Preparing to apply for an apprenticeship

Information for parents and carers





Did you know?

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There are a whole range of apprenticeships available, and some provide the opportunity to achieve a full degree. They are increasingly being viewed as a genuine, high-quality alternative to a traditional university degree.

Apprenticeships have undergone significant changes in recent years, extending to a wide range of professions. Entry points are more and more likely to be at 17+ and 18+ in the future.

What can you do?

There are a number of apprenticeship levels:

- Traineeships: no formal qualifications
- Intermediate Apprenticeships: equivalent to five good GCSEs
- Advanced Apprenticeships: equivalent to A-levels
- Higher Apprenticeships: can lead to a HND, HNC or Foundation Degree
- Degree Apprenticeships: lead to a full undergraduate degree and include study at a university.

Sixth Forms/colleges tend to focus on applications to **Higher and Degree** apprenticeships. Both Higher and Degree apprenticeships offer salaries; they are proper jobs but provide training and qualifications.

Higher Apprenticeships can be accessed in a range of careers such as law, broadcasting, engineering, finance, IT. The list is constantly growing. For example, a five-year Higher Apprenticeship in Law can result in the position of a Chartered Legal Executive, equivalent to a lawyer. The BBC offers, amongst other things, a Production Assistant Apprenticeship which involves working on live TV programmes, dramas, sport and radio.

Degree Apprenticeships can result in a wide range of professional careers, from a nuclear scientist to a solicitor. They are developed by employers, universities and professional bodies. Time is split between university and the workplace; the apprentice is fully salaried and, very importantly, pays no university fees.

What can you do?

It is worth being aware of what is available and the following links may be of interest to you as you have the conversations with your son/daughter:

- <u>www.getingofar.gov.uk</u>
- <u>www.notgoingtouni.co.uk</u>
- A parent's guide to apprenticeship is also available on <u>www.gov.uk</u>
- There is a great deal of information also on_the university applications website, <u>www.ucas.com</u>