

Parent/Guardian Guide To Apprenticeships

As a parent or guardian you want your child to get the best possible start in their career. There are many options available to young people after they leave school, and in this guide we outline information and benefits about Apprenticeships as a key route into a successful career.

What is an Apprenticeship?

An Apprenticeship is a real job with training which would allow your daughter or son to earn while they learn, whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and cover 1500 job roles in a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing. Apprenticeships are now available to degree level and beyond.

Benefits of doing an Apprenticeship

- Earning a salary
- Training in the skills employers want
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or progress within the workplace
- Increased future earning potential
- Apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training
- Learning at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor
- Paid holiday

Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different rules if the candidate lives in Scotland or Wales. Entry requirements vary depending on the sector and job.

Apprenticeship levels

There are three levels of Apprenticeship your son or daughter could apply for depending on their current skills and qualifications:

- Intermediate Apprenticeship (level 2)
- Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)
- Higher Apprenticeship (level 4 or above)

The core components for Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeships are:

- A nationally recognised vocational qualification
- Functional skills (e.g. English, Maths and ICT)
- A technical certificate such as a BTEC or City & Guilds (relevant to the specific Apprenticeship)
- Other professional qualifications or requirements as specified by the particular job

The core components for Higher Apprenticeships are as above but exclude the functional skills element.

Salaries

There is a minimum wage for apprentices per hour, but we encourage employers to pay more than this. The average gross weekly wage for an apprentice at Level 2 and Level 3 is £257. This is dependent on the sector, region and Apprenticeship level, e.g. some Higher Apprenticeships can pay more.

Raising the participating age (RPA)

The Government increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training. If your child completed year 11 in the summer of 2014 (or a later year) they will need to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- An Apprenticeship
- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training