09/24

ISSUE 1

CHOICES

The monthly parent & carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education.

TOP TIPS FOR HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO EXPLORE THEIR OPTIONS

INCREASE YOUR AWARENESS OF T LEVELS IN FIVE MINUTES

APPRENTICE INSIGHT: WHY AN APPRENTICESHIP WAS THE BEST OPTION FOR ME

LOVE MATHS? EXPLORE THE APPRENTICESHIPS FOR YOU!

WHO ARE THE TOP APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYERS?

Discover the employers rated in this year's top 100!

Amazing Apprenticeships

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

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Subscribe for free to stay informed about the latest apprenticeships and technical education news.

PREPARING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Top tips for supporting your child to explore their options and prepare for their next steps.

Each new academic year can bring fresh and exciting prospects. Some students will already have firm ideas about their next steps, however, for many it can feel overwhelming to start thinking about what they will be doing when they finish school or college.

There are lots of different options to think about and explore. Some of these may be more familiar such as A-levels or full-time university, whilst others may require a little bit more research and planning - such as apprenticeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs).

What is most important at this stage in the year is to become more familiar with the different options, to gather as much information and to start thinking of the different ways that you can explore these options with your child.

Check out some of our top tips for how you can best support your child and help them to prepare for their next steps.

TOP TIPS TO GET STARTED...

1 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

Encouraging your child to talk about the different subjects they enjoy is a great way to help them to identify their passions and how these could link to the options available. Although it may not seem obvious at first, there are a lot of ways that different subjects will develop interests and transferable skills that could start to align with their future options.

Help them to think about the topics that they find particularly interesting and the different ways of working that they prefer. For example, do they love the research side of things, the group discussions, presenting their ideas, experimenting with different solutions? By discussing what they enjoy most (and least) you will help them to build clarity about what they're looking for in the options they consider.

2 ENCOURAGE ACTIVITIES IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Whether it's a sport, art or drama club, coding or gaming societies, music or volunteering, your child will be gaining skills that will be transferable into the workplace.

Supporting your child in recognising these skills will help them gain the confidence to use them when demonstrating their skillset through an application process. For example, playing in a team sport can demonstrate communication skills, playing an instrument can show the ability to learn new things, a passion for gaming can show logic and resilience.

3 SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CAREER STAFF

Every school and college has a Careers Leader who will help to promote the links between subjects and career paths. They will arrange visits from local employers and training providers to share information with your child on opportunities after leaving school or college.

They may also include articles in the school newsletter to keep you up to date with careers information, or even have a newsletter just for careers information.

You may be able to speak to the Careers Leader at your child's school or college to obtain details on how you can support your child at home. Their name and contact details will be on the school or college website.

4 FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

Throughout the year there will be many different opportunities to meet with different employers and training providers. They may take place online or in person and could be running locally, or nationally.

They are a great way to learn more about the different routes available into certain careers, as well as finding out about the variety of apprenticeship programmes they may offer.

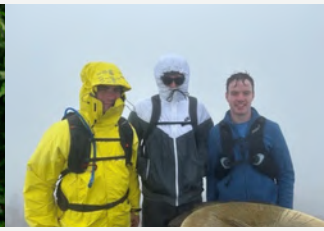
Look out on social media, on employer websites, through local careers networks (such as your local Careers Hub) and speak to your child's school or college to find out more about events taking place near you.

FIND YOUR LOCAL CAREERS HUB

Visit: careersandenterprise.co.uk/careers-hubs

APPRENTICE INSIGHT

powers
Integrated Survey Partner



Meet Daniel, a level 3 Geospatial Survey Technician Apprentice at Powers

Tell us about your apprenticeship and why you chose to do it

I'm doing a Level 3 Geospatial Survey Technician Apprenticeship and my role is Land and Engineering Surveyor, working for a company called Powers. Powers is a family business based in the North West of England and they have been running their geospatial survey apprenticeship scheme for four years.

I wanted to work in surveying because I love the outdoors and I like the precise nature of capturing measurement data on site. Also, no two days are the same, each site that I visit is different and I like the variety.

I started working at Powers in June 2022 and I am now coming to the end of the course. I will be starting my End Point Assessment for the apprenticeship soon, which I am looking forward to completing.

What is a typical day like?

At Powers, we provide measured surveys for all types of companies in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction industries. Nothing can be built or refurbished without an accurately measured survey of what currently exists, and it is my job to capture the data on site (to millimetre accuracy) using expensive pieces of survey equipment, and then bring it back to the office and process it into a drawing or a model.

My typical day sees me meeting the team at the office at 8am for the morning briefing and collecting the correct survey kit for the work I am doing that day. I must review the project and work out where the site is and how I will get there and then I look at the information that makes up the quote to see what specification of data capture there is to be collected. I then travel to site and work in a team of two where we review the site and decide how the measurements will be taken, then collect the data onto the survey equipment before heading back to the office to download it and prepare it for processing.

When I first started at Powers, I spent a lot of time gathering data on site, but now I am completing my own small and medium sized surveys from start to finish. This has helped me to understand the whole project lifecycle of a survey project.

Once a month we have staff meetings and we also have weekly toolbox talks in the morning before heading out to site. Working in construction means health and safety is really important and so we get a lot of training on completing risk assessments and method statements both at college and at work.

Go for it! You get to study whilst gaining a qualification and making money at the same time.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

I saw the advert for the apprenticeship at Powers on the Government 'Find an Apprenticeship' website and I applied directly for the job on there.

How is the learning part of your apprenticeship delivered?

I study for the Level 3 apprenticeship qualification at Cronton Sixth Form College in Widnes, Cheshire for one day a week on a Monday and I work at Powers for the other four days a week. I balance my work with study effectively as there is time within the week and in the evenings to work on assignments.

I use Microsoft Teams to send my assignments to college to be marked. Tutors from Cronton review my work with Powers once every twelve weeks to check that I'm on track with my course and at work. It's a really good way of assessing how well I'm doing, and it means that my college, my employer and I all hear the same information about my progress.

How are you supported at work?

Powers have had six geospatial apprentices and so there are plenty of people for me to call on should I need help with the course or understanding what's going on at work. We also have a new apprentice who joined the year after me and I am enjoying teaching him the basics of surveying and helping him with his course work.

What is your ultimate goal?

My ultimate goal is to continue studying while I work. I really enjoying gaining a qualification whilst experiencing how business is carried out and it means I'm getting an education without the debt that comes with paid courses. I really enjoy working in the construction sector and specifically the geospatial profession and I'm looking forward to continuing my studies in this area.

What is your proudest achievement?

My proudest achievement is climbing the nearby mountain, Snowdon. I love hill walking and getting to the top of Snowdon has always been on my list of things to do.

What would your advice be to students and parents about apprenticeships?

Go for it! You get to study whilst gaining a qualification and making money at the same time.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about the Geospatial Survey Technician apprenticeship
Visit the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) website and explore the Geospatial Survey Technician standard: Instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/geospatial-survey-technician-v1-1

Find out more about becoming a Land Surveyor via an apprenticeship at Powers here:
Powersuk.com/how-to-become-a-land-surveyor

THE 2024 TOP 100 AND TOP 50 APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYERS

Recognising employers for their commitment to apprenticeships

First compiled in 2020, the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers celebrates England's outstanding apprenticeship employers, recognising their commitment to creating new apprenticeships, the diversity of their apprentices, and the number of apprentices who successfully achieve their apprenticeships.

The new 2024 listing was revealed in July in an exclusive online broadcast. For the fourth time, the British Army has been named the country's number one apprenticeship employer. The accountancy and business advisory group, DJH, has been named this year's top SME apprenticeship employer.

Looking at the list with your child may lead them to think about the opportunities that are available with an employer they hadn't considered before. You could also look at the full list of 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers to research which employers are in your local area.

Find out more by visiting: topapprenticeship employers.co.uk

The top 10 Apprenticeship Employers of 2024

	Organisation	Sector	Levels
1	The British Army	Armed Forces	2, 3, 4, 6
2	BT	Technology	2 - 7
3	Royal Navy	Armed Forces	2 - 4
4	Royal Air Force	Armed Forces	2 - 5
5	London Ambulance Service	Health & Social Care	3 - 6
6	BAE Systems	Engineering & Industrial	2 - 7
7	The Go-Ahead Group	Transport, Travel, Logistics	2 - 5
8	Mitchells & Butlers	Hospitality	2 - 7
9	Tops Day Nurseries	Childcare	3 - 5
10	PwC	Professional Services	4, 6, 7

The top 5 SME Apprenticeship Employers of 2024

	Organisation	Sector
1	DJH	Professional Services
2	Roe Brickwork	Construction
3	LB Group	Professional Services
4	Lee Marley Brickwork	Construction
5	Rosedene Nurseries	Childcare

APPRENTICESHIPS WITH THE TOP APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER: BRITISH ARMY

In July 2024, the British Army were named the number one apprenticeship employer in the UK and Northern Ireland for the fourth year running in the Department for Education's Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer listing.

With over 13,000 apprentices in roles ranging from Chef to Healthcare Assistant, Driver to Power Engineer, Vehicle Mechanic to Dog Handler, Paratrooper to Bricklayer, Plumber to HR Specialist, and many more – the British Army have been recognised as an outstanding apprenticeship employer for their commitment to creating new apprenticeships, the diversity of their apprentices and the number of apprentices who successfully achieve their apprenticeship.

Over 1,000 apprenticeship employers have entered the rankings since 2020, with the British Army placed as the number 1 employer each year.

Key facts about British Army apprenticeships

- The British Army offer over 40 different apprenticeships from level 2 to degree level.
- Apprenticeships available across Engineering, Medical, Intelligence & Communications, HR & Finance, Logistics & Supply, Combat and Music.
- Opportunities to travel and take part in sports & adventure training.
- Free access to dental, health care and other benefits.
- Starting salary of over £25,000, which is reviewed annually.
- Skills & qualifications relevant to career for life.

"Achieving my BA Honours degree in Business, Leadership, and Management marked the pinnacle of my apprenticeship journey, a moment of unparalleled pride. Earning first-class honours with a distinction not only validated my dedication but also affirmed my proficiency in the intricate realms of leadership and management, valuable to my role within the military."

Staff Sergeant Tanya Parry
Watchkeeper Pilot Apprentice
A Watchkeeper pilot operates unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance and reconnaissance purposes.

"We are tremendously proud of a team effort that involves our apprentices, their military and civilian instructors and their line managers. It's wonderful that this important contribution to our national security, prosperity and social mobility is recognised.

The Army offers great opportunities to develop leadership and management skills with clear routes for promotion, career progression, and personal development.

That sense of belonging is really important. In the Army, you're immediately a part of a gigantic team. That bonding, sense of identity, sense of challenge, the sort of skillsets they will acquire – but what's really important are the interpersonal skills, that team, getting along with other people from different backgrounds.

Apprenticeships, not just in the Army but across the economy, are a really good opportunity for people to get really good skills, that lead to good jobs, career progression, they get paid and there's no student debt, and that's something to take into account."

Colonel Craig Terblanche, Head of Education (Education Training Services Branch Colonel)

Visit the British Army job site: www.jobs.army.mod.uk

Army Apprenticeships – Information Webinar for Parents & Carers

Wednesday 16th October – 6pm – 7pm

This webinar invites parents & carers to hear from British Army colleagues and apprentices to learn more about apprenticeships with the Army, the key benefits and an opportunity to answer your key questions or worries you have as a parent/carer.

Register here:
https://amazingapprenticeships.com/event/army-apprenticeships-information-webinar-for-parents-carers/

New Parent & Carer Resources: Coming soon

New resources are being developed for parents & carers to answer some of the key questions about apprenticeships and careers with the British Army, as well as explore what life as an apprentice in the Army is like. Look out for a new flyer and guide on the Amazing Apprenticeships website.

Find the resources here:
https://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeships-with-the-british-army/

T LEVELS: QUICK GUIDE

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

What are T Levels?

T Levels are post-16 technical qualifications taken after GCSEs as an alternative to A-levels, apprenticeships and other post-16 options.

T Levels are designed by employers to give students the knowledge and skills businesses need and give them a head start in their careers. T Level courses are high quality, with longer teaching hours than most current technical qualifications. One T Level is roughly equivalent in size to 3 A-levels and takes two academic years to complete.

What do they involve?

T Level courses contain the following elements:

- A technical qualification, which includes:
  - A core component covering concepts, theory and skills relevant to an industry area. This gives students a broad understanding of the subject area.
  - One or more occupational specialist components focussing on specific knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to a role. This is a chance for students to delve deeper into their chosen subject.
- An industry placement of approximately 45 days, focussing on developing practical and technical skills, taking place in a real work environment with employers. Providers are responsible for finding industry placements for their students.

Find out more about T Levels here:
amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels

Which subjects are available?

T Levels have been rolling out since 2020. By 2025, there will be more than 22 different subjects available:

Courses available now:

- Agriculture, Land Management and Production
- Animal Care and Management
- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- Onsite Construction
- Digital Business Services
- Digital Production, Design and Development
- Digital Support Services
- Education and Early Years
- Health
- Healthcare Science
- Science
- Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Management and Administration
- Accounting
- Finance
- Legal Services
- Craft and Design
- Media, Broadcast and Production

Courses available from 2025:

- Catering
- Marketing

MATHS APPRENTICESHIPS UNCOVERED

Apprenticeships are continually created and released through The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE). If your child enjoys maths at school or college, one of the apprenticeships below may be of interest to them.

You can find these apprenticeship standards and hundreds more on The Institute website: instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards

Actuarial technician	The role of an actuarial technician is to help manage financial risks such as pensions, investments, and insurance for clients by using actuarial techniques and building mathematical models. Actuaries measure the probability and risks of future events.	Level 4
Aerospace engineer	Aerospace engineers create aircraft components and equipment and review the performance of aerospace products, processes, and systems. They support customers by aiming to improve flight safety, and aircraft efficiency and reduce costs.	Level 6
Clinical scientist	Clinical scientists analyse and critically evaluate raw data for clinical reports. Clinical scientists develop and monitor procedures. They perform analytical techniques that are appropriate for the data set.	Level 7
Debt adviser	Debt advisers create realistic financial statements and budgets for customers and present payment offers to customers based on circumstances.	Level 3
Finance assistant	Finance assistants identify and rectify errors in financial and accounting data. Handle sales invoices, bank statements and payroll. Financial assistants may work in the finance department of a company or work in schools, hospitals, and local government.	Level 2
Retailer	A retailer helps customers buy products and services. Retailers maintain stock availability and process sales, exchanges, and refunds. Retailers may work in supermarkets, high street chains, and online ordering businesses.	Level 2

JOIN ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST KNOWN BRANDS AS AN APPRENTICE

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) is a true world leader. We have over 42,000 people in 31 countries, from all over Europe to Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia. Together, we're creating drinks brands that are loved all across the globe, connecting with the 600 million consumers who buy them every day.

Our GB Apprentice Scheme

We offer a wide range of different Apprenticeship Schemes including :

- Food Technologist Apprenticeship
- Sales Apprenticeship
- Engineering Apprenticeship

This year we will be recruiting for 25 apprenticeship positions, available in locations throughout the United Kingdom.

The application process

The application process involves four stages – firstly you apply online at the CCEP careers site for the apprenticeship, you are then sent a link to an online gamification assessment. If you are successful at that stage, you are then invited to either a video or telephone interview. The final stage of the process is an assessment centre.

Sound interesting?

We are looking for ambitious individuals who want to learn and develop in their career. We are looking for determination and a passion to succeed in your chosen path. Just as important – we're looking for people who have the personality to bring our brands alive!

Apply now

Visit the website to register your interest. Our vacancies will open at the beginning of October.

Find out more, register your interest and apply for the vacancies now by visiting: ccep.jobs/en/apprenticeships

THIS IS MY STORY FILM & RESOURCES

An inspiring set of films showcasing six amazing apprentices

Earlier this year, Amazing Apprenticeships worked with six incredible apprentices to visit their workplace and create a film about their apprenticeship story. In their films, each of the apprentices talks about the ways that their employer and training provider has supported them to achieve their apprenticeship.

The set of resources features one overall film of all the apprentices, plus six individual films, to showcase each apprentice's story in more detail.

If your child has a learning or physical disability or difference, or health condition, watching these films could inspire them to consider an apprenticeship. This film is available with British Sign Language and subtitles.

WATCH NOW

Find all the films and resources here: amazingapprenticeships.com/this-is-my-story

To accompany the film there are a range of resources, including:

A guide to apprenticeships presented in a clear and easy to understand format.

amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/easy-read-guide-to-apprenticeships

A guide to support finding an inclusive employer (text-based):

amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/a-guide-to-finding-an-inclusive-employer

Finding an Inclusive Employer Infographic (more visual with less text overall):

amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/finding-an-inclusive-employer-infographic/

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

Check out Amazing Apprenticeships' wide catalogue of free resources

Rapid Reads are a set of quick-read guides created for anyone looking to expand their knowledge of apprenticeships and other technical education routes.

These helpful resources cover a wide range of topics in the world of vocational education and are a great way to get the information you need in simple, quick, easy to read language.

Whether you're totally new to a subject or you're looking to fill in a few gaps in your knowledge, you're sure to find helpful information in our collection of Rapid Read guides.

View the collection of guides on the Amazing Apprenticeships website

Resources for everyone

Explore Amazing Apprenticeships' full range of inspirational and informative resources, including films, games, guides, posters, quizzes, presentations and more.

amazingapprenticeships.com/resources

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As part of the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges programme (ASK), Amazing Apprenticeships are offering parents, carers, careers staff and teachers a schedule of fully-funded webinars throughout the year.

This series of informative webinars will provide an abundance of advice, information, hints and tips from expert speakers across the apprenticeships and technical education world. Each webinar lasts for 30 minutes and will take place on Zoom. Participants are required to sign up before the session and will receive an email confirmation and a reminder one hour before it begins. The webinars will be recorded and shared with all registrants after the session.

BOOK NOW

Book your free place and catch up on recordings of all previous webinars here: amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars

Date and Time	Title and Description
Thursday 19th September 2024 15:30-16:00	**Understanding the post-16 and post-18 apprenticeships and technical education options** There are lots of technical education options to undertake post-16 and post-18. Join this webinar for a clear picture of what they are, how to access them and next steps.
Thursday 17th October 2024 15:30-16:00	**Understanding apprenticeships** Join us for a more detailed look at apprenticeships – exactly how they are structured, where you find them and who delivers them.
Thursday 21st November 2024 15:30-16:00	**Get apprenticeship 'application ready'** Join us to understand how you can help aspiring apprentices to be 'application ready' so that as soon as they see a position they are interested in, they feel equipped to apply quickly.
Monday 9th December 2024 15:30-16:00	**Using the levels of apprenticeships to progress your career** In this session, we discuss how you can advance your career using the different levels of apprenticeships and how starting as an intermediate or advanced apprentice can assist you to progress further and undertake further apprenticeships at higher levels. We will be joined by apprentices who will share their apprenticeship journeys and how it helped them to progress.

Date and Time	Title and Description
Thursday 23rd January 2025 15:30-16:00	**How to search and apply for apprenticeships** A step-by-step guide to the different vacancy platforms for apprenticeships, including Find an Apprenticeship, and tips for supporting your students/child during the application process.
Monday 10th February 2025 15:30-16:00	**Exploring the range of apprenticeships** With more than 700 apprenticeship standards, there is an apprenticeship for almost every job role out there! Join us to hear about some of the known and lesser-known apprenticeship job roles, the different industries and employers offering positions and how you can explore which apprenticeship could be right for you.
Thursday 27th February 2025 15:30-16:00	**Using Find an Apprenticeship to search and apply** The Government's flagship system 'Find an Apprenticeship' is a great starting point for anyone considering applying for an apprenticeship. With more than 20,000 vacancies advertised each year, the platform provides a free way to search and apply for apprenticeships in England. Join this webinar to discover the new features on the site, including an enhanced application portal.
Thursday 20th March 2025 15:30-16:00	**How to impress in the apprenticeship application process** Hear directly from employers and apprentices sharing their advice on the best ways to impress in the apprenticeship recruitment process.
Thursday 24th April 2025 15:30-16:00	**Preparing for Apprenticeship Assessment Centres** The apprenticeship recruitment landscape is constantly changing, with many employers now utilising different methods to assess candidates, including assessment centres. Join us to hear from employers about how they work, what they're really looking for and their advice on how students can prepare.
Monday 19th May 2025 15:30-16:00	**Apprenticeships for individuals with additional needs** Many students have additional needs and may feel unsure about the support that will be offered by employers and training providers. Join us to hear about the flexibilities that can be offered and the support that apprentices will receive.
Thursday 19th June 2025 15:30-16:00	**How students can use the summer to start their apprenticeship research** It's never too early to start researching apprenticeships and the summer can be a brilliant time to help to get ready. Join us to hear from experts explaining how to help students to get ready for when vacancies open up in the autumn.
Monday 7th July 2025 15:30-16:00	**Finished year 11 or year 13 and want to find an apprenticeship?** If you've just finished your course(s) and taken your exams, but aren't sure what you're doing next, or may want to change your mind about what you are planning to do, join us to find out about what to do right now to start finding an apprenticeship. You haven't left it too late!

STAY UP TO DATE

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NEVER MISS AN ISSUE

- Stay up to date with the latest news
- Free to access
- Get your copy before everyone else

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

AMAZINGAPPRENTICESHIPS.COM

- Access a wide range of free resources
- Inspirational stories of real apprentices
- Advice from employers and experts
- Live vacancies
- Visit anytime, anywhere