

Modern technology could be guilty of overloading the brain. Your Blackberry, ipod, email and social networking sites all relentlessly clamour for your attention. At times it would be good for your well-being to just turn them off. It is said that you should keep your brain active with quizzes and puzzles, hence the March Website of the month! As a taster, see if you can solve this conundrum; the answer will be on our Latest News page at the end of this week. What do these seven words have in common? Banana. Dresser. Grammar. Potato. Revive. Uneven. Assess. Thanks to Tori in X4 for this little gem. *Angela Liddiard*



Pictured are our quizmaster Tori (top left) with Hannah, Jay, Carla and Fi

Website of the month

www.quizardry.com – Amaze your friends with how clever you are ... or just while away a few hours attempting some of the hundreds of quizzes on here. The quizzes can be downloaded or played online. The online quizzes are constructed using simple IF functions in Excel – something our students and ex-students understand absolutely!

Graduate Testimonial

I am doing a paid marketing internship that Andrea found for me for a company who make personal alarms and other women's security products. It's only my 2nd week but I am really enjoying it so far and I know I'd never have been able to do it, or at least understand why I'm doing what I'm doing if it wasn't for the eMarketing and IT at OMBS, so I wanted to thank you for that! I'm also being taught a lot about SEO because they employ someone in the office to do that and I've been helping him out a lot which has been really interesting.

This is just one of the many testimonials that we have received from last term's graduates – to read the others, [click here](#).

Our next Graduate course starts in April, see the website for details.

The Graduate Market in 2010

A new report on the graduate job market, published during January, reports the encouraging news that after two years of substantial cuts in graduate jobs, the number of vacancies is set to increase significantly in 2010.

The Graduate Market in 2010 – a study of graduate vacancies and starting salaries at Britain's one hundred leading employers conducted by *High Fliers Research** shows that employers expect to hire 11.8% more graduates in 2010 than they did in 2009.

But the report also warns that these additional entry-level jobs may do little to help graduates due to leave university this summer – more than a quarter of all 2010's vacancies have already been filled, either by graduates from the 'Class of 2009' who had job offers deferred last year, or by students who have had previous work experience with employers.

Additional research with 1,001 final year students due to leave university in the summer of 2010 shows that job hunters remain very pessimistic about their career prospects and few believe that there will be more opportunities for graduates than in 2009.

A quarter of students admit they've been forced to apply to employers they have little or no interest in and half think they'll have to take any job that they're offered.

Half of student job hunters have little confidence that they will find a graduate position at the end of their studies and a third are now planning to remain at university for a postgraduate course instead.

More worryingly the report states that half of students are concerned that graduating in a recession will do long-term damage to their future careers.

What can the 'Class of 2010' do now to maximise chances of gaining meaningful employment when they graduate this summer? Add value to your CV; by making sure that you mention all the societies and clubs that you have been involved in, along with all the extra-curricular activities and travel that you have undertaken; list all of your work experience and employment, paid and unpaid; network like mad during these last few months – that person standing next to you at the bar now could be useful in getting you a job in a few months time.

Business skills are fundamentally important. Your eventual employer needs to know that you are trained to a level where you can contribute to the company from day one. We reported in this newsletter last summer that the government was intending to launch a scheme specifically designed to give graduates a crash course in business skills. Details of this are now hard to find; perhaps the scheme has been shelved until after the General Election?

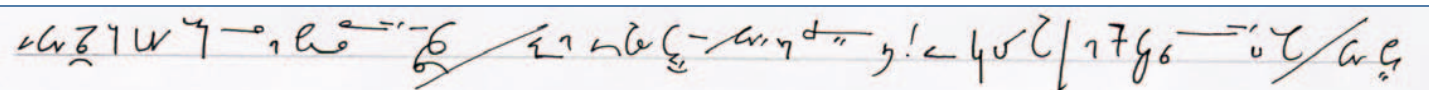
One small group of graduates are having major success in the job market; the students who have been on the Graduate Course here at OMBS. Read what one of our ex-graduate students says about her course and her new job, in the previous column.

*Read the full report here: <http://www.highfliers.co.uk/>

This month's IT Tip

When creating a **PowerPoint** presentation it is likely that you will want to keep testing animations, transitions, timings etc. Normally you would switch your presentation to **Slide Show** view, but there is a way to quickly preview your presentation in a small window.

Whilst working on your presentation in **Normal** or **Slide Sorter** view, press **Ctrl** and click on the **Slide Show** button at the same time. A small window will open in the upper left hand corner of the screen previewing your presentation. Just click back on the main slide, or press **Esc** to continue working in **Normal** view.



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