Iford Academy

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter aims to support you when thinking about your future and provide you with access to resources that will help you to learn more about different industries and pathways. Please use the links included to read more information. Links are underlined.

## SOMETHING TO...

### DO

It takes only 10 minutes to get a "freakishly accurate" description of who you are and why you do things the way you do.

Take the quiz here.

### LISTEN TO

If you're asking yourself 'What job can I do?' the Bitesize Careers podcast is here for you. Katie Thistleton, inspiring guests and career experts will help you find the answers.

### READ

Meet John-Jo, 21, who works as a kitchen assistant in a care home in London. This story is part of the BBC Bitesize world of work series.

Read here.

### WATCH

In this 10-minute bitesize webinar, discover how student priorities are reshaping their decision-making at the end of Year 11.

Watch here.

## SPOTLIGHT ON A...

### UNIVERSITY

"Social justice has been a cornerstone of Queen Mary University of London from the establishment of our four historical institutions to the present day. Our mission is to create a truly inclusive environment, building on our cherished cultural diversity, where students and staff flourish, reach their full potential and are proud to be part of the University. This will support us in our aim of becoming the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere."

Find out more here.

### EMPLOYER

"The McDonald's family welcomes everyone. We stand up against prejudice, exclusion and social and economic inequality. We champion individuality and fair treatment in access, opportunity and advancement for all. From our restaurants to our senior leaders, we are committed to reflect the diverse communities we serve and will use our unique position to support people to succeed and grow with us – whatever their background."

Learn more here.

If you see a word you don't understand, you can use this jargon buster to search and find out what it means. If you can't find the word on there, you can use the internet to research the meaning or speak to a teacher.

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## WORD OF THE WEEK

Course

A study programme with clearly defined aims and outcomes, generally made from a combination of modules leading to a recognised award.

## A FACT ABOUT EMPLOYMENT

The UK employment rate for people aged 16 to 64 years was estimated at 75.1% in November 2025 to January 2026. This is up in the latest quarter and above estimates of a year ago.

Source

## SUCCESS STORIES

Susan Boyle, then 47 years old, sang "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Misérables and instantly became an international sensation on Britain's Got Talent.

Years later, Susan revealed she had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a condition that helped her better understand herself and her experiences growing up.

Seeing someone like Susan Boyle—who is open about her autism—succeed on a global stage is empowering for many individuals and families affected by autism.

Autism does not limit potential. Susan's gift of music is a powerful reminder that brilliance can come in many forms, including neurodivergent ones.

Read more about Susan's story here

## OPPORTUNITY'S CALLING...

Interested in communication, problem-solving, or working with people? This Virtual Taster with Barclays puts you in the shoes of a customer service representative. Start here.

**If you feel ready to speak about your future and have any questions or need support to plan your next steps, please contact Michelle.Bradnam@ta.weareauthentic.education.**