



- STEM Club News
- Step into the NHS
- Combined Cadet Force

## BASKETBALL TRIP



## EX-PUPIL GIVES ADVICE



## UNIVERSITY VISITS



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## A message from the Head Teacher



Mr A Seager

Such a lot has happened at Bloxwich Academy since the last newsletter. I am delighted that our Combined Cadet Force is now operational with over 30 pupils attending.

They have completed activities ranging from learning the phonetic alphabet, visiting the RAF Museum at Cosford, Shropshire and preparing for their first field craft day. We are eagerly anticipating the pupils first official flying lessons later in the academic year.

Along with excellent progress academically, all our pupils are benefiting from extra-curricular activities available in the Academy. Over 70 pupils are eagerly looking forward to travelling to France in June to experience the delights of Paris and we are extremely proud of all our pupils who have been selected to represent the Matrix Academy Trust in football and netball with visits to Holland to participate in international matches.

I must take this opportunity to wish all our pupils the very best in the forthcoming summer examination series, the hard work and effort they put in now will benefit them in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Seager'.

Mr A Seager  
Headteacher

## Ex-pupil Inspires The Next Generation Of Textile Design Students

One of our ex-pupils, Harleigh, visited the academy just before the Christmas break to show a presentation based on her experiences at Cardiff University. Harleigh is currently in the first year of her BA in Textile Design. KS4 and KS5 pupils had the opportunity to see current work that was being produced in the textiles studio. Harleigh showed her prints and textile design samples that she had developed on her module.

Pupils were able to ask questions about university life and Harleigh answered all of them honestly. The pupils which participated in the presentation really valued the opportunity to talk to Harleigh about university life and especially about moving away from home to study. Some of the questions ranged from the length of the university day to the specialist facilities available for textiles students.

I would like to thank Harleigh for giving up her time to present to our pupils and helping them to decide whether a Textile Design Degree is something that they would like to pursue in the future.

**Miss Bhatti**  
Head of Fashion and Textiles.



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25TH FEBRUARY – 10TH MARCH 2019



## Combined Cadet Force News



### Blesma Visit Bloxwich Academy

On 17 January 2019, two injured veterans visited the academy to work with students in Year 8 and our Combined Cadet Force students on resilience skills and overcoming adversity.

Both visitors were supported by the charity Blesma and are now part of a programme called Generation R which visit schools giving talks and delivering workshops to students. They shared their stories of how they lost limbs and the effects this had on their lives and the lives of their families.

Our students found these sessions thought provoking and inspiring, and thoroughly enjoyed the workshops. It gave them time to understand that adversity can be overcome and they developed great resilience skills.

The Year 8 students involved and the CCF students learnt a great deal on this day that they can now take into their future lives. The company have already said they would like to come back in the future and deliver workshops to more students.



### In other news...

This term the cadets have been undergoing their syllabus training to enable them to complete their first stage of training. The overall result was high and all passed with a merit level or above. This allows the cadets now to undertake their annual flight which has now been booked.

Furthermore, the cadets have also completed their heart start badge which they now can wear on their uniform. The headmaster will be presenting these this term.

The number of cadets now stands at 32 who regularly attend their CCF training on a Wednesday night. In the near future, the cadets will attend an RAF experience day at RAF Cosford and a field training day to look forward to.

**Acting Pilot Officer Hall**  
**CCF Contingent Commander**

### Coming to a book store near you!

Back in October eleven students from Creative Writing Club entered our first writing competition and I am really excited to announce that all eleven students, from KS3, are now becoming published poets!

The Young Writers competition received over 8,000 entries. Students were required to write a poem using a writing constraint, such as the form, one of four specified themes and even time, to challenge their creativity.

Our students wrote some amazing poems based on the specified themes of the future, adventure, inner feelings and current affairs. Their poems will be published in a book that will be able to be purchased in book stores across the UK.

We are so proud of the poems that they have produced and the fantastic writing that they do every week! Make sure to get their autographs now as we may have the next award winning writer amongst our students!

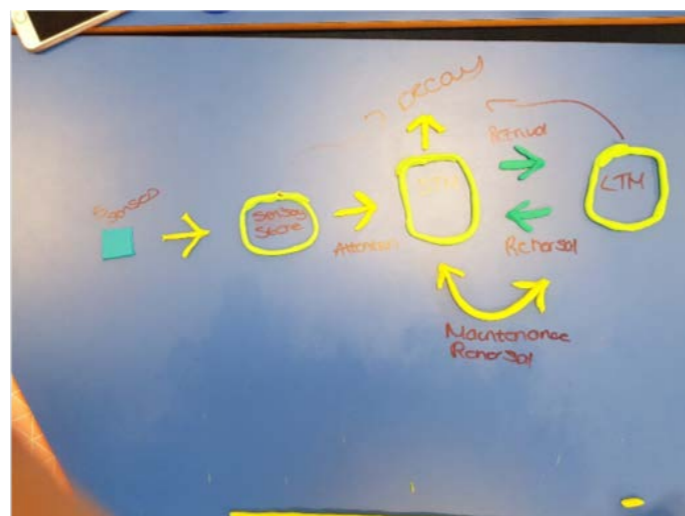
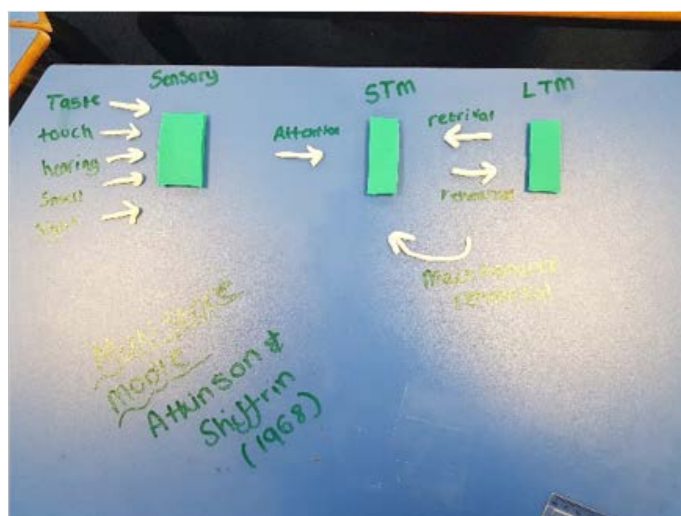
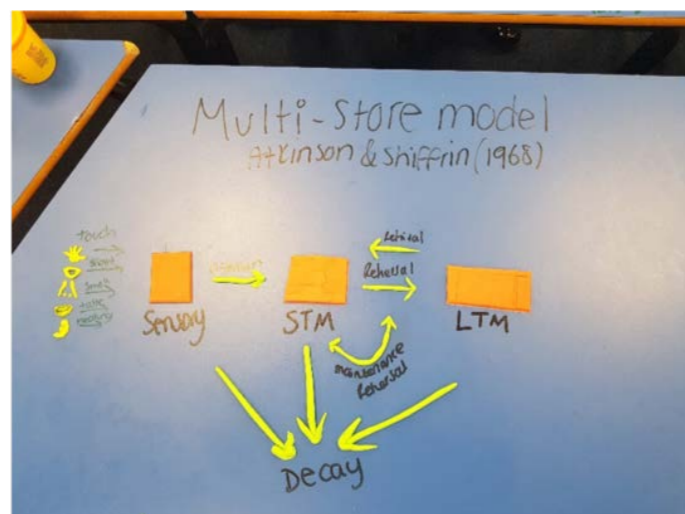
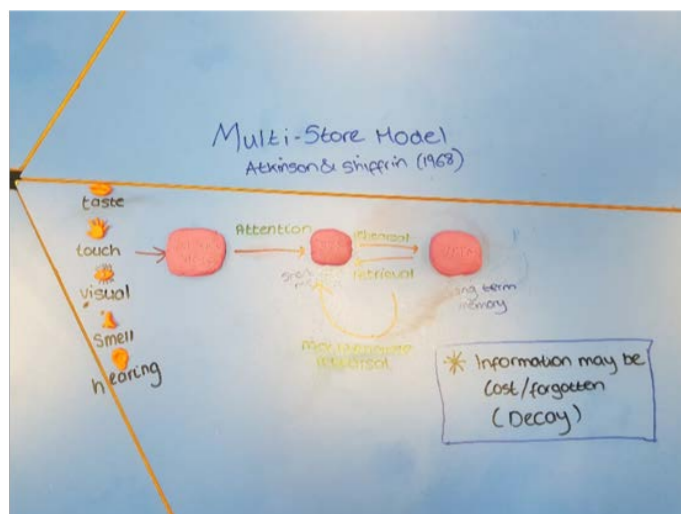
If anyone else from Year 7 and Year 8 would like to come and join us, Creative Writing Club runs every Thursday 3:00- 3:45 in Room 207 with Miss Sherratt.

**Miss K Sherratt**  
**Teacher of English**



Year 12 Psychology students have recently started working on a memory topic. We've been looking at famous case studies of people who have lost part of their memory, including Clive Wearing. He can still play the piano but has forgotten who his family are!

We have also made play-doh models of the influential Multi-Store Model of Memory.



## Maths Visit

The aim of the trip was to encourage mathematics at Post 16 with a particular focus on girls. The students received talks from the RAF and Rolls Royce about the possible career paths mathematics could take them.

The students participated in three workshops:

- Making hyperboloids
- Floating fish
- Estimation.

The students represented the academy exceedingly well and enjoyed showcasing their understanding of maths in the real world and fully engaging in the program.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and left the university motivated about the career options which Post 16 maths has to offer.



## Hear Her Song

On 5 February 2019, five students ranging from Year 9 to 6th form had the opportunity to visit Wolverhampton University to be involved in a song writing course called 'Hear Her Song'. The four workshops are designed to help students tell their story through words and music working with professional composers and lyricists, who will help create and shape their own personalised song. In the final workshop, students will have the opportunity to record their song in a professional recording studio. The students represented the school impeccably and were praised for their contributions to the workshop. We look forward to hear their song.

## Performing Arts News



## Worcester Wolves Basketball Trip

### BTEC Tech Award

In January, the BTEC Performing Arts Show had a great audience of family and friends to watch their loved ones perform. Many members of the audience left positive feedback at the end of the show, stating that they were very impressed with how the students had performed.

The pupils have been building in confidence and are excited for their next performance in April which will be held at The Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. The Year 10 and 11 Performing Art students are working hard toward their final performance exam now.

Year 10 BTEC Dance will also be visiting the Birmingham Hippodrome in February to watch Matthew Bourne's production of Swan Lake.

### A Night at the Musicals

Over 200 hundred pupils were involved in Performance Week in December which was a huge success in building excitement for the first musical at Bloxwich Academy!

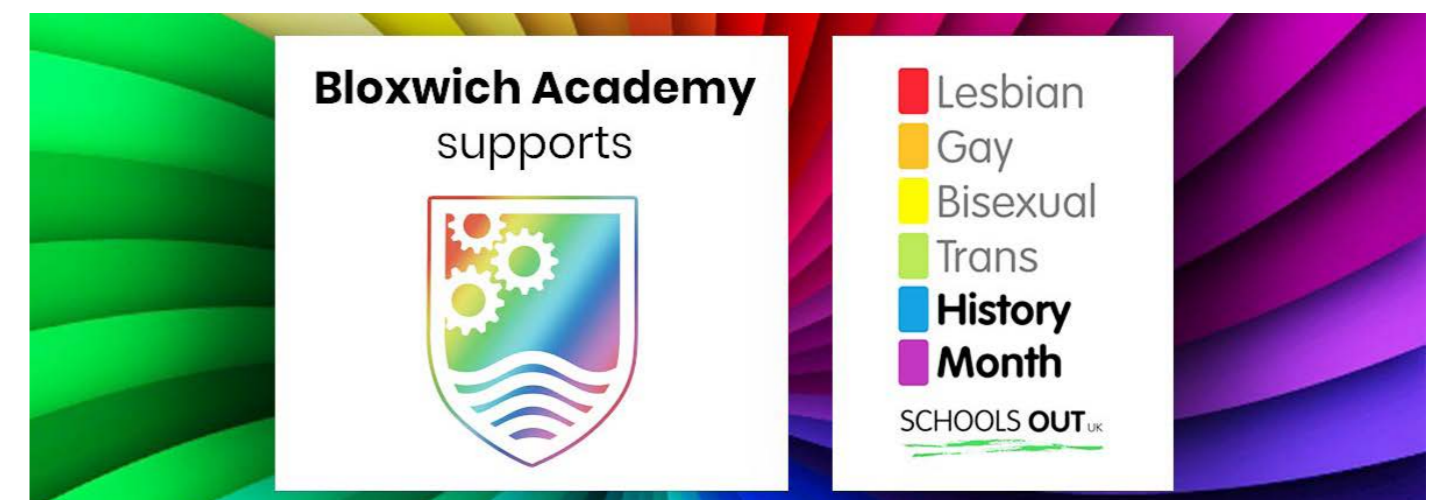
Performances ranged from dancing, singing, acting and some pupils playing the piano. Practising performances every break and lunch time during the last week created a buzz around school and led to a high turnout for the auditions in January.

The cast list has been released for "A Night at the Musicals" and rehearsals are underway every Tuesday and Wednesday evening. The musical consists of the best sections of 6 famous West End musicals.

Tickets will be on sale for the 9th and 10th July 2019.

With our basketball teams showing great professionalism, character and skill throughout all of our fixtures this year, pupils were rewarded with a trip to watch Worcester Wolves vs. London Lions at the Arena of Worcester.

This opportunity was fantastic for pupils to learn new skills and enjoy watching these professional athletes play basketball. Our pupils were treated with excellent hospitality, as they were given private seating, and even got the opportunity to go onto the court and meet all of the players at the end of the game.



## House Message **STEPHENSON**



**Miss  
Stanley**

The new year got off to a fantastic start with pupils who had achieved 100% for the Autumn Term receiving their bronze attendance badges. Congratulations go to all the pupils:

Year 7 - Y Ahmed, M Bourne, C Hitchcock, C Hudson, L Jarman, A Jones, C Moriarty, E Stone, A Summers, C Taylor, J Tolley, A Webb, J Wheat, A Wilkes, K Wood

Year 8 – S Boamaong, J Gyan-Baffour, O Hayward, J Swindell

Year 9 – L Hurst, M McKeon, C Nicholls, M Omotuyi Omotuyi

Year 10 – S Boamaong, B Chibge, D Irodotou, J Kielczewska,

Year 11 – M Ambrus, J Douglas, K Johnson, L Perkins, H Pritchard, J Sellick-Iles, C Spellman, E Sproston, A Yates

Stephenson also welcomed Carol Trigg and her guide dog Flora to the Academy. Carol visited the school on behalf of The Guide Dog Society, from whom she acquired Flora. She spoke to pupils about how she became blind and how Flora is her eyes; ensuring that she can safely cross roads and does not bump into lamp posts. Carol explained how she feeds and grooms Flora every day. Flora has a set diet which she follows to ensure that she does not put on any weight. Carol had to pay 50p for Flora, which the pupils could not believe. Carol spoke about the work of guide dogs and that she is very grateful to have Flora as there are waiting lists of people needing one.

Also, Carol explained to pupils that if they see someone with a guide dog they should only approach them when the harness is down as this means they need help and when the harness is up they are working so they should not disturb them. She demonstrated the best way to help someone who is blind down stairs and explained that when she goes anywhere that has escalators Flora is not allowed to use them which can be a problem at times. Carol answered all of the pupils' questions and offered to visit again, as she was highly impressed with our pupils. Some pupils have asked if the school could raise money for a guide dog, as Carol told them that there is currently a shortage of guide dogs in the UK.

The pupils have opportunities to attend extra-curricular activities as well as community activities. We have some pupils who stay after school to attend both cheer-leading and dancing clubs. The pupils are currently rehearsing dances from musicals such as Annie so they can take part in our musical event which will be happening at the academy later in the term.

We have some pupils in Year 7 who play for Beechdale FC and they have won the summer cup the last two years running. One of our Year 7 players W. Gattin won the trophy for top goal scorer last season. He says he enjoys doing the training to get him ready for the matches. They also complete fitness training as well as learning the 9 a side rule, which allows them to practise passing to the forwards and wingers. The pupils enjoy playing the games and working as a team. The pupils know it is important that they are punctual to their training sessions.

## **Mr Bradley**



## House Message **BRINDLEY**

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year. I hope everyone has had time to reflect on the year that has passed and the changes that may need to be put into place to move forward successfully and be the best you can be.

Congratulations to 8B1 for their attendance. You are currently the best attending form in Brindley!

Also, I would like to make a special mention to the following pupils who haven't had a single day off since September: L. Austin (Year 7), C. Bouncer (Year 7), P. Bowyer (Year 7), J. Memela (Year 7), C. Moriarty (Year 7), S. Nicholls (Year 7), M. Perkins (Year 7), A. Soulsby (Year 7), Sophie Williams (Year 7), K. Austin (Year 8), S. Masuku (Year 8), G. Williams (Year 8), J. Blewitt (Year 9), L. Bowyer (Year 9) R. Czop (Year 9), S. Egginton (Year 9), T. Mills (Year 9), K. Ojolo (Year 9), S. Russell (Year 9), J. Wells (Year 9), M. Withers (Year 9), I. Baugh (Year 10), R. Harper (Year 10), K. Jones (Year 10), M. Nyatanga (Year 10), C. Pickstone (Year 10), S. Price (Year 10), L. Slater (Year 10), B. Grainger (Year 11), G. Miller-Kakay (Year 11) and T. Spellman (Year 11).

Well done and congratulations, you are making Brindley very proud.

I would like to say how fantastic this half term has been with all the cadets in full uniform. I would like to congratulate each and every one who has been working hard and participating every Wednesday evening. It is great to see the dedication and the new skills that are being learnt.

Also, I would like to say thanks and congratulate all the pupils that have participated in the indoor inter-house competition; I look forward to see the results after half term!

Overall, I am very proud of Brindley's achievements across the Academy. We are successfully defending our position of the best house in form challenges. We are rapidly catching the other houses with commendation points. I am looking forward to the rest of the year and the many successes too.

Keep up the hard work, be resilient, stay positive and I have no doubt that we will be lifting the trophy for the best house in the Academy once again.

## House Message TELFORD



**Mr Booth**

Firstly, I would like to say a belated happy new year to all. The first half term of the new calendar year has been an extremely busy one with all pupils working hard in lessons to improve their grades in preparation for the next steps of their academic journey. I have been impressed with not only the hard work of Year 11 – 13s with their continued hard work towards their upcoming summer exams, but also the attitude and work ethic of Year 10 in particular who are making great strides in their GCSEs. I would also like to congratulate all of Key Stage 3 on the improvement in the standard of homework over this last half term. Almost all pupils are completing and handing homework projects in on time, which is fantastic and will have a positive impact for all.

As is always the case it has been a busy half term for Telford house with lots going on both in and around the academy and further afield with trips and sporting fixtures. I would like to congratulate the mighty Year 7 girls football team who remain undefeated in their league fixtures this season. I would like to make a special mention to the four girls who represent 7T1; M. Withers, I. Duckhouse, M. Lloyd and top goal scorer C. Benger – Keep it up! I am pretty confident that the upcoming house football competitions have our names on already!

I am also pleased that our house attendance is still exceeding this time last year, it has dipped slightly to 94.67%, but this is still in line with national average which is fantastic. I have set a challenge to all of Telford if our attendance is over 95% by Easter then I will do a forfeit, let's see if you can all rise to the challenge!

I would like to congratulate all of those pupils who are still at 100% attendance, J. Bloomer, R. Chudy, R. Elmer, E. Jones, S. Kaur, M. Rhodes, H. Spellman, R. Wiczorek, L-R. Williams, M. Withers (all 7T1), C. Beaumont, R. Cole, B. Hitchcock, M. Pritchard, P. Salan, K. Sia, C. Wilson (all 8T1), S. Bowyer, L. Cyster, B. Ebbans, R. Endersby, A. Moorhouse (all 8T2), A. Halley, E. Petty (both 9T1), V. Enosakhare Riet, K. Holt, L. Perkins (all 10T1), M. Gu, L. Miller, L. Willey and C. Wilson (all Year 11). This is a fantastic achievement, well done to you all!

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing half term break and are able to recharge your batteries ready to continue pushing ourselves in order to be the best that we can be!

## Miss Williamson



## House Message WATT

This half term has flown. It doesn't seem like we have been back long since the Christmas break. With each holiday it is drawing closer to the examination period. I would like to start this newsletter with a positive comment for the Year 11 cohort. You are taking each day and working to make it count. The mock exams and all practice papers are being taken seriously and you have now been given the guidance on the work to be completed each week. With time going as quickly as it is, the exams will be here in the blink of an eye. Keep up the positive attitude and work hard to the end of the exams.

Congratulations to the following pupils for their fantastic achievement with 100% attendance since September:

Year 7- M. Abongwa, S. Balaz, R. Boxold, E. Broadway, C. Drane, P. Ebbans, N. Fitzgerald, and O. Miller-Kakay. Year 8 - C. Aigbiremolan, R. Horney, M. Johnson, B. Smith. Year 9 - N Burrows, R. Scott, J. Slater, M. Spellman. Year 10 - G. Ohenhen, E. Duah. Year 11 - B. Johnson, J. Myatt and M. Swilka

This half term, Watt pupils have shown that they are committed to their learning and have strong will to work to achieve their potential.

Congratulations to the pupils achieving the Bronze Commendation Award. For the first time since I have started writing this piece there are too many to mention. More than 60 pupils in Watt have already achieved this award. Congratulations to each and every one of you.

Congratulations to the following pupils for achieving their Silver Commendation Awards half term.

Year 7- M. Hutchins and D. Matthews. Year 8- M. Borquaye, D. Lockley, A. Matthews, K. Oakley, N. Parrish-Powell, C. Payton, M. Piskor, K. Selvey, E. Smith and H. Zucaro. Year 10- G. Ohenhen, E. Duah and C. Street.

It is amazing that pupils are already achieving their Gold Commendation Awards this term. Congratulations to the following pupil; K. Selvey and H. Zucaro

The first Head Teacher's Commendation Award is still up for grabs in Watt House. Who will be the first pupil to achieve this?

A special congratulations must go to the following Year 7 pupils for their hard work a commitment to the school girls football team. They have won all 4 of their games in the league and are currently in pole position. The pupils are R. Brotherton, B. Josebury, P. Ebbans and the Captain A. Carrinton, scoring 4 goals in the 3 games she has played.

I know I keep repeating this in each newsletter, but we can't ease up and slow down the pace. As the school motto says "Be the best you can be." Let us work hard, strive for excellence and make Watt House the best it can be!

Have a fantastic February break, recharge your batteries and let's head into the next challenge.

## STEM Club News

### Pringle Challenge

Year 7 and 8 Stem Club recently participated in the 'Pringle Challenge'. The aim was to design packaging that would allow a single Pringle to be posted at the Post Office, and to be returned to school via the Royal Mail and arrive in one piece.

However, this was not as easy as they first thought. The only materials that could be used were cardboard, straws, paper and parcel tape.

Five teams entered the challenge using a range of ideas for packaging to protect a Pringle. Packaging included making a smaller protective structure to sit the Pringle in before casing this in a larger parcel. One of the best ideas came from Year 8 student, P. Hampton, who thought of the very simple, but very effective idea of cutting many straws into short lengths, filling a box with them and burying the Pringle inside. The effect was similar to that of polystyrene and it gave a lot of protection to the Pringle.

After four days in the postal service the parcels were delivered back to school. An amazing four out of five teams had a single Pringle that arrived back in one piece.

Well done to all members of the STEM Club who participated!



Bloxwich Academy held a Step into the NHS week from Monday 14th January 2019. Each pupil in Years 8 and 9 were introduced to the wide range of opportunities in the NHS through a range of activities across every subject area. This was designed to help students to celebrate the NHS turning 70 on the 5th July 2018. The NHS is the UK's largest employer, with over 1.5 million staff from all over the world and more than 350 different careers. This week was designed to educate our students in the variety of jobs available, to aspire each one to work towards future aspirations.

Activities ranged from advertising campaigns in Art and Textiles to analysing how health care varied in different countries. There were also tasks with relation to French, Geography, History and Science. As part of an English task student were required to explore NHS job descriptions. Pupils also had the opportunity to take the pre-entry maths exam required for entry onto university courses to study for careers in the NHS.

Here is an example of the type of activities that have been completed in lessons.

Task Today: Design a recruitment poster for the NHS

**Recruitment Fair**  
10.30am - 1.30pm  
Saturday 20 June 2015  
Salford Central Library

Grow your career with us

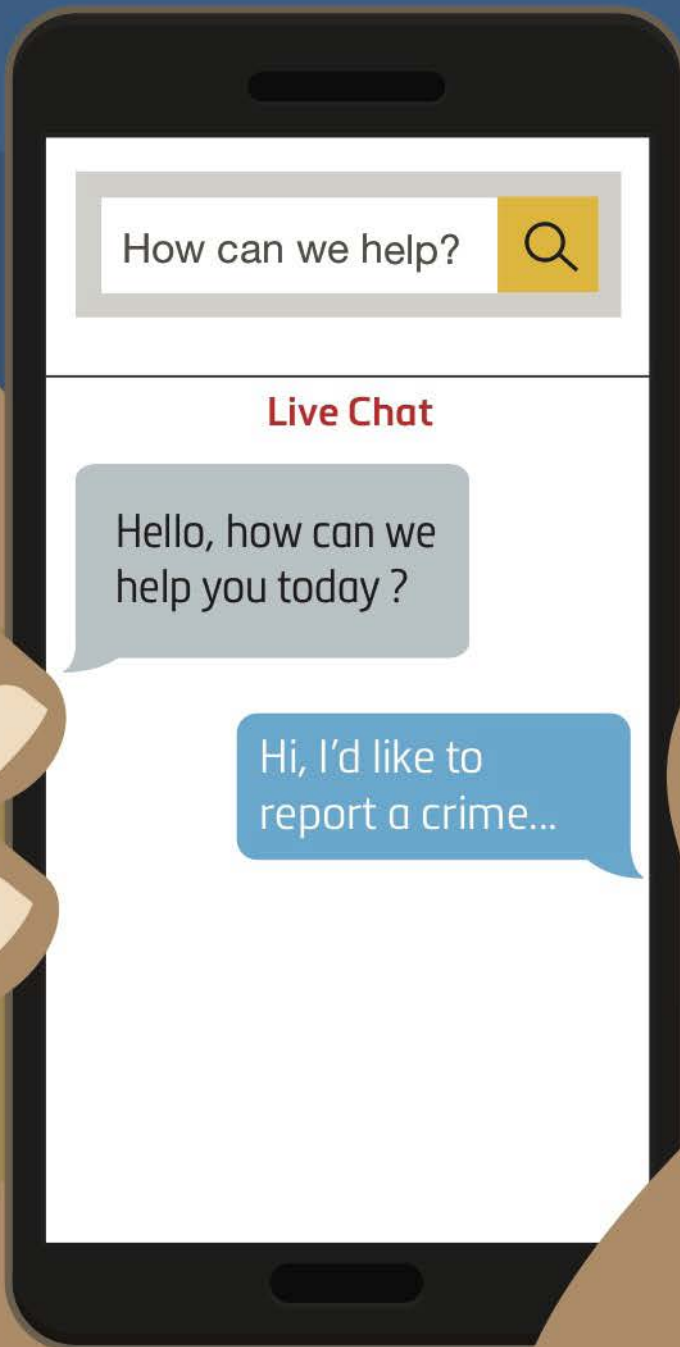
These aren't just my colleagues  
**THIS IS MY SQUAD**  
A REWARDING CAREER IN A GREAT LOCATION

**DO NOW**

Discuss with your partner....what common themes do you see in these recruitment posters for the NHS? Now feedback to the group.

# IF IT'S NOT 999 SEARCH: WMP ONLINE

[www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)



- Get tailored advice
- Report non-emergency crime online
- Track your case



- Live chat to an adviser (8am - midnight, Mon-Sun)