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CAREERS IN TOUCH

Winter issue 2022

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WORKING IN THE DIGITAL SECTOR

In this edition of *Careers In Touch*
we focus on the digital sector.



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Mark DeBacker

Deputy Director (Young People) - Employability and Careers

"Digital skills are not just about gaining the technological skills but also the knowledge, values, attitudes, regulations and ethics around using ICT"

Welcome to our Winter Term edition of 'Careers In Touch' and a Happy New Year to all our schools. We are starting the year with a focus on the digital sector and the importance of digital skills.

In November 2021, the House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee published a report 'Skills for Young people' examining NEET, the contributing factors and their recommendations. One of the areas identified as a factor in a young person becoming NEET, is their relative achievement of core or basic skills. Perhaps no huge surprise in itself, basic skills are seen as the fundamental building blocks that most education courses and in turn employers are seeking. The number of low skilled employment opportunities are certainly dwindling, with increasingly jobs of all types requiring a higher skill base.

The report, however, pays particular attention to one aspect of basic skills – digital skills - and the role they play in determining education and employment destinations. There can be an assumption that all young people have 'digital skills and confidence', but this is not necessarily the case. Before digital access is even considered, the relative digital skills young people possess vary massively. Digital skills should also not be conflated with an ability to use social media (although knowing how to use this for professional purposes to market yourself and as a brand is part of this). Digital skills are not just about gaining the technological skills but also the knowledge, values, attitudes, regulations and ethics around using ICT.

Apart from a general rise in the need for digital skills (the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training suggests that 90% of the vacancies across Europe will require some form of digital skills) this perhaps has accelerated over the past 18 months as businesses scramble to reach and engage customers in new and different ways, even in quite traditional industries.

If the government is to meet its own ambitions to be a leading economy in science and technology, there will be even more jobs requiring high digital skills. The LinkedIn 2020 Emerging Jobs report lists that 10 of the 15 top emerging jobs are directly related to digital and tech fields. While perhaps this gets less press than more immediate and acute skills shortages such as HGV drivers and the NHS, it is perhaps a more lurking creep that will catch jobseekers and changers of all ages napping if we don't evaluate our digital skills and plan and address deficiencies where required. In this edition, we highlight and demonstrate some of the sectors and areas where digital skills are key. Perhaps something to accelerate and highlight with young people's thinking before it creeps up on them?





LMI Update - Digital

By Suzanne Lees-Jones - Labour Market Information and Resources Co-ordinator

The digital sector is a thriving, fast-developing sector and a key source for jobs in the UK. In the last quarter of 2021, 1.6 million people were employed in the sector in the UK*. Last year saw over 1 million information technology job postings in the UK**.

More businesses and organisations in all sectors are now looking at the use of technological solutions in order to improve productivity and processes through digital transformation. Many jobs do have a digital element, and it is predicted that within 20 years 90% of all jobs will require some form of digital skills***. As the digital economy grows, there will be even greater demand for people with specialist digital skills.

88%
of young people
say that digital skills
will be essential for
their career

According to a report by the Learning and Work Institute, young people recognise that digital skills will be essential for their career, with 62% feeling confident that they have the basic digital skills that employers need****.

The same research shows that 92% of businesses say that having a basic level of digital skills is important for employees. There is also increasing demand for advanced digital skills, with many employers hoping this will improve in the future.

Boosting the awareness and importance of digital skills is essential for the future of the UK economy. It is also beneficial to highlight the many digital opportunities across all sectors.

*Statista: Digital economy in the United Kingdom (UK) - statistics & facts | Statista

**Labour Insight Burning Glass Technologies Jan 2021 to December 2021

***<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-digital-strategy/2-digital-skills-and-inclusion-giving-everyone-access-to-the-digital-skills-they-need>

****Disconnected - Exploring the digital skills gap: Learning and Work Institute



SKILLS

The top transferable skills* which employers look for when recruiting for digital jobs are:



COMMUNICATION



TROUBLE SHOOTING



WRITING



PROBLEM SOLVING



CREATIVITY



PLANNING



FIND OUT MORE

- The National Careers Service - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/computing-technology-and-digital>
- Youth Employment UK - <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub-sector/digital/>
- DWP Digital site - <https://careers.dwp.gov.uk/>
- UK Youth - <https://www.ukyouth.org/digital-resource-hub/#young-person>

*Labour Insight Burning Glass Technologies Jan 2021 to December 2021



Tools & resources

In each newsletter we share a selection of free careers tools and resources that may be useful in your careers programme or practice.

Career guidance for young people with SEND - Indigo

Some pointers for good practice from Dr Oliver Jenkin, careers development consultant

<https://indigo.careers/career-guidance-for-young-people-with-send-some-pointers-for-good-practice/>

Careers in Football - Career service for the football industry

A career coaching organisation supporting those with a passion to make a difference in football.

<https://www.careersinfootball.com/>

Day of Wrk - Industry website

This is a new website looking at what different jobs involve in various industries.

<https://www.dayofwrk.com>

Property Needs You - Property career website

A collaboration between twelve of the largest real estate consultancies working with parents, teachers and careers advisers to help young people make the most of the career opportunities in the property sector.

<https://www.propertyneedsyou.com>

Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge service

With National Apprenticeship Week rapidly approaching, if your school hasn't already booked a session from the ASK service, either for now or later in the year, please refer to [Submit a request](#) - the service is free, impartial and has a range of physical and virtual activities on offer (for London schools EdDevTrust provide this service).

EVENTS

February 2022 onwards

The UK Careers Fair. Various UK locations

17 January 2022

NHS Health Careers Q&A online 1.15pm

7 - 22 February 2022

National Apprenticeship Week 2022

4 - 5 March 2022

What Career? Live. Birmingham NEC

7 - 12 March 2022

National Careers Week 2022



Digital skills in demand

Our Inspiring Careers Relationship Manager Wendy Phillips looks at the top 10 digital skills* in demand, based on job advertisements over the past six months.

- 1>>** **Microsoft Excel**
Featuring calculation, graphing tools, pivot tables, etc is used extensively in business to create spreadsheets and charts. Not surprising that it's the top digital skill requested by employers
- 2>>** **Microsoft Office**
It includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Publisher and Access and experience of using the complete package is being requested by many employers when recruiting
- 3>>** **SQL (Structured Query Language)**
Created back in 1979, is designed to query and extract data from tables within a database. For example, to perform tasks such as update data or retrieve data from a database
- 4>>** **Software Development skills**
Are typically gained via degree level study by roles such as Software Engineers, Cyber Security Analysts, Game Developers, Information Systems Managers, IT Consultants, Web Developers
- 5>>** **Microsoft Word**
Created in 1983, is word processing software used by the majority of businesses in the UK
- 6>>** **Python**
Created in 1991 is used for higher-level data manipulation common within data science, such as statistical analysis, regression testing, and time-series data manipulation
- 7>>** **Microsoft PowerPoint**
Created in 1987, is used extensively to create presentations for use in many sectors
- 8>>** **Software Engineering**
Software Engineers create, maintain, audit, test and develop software systems
- 9>>** **JavaScript**
Was created in 1995 and is a programming language still popular with programmers to this day
- 10>>** **Microsoft C#**
Is a younger addition to the 'programming family', developed in 2000 and very popular in both web and desktop applications.

*Labour Insight Burning Glass Technologies



West London Careers Hub

The Mayor of London has launched four new Careers Hubs across London to give young people a head start in finding great jobs and planning their futures. The £11.5 million investment funded by the Mayor, European Social Fund and Careers & Enterprise Company will offer support to secondary schools, FE colleges, Alternative Provision and Special Educational Needs schools and colleges across London.

West London Careers Hub builds on the successes of Careers Hubs elsewhere in the UK by linking schools and colleges with employers. Through those partnerships, they aim to ensure that every young person gets the guidance, skills and experience they need to make an informed decision about their future career path. The Hub will also run a programme of events including work insight visits and employer encounters.

Delivered by the Employability & Careers team at Education Development Trust in partnership with the Careers & Enterprise Company, West London Careers Hub is a European Social Fund programme. The expansion of this initiative, which has already been implemented in other areas of the country, follows a hugely successful trial and roll out, backed by the Careers & Enterprise Company working on behalf of the Department for Education.

Mark De Backer, Deputy Director (Young People) Employability & Careers at Education Development Trust commented: 'I see the roll out of Careers Hubs nationally as a cornerstone to the Careers Strategy. It's really exciting therefore that Education Development Trust is part of this Greater London Authority and Careers & Enterprise Company led initiative. We will not only aim to support Careers Leaders in schools and colleges develop their programmes and connect with employers to support young people with their career planning but will aim to connect the different positive activities going on in the careers landscape in our case across West London.'

If you are interested in finding out more about the programme, please contact info@wlcareershubs.com or visit our website www.wlcareershubs.com.



Our Service Offers

In addition to our Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Delivery, below are some of the other paid services we offer. To find out more, please contact us at careersinfo@educationdevelopmenttrust.com

- Bespoke Inclusive Guidance offer -

- Preparing to work in the career development sector
- Explore and agree the career guidance and development needs of clients
- Understand how to support specific client groups to overcome barriers to learning, training and work
- Engage with other relevant people to help clients to meet their career development needs

- CPD menu -

Combine 2 or 3 different courses to create your perfect bespoke training session package with sessions including:

- Learning what employers are looking for from your students
- LMI sessions
- Neuro Diversity sessions
- Every Teacher is a Teacher of Careers session
- From A-Levels to University.

- Supervision services -

We recognise the importance of quality careers guidance, our Supervision Services support independent or school and college Careers Advisers. Our Observation and Action Plan Quality Assurance includes:

- 1 x Observation, discussion & report
- 3 x Termly action plan Quality Assurance & feedback reports
- 1 x Virtual CPD session or 1-hour virtual professional discussion

- Data & Management -

We offer expert Data Management and Tracking services for Key stage 4 & 5 schools, colleges and local authorities. Our services can help you meet the Department for Education's reporting requirements.

- Work Experience -

We complete all Health & Safety checks for each student and placement by conducting a full workplace assessment as part of our Work Related Learning Offer.

- Our Level 6 Guidance offer -

As part of our Level 6 Career Guidance and Development qualification, learners can undertake the Careers Leader units and achieve the full qualification.

- Our Career Guidance qualifications -

- L4 Career Information and Advice
- L6 Career Guidance and Development
- L6 Careers Leader

We can help you achieve the Quality in Careers Standard. To find out more watch [our video](#).