

BUCKET THE TREND AT KFC

THE UK's most troubled teens will be given a foot up on to the job ladder thanks to a joint venture by charity Barnardo's and KFC.

It is hoped the youngsters will learn about work and transferable skills and 100 placements will be available at the fast food chain by the end of the year.

There will be 300 on offer by the end of 2013 – but KFC aim to take

on one trainee for every UK branch. Many taking part will come from care homes or have been excluded from school.

Recent figures show kids excluded from school are 37 per cent more likely to be unemployed than those who complete mainstream education.

KFC MD Martin Shuker said: "We want to encourage employers

everywhere to be braver and to give vulnerable young people a fighting chance."

Barnardo's chief executive Anne Marie Carrie said: "We must commit to doing whatever it takes to get young people into work, so that we can look the most marginalised in the eye and know that we are doing right by them."

Details at barnados.org.uk.

AN AMAZ-ON JOB

WEB giant Amazon are delivering more jobs with 100 up for grabs at their new London Digital Media Development Centre. Roles include software development engineers and graphic designers. Apply at amazon.co.uk/careers.

NOW here's a job to really get revved up about. Formula One team Marussia are looking for a partnership manager. Perks include travel to races. Apply before October 24 at monstercooljobs.com/marussiaf1team

Stay ahead of the game

RETRAINING OPENS UP APP-ORTUNITIES



THESE are appy days for those planning a career in the apps and computer games industries.

Following last week's launch of the iPhone 5, figures show that demand for Apple app developers has doubled in a year, while the number of jobs for rival Google developers is up by 65 per cent.

At the same time, our booming £1billion-a-year computer games industry grew by nine per cent.

Wages are on the up, too. The average salary for an app developer tops £40,902 while games developers can trouser around £43,243, according to Adzuna.co.uk.

And don't think these jobs are just for eggheads and computer geeks. As everyone from OAPs to busy mums embrace tablets and smartphones, opportunities are opening up for career changers and school leavers without degrees.

Games industry body TIGA estimate there are 25,000 people working in the UK games sector of which 9,000 are highly skilled

designers and developers – but there is still a big skills gap.

Online college Train2Game has seen a rise in the number of students from different backgrounds taking courses on how to develop fresh games and apps.

Train2Game helped artist Fiona Stewart, pictured, hang up her paintbrush and set up a flourishing games business. The mum-of-three now runs video games design company Formerdroid Ltd and designed the hit game Shplem.

Cool

Fiona, 39, from Holmfirth, West Yorks, said: "I gave up work as a traditional artist because I was fed up with the smell of paint."

"I bought Photoshop and a tablet and began teaching myself how to draw with a computer."

"I wanted to learn the 3D part of games, making the models and textures on computer characters."

"My children find it cool their mum is making video games and I think my eight-year-old will follow in my footsteps. My friends find it

strange that I'm now doing this. I guess there's not yet many women in the games industry. We need more. Since re-training, my life is more stable and regular."

Train2Game lets students learn at their own pace and also arranges work placements.

Course director Myra Smallman said: "It's a great time to get into the UK games industry. With tax breaks for this sector announced earlier this year, it means even more jobs are opening up."

There are clusters of app and games development companies across the UK, while many developers choose to work freelance from home.

Would-be gamers and app developers can find out more at Eurogamer Expo at London's Earls Court, from September 27 to 30. Virgin Media are running Bafta Career Surgeries where you can talk to major figures in the games industry.

● Find out more online at: train2game.com; tiga.org/jobs; guru.bafta.org/craft/games.

DEDICATED GENT

DAD-OF-TWO Daniel Gent is training as a games designer after being paralysed in a road traffic accident.

He uses voice recognition to move the mouse while studying on the Train2Game course.

Daniel, 17, from Alfreton, Derbys, said: "I am a tetraplegic which means all four of my limbs are paralysed. But that isn't going to get in the way of my chances of getting into the games industry."

"And neither should a disability of any kind stop anybody's dreams coming true."

"All it takes is hard work and dedication."

"I have the skills needed with the flexibility to work and learn from home using voice recognition to work the computer."



NO BREAK FOR BOSSES

MOST half of small business owners are too stressed to enjoy holidays, research shows. A third said they worked during their summer breaks to keep the business ticking over. And 18 per cent have argued with their partner or family over their inability to wind down. Small firm bosses estimate they lose an average of £16,754 turnover per year and around

£3,500 of personal income by taking breaks, according to the survey by web hosting service Fasthosts. The top worry was admin not being completed, followed by customer enquiries not being acknowledged and orders not being dispatched.

Fasthosts spokesman Claire Lewis said: "Company owners feel torn between their business and personal lives."

JOB

TOY store Build A Bear Workshop are now taking on shop staff and store supervisors at locations around the UK. Interested? You can apply for a position online at careers.buildabear.co.uk.

SPOT

A STREAM COME TRUE

GET on the fast track to success with the Civil Service Graduate Fast Stream.

There are 500 jobs available on the four-year talent management scheme, which aims to enlist the UK's brightest graduates to be potential future leaders in the Civil Service.

Roles are open to grads of any discipline in departments including HR, technology and

the Analytical Fast Stream for economists and statisticians. To find out more, join a live Q&A session with Cabinet Secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood today on facebook.com/faststream.

He told Sunemployment: "The Fast Stream is a valuable source of new talent and provides the Civil Service with the means to recruit its future leaders." See faststream.civilservice.gov.uk.