If I Get the Job I'll Bake a Cake!

Transferable skills and hidden talents within your CV work in your favour – especially if they prove to be useful in an unforeseen way to the employer. And whilst many jobseekers will undoubtedly list 'work experience' as their key skills, it seems that there is another unlikely ability employers are currently searching for.

A recent study from Cake Angels, which surveyed 1,008 employers across the UK, found that proficiencies in home economics (including nutrition, design, cooking and textiles) came out as the second most important trait to recruiters. The skill that ranked higher was grammar and spelling skills.

The report suggested that recruiters see baking as a skill that helps candidates stand out from the mases, alongside social media abilities and sports.

Emma Tomkins, Marketing Manager at Fiddes Payne, comments: "Interests such as baking and decorating suggest the applicant is daring, creative and patient, with an eye for detail, which explains the desire from employers for their applicants to have hobbies of this kind."

In terms of other helpful CV phrases, conclusions from a report by employment analytical firm, Burning Glass Technologies, claims if candidates put "digital" on their CVs it raises the chances of them getting hired.

The study found that, for new graduates, arts graduates particularly, if they flaunt extra digital skills on their CV they are twice as likely to get hired.

Here are the top five most desired traits that employers are currently looking for in a candidate, as well as the biggest red flags that appear on people's CV's.

Top five most desired traits to look for on a CV, according to the research:

- Spelling and grammar
- Home Economic skills
- Driving Licence
- Experience
- Education

Top five red flags on a CV:

- Hobby listed as socialising
- Microsoft Office listed as a skill/competent
- Coloured fonts

- Regurgitating a thesaurus
- Long and unexplained periods of unemployment

Although this research was carried out on behalf of interested parties, it comes as no surprise that the top five skills that employers are looking for are all the dependable ones.

Spelling and grammar means that the employer can trust you to uphold their brand reputation when you communicate with their customers by email.

Baking requires accurate measuring, patience, timing and, for the best results, some artistic flair. It also portrays a homely and dependable person but not a boring one thanks to the success of the TV baking shows.

Having a **Drivers Licence** means not relying on public transport or relatives and friends.

Experience and education speak for themselves.

The five **'red flags'** are again fairly obvious.

Socialising could suggest that you prefer to party and could make an employer nervous about punctuality and attendance**.**

Microsoft Office as a skill or competency is like saying being able to heat a ready meal in a microwave is a skill!

Coloured fonts are just not needed, they add nothing of any value and some are difficult to read, why risk the hiring manager passing on your CV because of this?

Using the **thesaurus** can make a CV sound altogether strange, if no one uses that word these days why have it in your CV?

Just explain any **periods of unemployment**, if the hirer doesn't like your reasons it is still better than not even being considered because of unexplained gaps in your CV.