

## Our view

Alexandra Rae  
Kataryna Peckham

This event has proven to be a great success showing a huge range of career choices. However, it has also built new foundations of contacts for the future for many pupils. Not only this but it has strengthened the confidence of young individuals trying to decide their future. This event is the first step in identifying the wants and needs of the young hopefuls but also to show students whose field of interest is academically challenging that with effort it is achievable. It is obvious that a range of companies, schools and universities and general careers are available to research and explore. What futures they may hold...

# Meet the news team

*The Opportunity* journalists talk about their day as reporters

The core team was Hannah, Emma, Kataryna and Alex from the Weald of Kent Grammar School but were joined by others during the day. **Hannah** said: 'The experience of being a journalist for a day was fantastic. It's surprising how much confidence a plastic badge can give you. I learnt more and stretched my literary skills. The whole team was brilliant.' **Emma** said: 'Great experience! Working as a journalist has been interesting and has inspired me towards being one! I would have loved to have stayed all day.' **Kataryna**

said: 'Not only has this been a once in a lifetime experience I've had the opportunity to see and experience what being a journalist is really like, finding two sides to every story and giving people a voice. Hopefully this will open doors to my future career.' **Alex** said: 'This has been such an amazing experience and has open many doors for me for the future. I am really interested in Media and I am so glad I took this chance.' **Tom** said: 'I've never interviewed people like this and it has encouraged me to do more reporting in future.'



Clockwise from top: Weald of Kent's Hannah, Emma, Kataryna and Alex; Tom from Judd; Mascalls' Gabeey, Kristine and Polly

# THE OPPORTUNITY



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Not just seeing the job, DOING the job

PRICELESS

# WHEN I GROW UP I WANNA BE...

By Emma Lock,  
Hannah Davies,  
Alexandra Rae and  
Kataryna Peckham

Students in the West Kent area years 9-12 attended a careers festival at The Angel Centre, Tonbridge, on 28th September. The event was organised by Education Business Partnership Kent (EBP Kent) and supervised by chief executive officer Anne McNulty.

This is the first large careers event of this academic year with four or five more in planning.

Fourteen schools attended the event, including two special schools, with eighty four stands to be viewed, promoting numerous career options. Anne McNulty expressed her



hope for the event, and said that the event is 'for people to pick up inspiration' and have the opportunity to look inside and try out different jobs.

A team of students from various West Kent schools worked together for 'News For Schools' as journalists for the day, reporting on the careers

festival producing this newsletter to be published online. They worked together interviewing students and exhibitors and taking photographs to relay the events and highlights at the festival.

Emma said: 'The festival is informative and exciting which allows everyone to get involved.'



Mid Kent College hair and beauty



Students get involved in wheel making



The Mid Kent College Public Services team

# Many helpful tips

By the News for Schools team with additional reporting from Tom Devlin from Judd and Ed Mitchell from Highview

During the day, Tom Devlin caught up with Logica, a company specialising in business and IT services, to find out what they thought of the fair. As a group aiming to highlight their sponsored degrees in business management, there was a feeling that students were too young to have considered such an opportunity, although they were impressed with the range of careers on offer on the day.

Also impressed was Vicky Fitzgerald of the University of Kent, representing the School of Physical Sciences. Students were flocking to her stall, which offered hands-on experiences in forensic sciences and 'disco bikes'. Vicky said: 'I'm really surprised by the number of students here. It's more than I imagined. It's good to raise awareness of a local university and the experiences they offer.' Amongst students, there was a sense of enjoyment— Tom who is 15 and goes to the Judd School, said: 'It's been a productive experience, which has given

Five aspiring journalists from schools across West Kent reported on the day's events. Here is what they found...



Pupils from Judd meet the Army team

me many helpful tips.' Reporters Emma and Hannah noticed one of the most popular stands at the careers festival was the Army workshop. The fun

and interesting presentation was enticing both male and female students to consider the 140 main jobs offered by the Army. The age bracket for regular

combat is 16 to 32 whilst more skilled jobs in medical, finance and IT intelligence accept applicants up to the age of 62, with army

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# A chance to get involved!

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training minimum of six months.

Sex equality is no longer an issue in the Army with discrimination taken very seriously, although women are barred from the infantry due to their 'child-bearing hips' as politely pointed out by Lance Corporal Rob.

Meanwhile, Kataryna and Alex discussed with the Lance Corporal and Sergeant here representing The Prince of Wales Royal Regiment about entry requirements. They said: "The qualifications needed vary depending on the different areas of the Army," said the Sergeant. "After 21 years in the service, coming from a broken home, I have found a new family atmosphere," he added.

Another highly interesting and interactive pitch was from the Public Services team from Mid Kent College. The course is designed specifically for those who would like careers

in the police force, as paramedics, the fire service or the armed forces, but also covers law, discipline and discrimination. Students got a chance to get involved and had the challenge of constructing a wheeled device to pull weights which gave them opportunity to work and learn from the students at the college.

Mid Kent College stole the stage with their hair and beauty stylists. From curling to dyeing they showed a range of skills that represented their

level 3 qualification they're working towards.

Luke and Vickie, former media and engineering students, plan to work their way up the employment ladder, with the ambition to one day own their own businesses. Evidently for students this is a great start to their career.

Nick Aldridge was here today to represent engineering for West Kent College in Tunbridge Wells. He displayed how the laws of Physics showed the stress points in building equipment. He said:

'Engineering requires A-C grades in English, Maths and Science, though entry levels can vary.'

This beginning stage opens doors into a variety of areas for example, motor mechanics, and he added cheekily, 'Girls are better!'

Meanwhile Ed from Highview School was lured by the Pathology stand. He said: 'The blood tests were quite automated. I found out that 60 per cent of decisions that doctors make are based on pathology.'



Tom, right, gets involved, one of the scores of students joining in

We spent time in the catering room. We saw a demonstration on how to make a mousse box and caramel curls, using biscuits, mousse, and strawberry and vanilla sauce. At the end we were shown how to make a napkin in a shape of a swirl.

We also went to the Extreme Biology room where we saw a practical using fake blood and we found out what biology is about.

By Georgie Francis and Kirsty Nash from Mascalls

# Meet the doctors, soldiers, teachers and architects of the future....

Four girls from Mascalls in Year 11 said they found the day 'helpful' however a few of them were already quite set on what they wanted to do.

Harriet said she would like to work with photography and Kate would like to dance, whilst Roxanne said she would like to be in the police force. However Naomi still isn't sure.

Although the girls' views on the day were quite positive, two boys from Judd, George and Jonny, said the day was only 'okay' and they thought the day could have had 'more variety'.

George said he would like to work with finance, but could not find anywhere presenting it, despite the fact that Alex and

## Our young journalists spoke to students about their day at the fair and their career plans

Kataryna said they saw a stand on NatWest...

Callum, Bevan and Bradly from Mascalls in Year 11 were all interested in careers with the Army. Their thoughts on the presentation were that it 'cleared up everything we wanted to know'.

Two students from Tonbridge Grammar said they found the day useful enjoyable because they learnt about career opportunities, particularly for Adele who said she was undecided. Whereas, Ruth said she was quite interested in being a doctor.

Fred, Chris and Ben aged 15 from The Judd School expressed this event as, 'extremely useful in finding contacts in the Army'.

Fred said: 'I want a degree to fall back on when my Army days are over.' Many students from Mascalls, all 15, expressed their opinions. Stephen wants to be an entrepreneur but did not like any of the stalls. Josh wants to be an architect.

Izzy said she does not know what she would like to do after school, but she found the medicine stall interesting. Amy wants to



go to college and do a BTECH drama diploma as she would like to be a drama teacher. She liked the West Kent College stall and the free gifts. Ed would like to be an art teacher for secondary schools. He liked the SET stall which was about teaching.

Haley, 15 from Mas-

calls said: 'I'm interested in hair and beauty and want to pursue it in the future.' Whilst talking to Zack and Michael from The Judd School, aged 16, stated even though they had not set their mind to a "specific field" they took great interest in Science and computing with an initial goal of University.'

Chloe 15, does not know what she wants to be. She likes maths and is going to on to sixth form. Finally three students from spoke to us, Kristina wants to study English and Media and pursue a career in journalism. Her friend Polly wants to be a photographer while Gabeey has set her sights on university.