Service has numerous opportunities. Every centre has volunteering projects for young people aged between 16 and 19 and offers accredited training. The training/accredited qualifications on offer are: Senior Member training (accredited), Introduction to Youth Work (accredited) and Volunteering in a Youth Club (accredited). Young people would be based at youth centres throughout the LB Hounslow and through some additional project that young people started. Hours are based on young people's availability. Young people who are working towards an accreditation require a minimum of 11 hours. Young people who volunteer with the Youth Service in youth clubs and projects do not require a CRB in the first instance. The youth worker in conjunction with the volunteer placement team will decide at what stage the young person should apply to become a regular volunteer that is required to complete an application to be fully enrolled in the volunteer pool. It is at that stage that the CRB and interview takes place. To apply for any volunteering placement, young people will need to talk to a youth worker if they attend a youth club or contact Grantley on 0208 583 2855 or email Grantley.Yearwood@hounslow.gov.uk.

Jobcentre Plus work experience scheme

Jobcentre Plus Programmes

Hounslow JCP is currently offering the following support for Young People who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs):

- The Work Programme
- Princes Trust Programmes
- Get Britain Working support which includes Enterprise Clubs, Work Clubs, New Enterprise Allowance scheme and sector base work academies
- Flexible Support Fund project run by The Probation Services to support ex-offenders
- Drugs & Alcohol Treatment support via Treatment Providers
- Apprenticeships project to support/get ready Young People to apply for and access Apprenticeships
- NEETS project for graduates & non-graduates to give them the skills & confidence to gain employment
- Employability Skills provision

- Prospects Jobcentre Plus Flexible Support Fund project to support Young People into employment
- The Youth Contract
- Employability Skills training.

Tuesday 16th April from 5 to 7.30pm (Gunnersbury Campus).

Tuesday 4th June from 5 to 7.30pm (Gunnersbury Campus)

Tuesday 2nd July from 5 to 7.30pm (Gunnersbury Campus)

Open Day

Saturday 11th May from 10am to 1pm

For more information contact 08456 122 122 or enquiries@capel.ac.uk.

FE News

Please note. **The Future of A levels: No more January exams from September 2013**

Following its consultation on A levels, Ofqual announced recently that from September 2013 there will no longer be the opportunity to sit A level exams in January – this includes students now studying AS and A2. This means that for students currently in Year 12 they may take AS modules in January 2013 but there will be no exams in January 2014.

For more information see <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/news/ofqual-announces-changes-to-a-levels/>

Higher Education Open Days

Brunel University – Friday 21st June 2013, Thursday 27th June 2013, Friday 6th September 2013, Wednesday 11th September 2013 and Friday 13th September 2013. To book a place please contact: Tel: 01895 265595/265596 or fill in the Online Booking Form.

St Mary's University College – Friday 21st June 2013 (10.30am-4pm), Saturday 14th September 2013 (10.30am-4pm), Wednesday 30th October 2013 (10.30am-4pm), Wednesday 6th November 2013 (5-8pm). Those interested in attending can contact recruit@smuc.ac.uk or ring 0208 240 2314.

Kingston University – Saturday 15th June, Saturday 28th September & Saturday 12th October 2013. For bookings, check <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays/pre-application-open-days/> in April

University of West London – Saturday 20th April (11am-4pm), Thursday 20th June (3-7pm), Wednesday 10th July (3-7pm), Saturday 5th October (11am-4pm) & Saturday 26th October 2013 (11am-4pm). To book, please check

http://www.uwl.ac.uk/open_days/Book_your_place.jsp

University of Roehampton - Saturday 13th July 2013. Those interested in attending can confirm their presence or obtain more information by ringing 0208 8392 3232 or email enquiries@roehampton.ac.uk. <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/study/meetLSE/openDaysAndEvenings.aspx>

Royal Holloway University – Saturday 16th March 2013. Those interested in attending will find further details on booking from January 2013 on <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/opendays/home.aspx>

University of Westminster – Wednesday 18th June 2013. For more information contact 0207 915 5511 or visit <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/prospective-students/open-days/undergraduate-open-days>

College Open Events

RICHMOND COLLEGE

- Thursday 25th April 2013, 5-8pm

Register online on www.rutc.ac.uk.

KINGSTON COLLEGE

- Friday 28th June 2013, 11am-2pm

For further details contact 0208 546 2151 or register online on www.kingston-college.ac.uk

EALING, HAMMERSMITH & WEST LONDON COLLEGE

Acton Campus

- Thursday 13th June 2013

Hammersmith Campus

- Tuesday 25th June 2013

Southall Campus

- Thursday 6th June 2013

Please check for the campus location on 0800 980 2175. Apply online: https://apps.wlc.ac.uk/wlc_online_app/

UXBRIDGE COLLEGE

- Wednesday 19th June 2013, 3-7pm.

For further information and bookings please contact 01895 853 336.

RICHMOND ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Friday 5th July 2013, 11am-6pm
- Tuesday 3rd September, 11am-6pm
- Saturday 7th September 2013, 10am-2pm

For further information contact 0208 891 5907.

CAPEL MANOR COLLEGE

Advice Evenings

Metanoia Institute (Ealing) – In partnerships with Middlesex University, from October 2013, they will be offering a Foundation Degree in Counselling Studies. For further details, please see www.metanoia.ac.uk.

PUSH

www.push.co.uk is rapidly becoming one of the most consulted of the UK's leading independent guides to universities and student life. Push has a powerful "Uni Chooser" tools that helps students sift and sort out a shortlist based on what they want to study, where in the country, their grades and over 200 other factors. On the website, there are also the most detailed profiles and reviews of every university in UK. It is also possible to find an insider's guide to how the UCAS process works and how to make it work for each individual, how to survive as student and get the most out of it. The website has also a forum (Chatterbox) where participants can swap tips, post opinions and touch base.

The Student Room

This is a very useful website with different section advising people on different HE issues such as revision help, Personal Statements, University Guides, Health relationships, Postgraduate directions, careers and results & Clearing. For more details, please visit <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/#13134878905821&254>

Other HE websites

<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/applying/howtoapply/personalstatement/>

<http://www.studential.com/personalstatements/>

<http://www.cife.org.uk/how-to-write-a-good-ucas-personal-statement.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/9565872/Personal-statement-Ucas-guide-to-the-personal-statement.html>

<http://www.dayjob.com/content/personal-statement-examples-772.htm>

<http://www.aggs.trafford.sch.uk/downloads/writing-a-personal-statement.pdf>

<http://www.whatuni.com/degrees/university-application-ucas/ucas-system/ucas-system.html>

<http://www.purepotential.org/university/the-ucas-form>

<http://www.ucas.com/students/wheretostart/applying>

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities/applying-to-university/filling-in-your-application/>

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC)

It is a youth diversion/youth engagement programme for young people living in the 32 Boroughs that comprise London. The VPC offers fantastic opportunities for youth in a wide range of activities designed to enhance their life and citizenship skills. It is intended to compliment their social development in preparation for ongoing education and/or employment. For a number of the Cadets this includes giving them an opportunity to divert them away from involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. The VPC is an integral part of the MPS Youth Strategy 2008 'Engagement Strand'. The vision over the next few years is to develop the VPC programme and substantially increase the number of young people who can be engaged.

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is an independent, uniformed voluntary youth organisation, supported by The Metropolitan Police Service, open to young people aged between 14-17 from across London's diverse communities, irrespective of their background or financial circumstances and including those vulnerable to crime or social exclusion.

Cadet Units meet once a week during a chosen evening in their local boroughs. Meetings usually include drill/inspection, some sort of physical activity, a guest speaker or input on a police related topic as part of an ongoing training programme. Cadet Units involve themselves in other activities at weekends and in school holidays and this may include going away on camps/adventure weeks to different parts of the UK or even abroad. Various Cadet Competitions are also held during the year, which test the skills developed within the VPC Units. The VPC is a licensed authority to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and a growing number of units are involved in this. The VPC is also aligned to the Jack Petchey Foundation which supports young people through their achievement award scheme.

The Cadets often perform duties in support of local policing plan objectives. This is particularly so in relation to Safer Neighbourhood initiatives. Whilst they are not allowed to patrol with police officers the Cadets can perform tasks such as crime prevention initiatives, message/leaflet delivery, test purchase operations to combat underage sales of alcohol, fireworks and knives and involvement in non-confrontational local events.

Cadets also get involved in MPS wide deployments such as Trooping the Colour, Remembrance Day Parades, London Marathon and various Conferences and Charity Events. All Cadet activities are risk assessed to comply with Health & Safety and Child Protection policies and procedures.

Project You (Youth Organisation – Uniform) is an umbrella denomination that gather many organisation together. The project aims at giving young people some skills that might make a difference in their life. The organisations taking part to this project are:

- Army Cadet Force
- Air Training Corps
- Boys' Brigade
- Girlguiding Laser
- The Scout association Greater London
- Sea Cadet Corps
- St John Ambulance
- Volunteer Police Cadets

Information leaflets on this initiative are available at the Attic. This opportunity is n. 69 on IYSS Core+ for submissions and information.

CCUSA

CCUSA is an international work adventure specialist. Since 1985, they have been dedicated to providing the highest level of service in summer camp jobs, work and travel experiences, and volunteer adventures. Over the last several years, they have placed thousands of young people and young adults from around the world into hundreds summer camps and seasonal jobs or volunteering programmes in the USA as well as other countries around the globe. With CCUSA, young people could spend a summer season working and playing at one of the premier resorts in the USA or volunteer in other countries. For more information, see www.ccusa.co.uk/

Adult Training Network – Launch Pad Project

A new project based in Hounslow that is open to 18 and 19 olds clients (but it includes clients from all ages from 20 onwards). This is a 4 week modular training plus 4 weeks work placement, 16 hours per week, with a taster interview 2 weeks before programme commencement. They work in groups of maximum 12 clients. Clients need to be registered with JCP in order to access it. They target lone parents, partners and carers furthest away from the job market. Groups should not include those with substantial needs (e.g. basic skills or ESOL, drug or alcohol related needs or those with a passive lifestyle). The module objectives are to develop ability and confidence in managing personal circumstances, overcoming barriers and developing skills such as participants are better equipped to make realistic decisions about returning to the labour market. For more information on this, please contact Paramjit at

paramjit@adult-training.org.uk. All clients must be living in the London borough of Hounslow. They can either be claiming Job Seeker Allowance or Income Support. As the project is sessional, it is not on Core+. Leaflets are available at the Attic or through MR.

Volunteering Pathways

- Community Service Volunteers (Tel. 0800 374 991, www.csv.org.uk)
- Worldwide Volunteering (Tel. 01935 825 588, www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk)
- Timebank – Online search facility to match volunteers and opportunities (Tel. 0845 456 1668, www.timebank.org.uk)
- Do-It – Database of volunteering opportunities (Tel. 0207 250 5700, www.do-it.org.uk)
- Student Volunteering England (Tel. 0207 520 8922, www.studentvolunteering.org.uk)
- Youth Action Network (Tel. 0121 455 9732, www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk)
- Hounslow Volunteer Centre (Tel. 0208 583 2626, www.volunteerhounslow.org.uk)
- Volunteering Options – some interesting tips for those thinking to volunteer abroad. <http://www.volunteeringoptions.org/GoingOverseas/TopTipsforVolunteers/tabid/96/Default.aspx>
- Eventvolunteers – Part of Greater London Volunteering (Tel. 0207 864 1472), <http://www.eventvolunteers.org.uk/>

The agony page

This page is a window (that could become a forum) for all Personal Advisers in Connexions. Through this page, they could express concerns, ask for advice and solutions from colleagues, tell everyone a story of success etc. Everybody can become his/her colleagues' agony aunt/uncle. Just email Margherita.Rickwood@hounslow.gov.uk. This is your chance to share and ask, please take it.

The next issue of the Opportunity Gazette will be available in May 2013. More exciting news will be coming this way!!!!