



# POSTGRADUATE & CAP BULLETIN

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## GOLDEN INSPIRATIONS

**Don't forget those priceless gold nuggets from the V16 conference:-**

- "Take out the confusion; confusion is because people don't look ahead of them"
- "Routine and discipline set you free to do the other things you need to do in life"
- "Don't let unnecessary issues in life distract you from your real focus"
- "One of the greatest things today is the ability to change"
- "Say thank you with a smile!"

## LEARN, PRACTISE, REHEARSE

A message to secondary students in your last year at school:

We wish you every success in your final exams! We know that you will already have taken some exams, but it's not too late to remind you to **LEARN, PRACTISE, REHEARSE**. These vital weeks in your life can never be repeated so there are to be no distractions from putting **everything you've got** into preparing for the exams yet to be taken.

## NO GAP YEAR

After the exams there is to be no gap. Valuable guidance received is to proceed straight on to a postgraduate course, reaping maximum advantage during those fertile learning years following completion of your secondary education. Too often there is a mindset that a rest after final exams and after leaving school is so essential, but **IT IS NOT NEEDED**. Time is too precious to waste and it has been found only too often that those who go for a gap period never get going again, sadly to their detriment. They tell themselves that they are too busy to fit a course into their routine, whereas if there is no gap, studying is already part of that routine! It's very interesting that, as a result of a recent study and a Department of Education report, the **'No Gap'** policy has been confirmed by the Government as the wisest route. Their findings were:

- School leavers who move straight from school to higher education are more confident;
- They are more focused on completing their courses;
- Gap-takers tend to earn less by age 30 with significantly lower hourly wages.

## A NARROW WINDOW

Students who are due to leave school this Summer (2016), who are already age 18 and who wish to enrol on an Apprenticeship Course with 100% funding, are reminded that they must enrol **before** their 19th birthday in order not to lose 50% of the funding. This means that those born in September 1997, and shortly after, have only a narrow window in which to enrol between leaving school and reaching age 19.

## WISE WORDS FROM FRANCE

"After many inspiring seminars I felt as a school leaver I simply had to carry on learning to stay in the way of progress. I have passed the "Assistant de Gestion PME PMI" exam and I'm pleased it's finished after 2½ years of working with the online school COMPTALIA, which is a good system of learning. I would encourage the oncoming class to start postgraduate studies **quickly** after they leave school. Studying is useful and rewarding; you'll never regret it! When you start, just keep looking towards the goals you've set up, otherwise you'll get nowhere. We all want to be achievers, don't we?"

So just remember: **NEVER GIVE UP!**"

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Thomas A. Edison

## THOSE VITAL YEARS

**Student:** What's the benefit of CAP\*? What's in it for me or anybody else?

**Local ACT\*\* Coordinator (LAC):** CAP is mainly for students in the top 2 years at school, the most vital years of your education, to help prepare you for the workplace while you are still at school, so that you can hit the ground running when you start work and be immediately useful to your boss. It's done by studying a business-related postgraduate course alongside 'A' Levels in order to acquire valuable business skills.

**Student:** Oh, yes, I can see the absolute advantage of that – it's brilliant - but isn't it asking a lot from us when we've got our 'A' Levels to do at the same time?

**LAC:** No, not at all! Your timetable is put together as carefully as possible, to give you a balanced range of subjects, and to ensure that the quality of your studying doesn't suffer through an overload.

**Student:** So how do I go about this?

**LAC:** I'm willing to help you in course selection, but it's a good idea also to discuss it with a teacher or two, with your parents and also with your future employer, if you have one. A course which is relevant to your likely job role can contribute significantly to 'hitting the ground running'. It's very important to strike a right balance in the subjects you select, and also not to miss any enrolment deadlines for your postgraduate course.

**Student:** Thanks, that's fine. You've made it a lot clearer. Knowing where the CAP guidance comes from means that it will surely work. I'll certainly get it sorted and then get cracking!

\*CAP = Career Advantage Program

\*\*ACT = Academic Care Team

"I've seen it more than once that if students apply themselves their IQ level will increase and likewise if they don't their IQ level will decrease."