

**THE  
PARENTS'  
GUIDE TO**



**The Parents' Guide to**

**NAW 2023**

*National Apprenticeship Week 6-12 February*

# Contents

*I'm interactive!  
Click me if you want  
to go to the chapter*

## The Parents' Guide to:

We provide support for parents about choices teenagers face after GCSE and sixth form, as well as advice on teenage health and wellbeing. We specialize on Years 10-13 as it's a time when teenagers face many important decisions and parents play a pivotal role in guiding them.

Our specialist guides have all the information parents need in one place, written in a style that's easy to read and include links to reliable sources so they can find out more. We are not sponsored, so our advice is unbiased. We work with 1,100 schools and reach over 600,000 parents in England and Wales.

Wherever we refer to parents, we mean parents and carers – this includes anyone with significant caring responsibilities for children, for example grandparents, older siblings and foster parents.

[www.theparentsguideto.co.uk](http://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk)

## Keep up to date:

If you're interested in regular updates about how you can help your teenage children: [www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/join-us](http://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/join-us)





## Introduction



### The Step-By-Step Guide to Applying for an Apprenticeship

This guide will help you to prepare for the application process, step-by-step, and show that you are the right person for the role you want.

[Download Now](#)

### Rapid Read collection

This useful collection of easy-to-understand short guides, have been created for Teachers, Students, Parents, Employers and anyone looking to expand their knowledge of apprenticeships and other vocational routes.

[Download Now](#)



### The Apprenticeship Arcade

Engage students in your classroom, or set them enjoyable and educational home learning tasks through the brilliant new Apprenticeship Arcade. The suite of games provides interactive and fun ways to learn about apprenticeships.

[Visit Now](#)

### Apprentices are Amazing films

Discover the amazing world of apprenticeships through our inspiring films. They are a high-impact way to showcase the breadth and variety of apprenticeships, including in the increasingly popular sustainability and 'green' industries.

[View Now](#)



As a parent, you're more likely to know about the university route to careers rather than the apprenticeship route. You may not have personal experience of apprenticeships or even know anyone who has taken one. This could sway you towards dismissing apprenticeships as a second-rate option rather than a first choice career plan. Don't rule out the fact that an apprenticeship could be the right choice for your child. They offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment resulting in a professional qualification. There are no tuition fees (these are covered by the employer and the government) and the salary can cover living expenses.

Apprenticeships used to be associated with trade industries (such as electricians, mechanics or plumbers). Nowadays, apprenticeships can be taken in a wide range of industry sectors and provide entry to all types of careers, including accounting, banking, IT, law, management and television. Relatively new to the apprenticeship suite are "degree apprenticeships", offering an "earn while you learn" route to BSc or BA status. In other words, the end qualification is the same as if your child had attended university full time, the difference is that they will not have incurred any debt in tuition fees and will finish their degree with robust and transferable workplace skills.

There are also options to take short term apprenticeships. If your child is not comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one or two year options and still gain recognised, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible.

Taking an apprenticeship is not an easy option and competition can be fierce. It takes organisation and dedication to balance work, where your child will be expected to contribute to the same standards as everyone else, and study. Holidays are far fewer than at college or university. However, if they learn more easily through practical application, the work based nature of apprenticeships will suit them well and they will obtain valuable experience which will strengthen opportunities in finding rewarding work when the apprenticeship is over.

### Join us

If you're interested in regular updates about other ways you can help your teenage children, click here and join our online community.

[Sign up here](#)



# Introducing apprenticeships: a great pathway to career success

Apprenticeships are a fantastic choice for many students, either straight after GCSE or after sixth form. They provide a way of getting qualifications while doing a real job and are a great alternative to full-time study for those students that prefer practical experience over classroom learning.

Apprenticeships help build solid, professional skills transferable from one organisation to another. Employers pay a salary and tuition fees are covered by the employer and the government. Apprenticeships can last from one to five years – and result in a professional qualification.

## Qualifications

Apprenticeships offer students versatility. Depending on their age, experience and qualifications already achieved, there are different entry levels for apprenticeships, starting at Level 2 (straight after GCSE for those that have few or no GCSE passes) through Level 6/7 (degree level). The qualifications obtained at each level range from GCSE/BTEC equivalent, A/T Level, diploma/foundation right through to masters degree. Qualifications are nationally recognized.

## Length of study

Apprenticeships can last for just one year or as long as seven (or more) depending on the final qualification. If your teen isn't comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one- or two-year options and still gain recognised, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind later on and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible. This means they don't have to make decisions about long-term commitment when they are young or unsure of their future direction, but needn't miss out on getting higher level qualifications if they decide later that's what they want to do.

## Work and study

As well as doing the job itself, apprentices will get dedicated time during the working week to study the education element of the apprenticeship. This usually takes place at a college, university or other education centre. However, it may also be necessary to spend personal time completing projects and keeping on top of studies, so just like being in full-time education, there may be "homework" during evenings and weekends.

## Finance

Tuition fees for apprenticeships are paid by the government/employer. Apprentices are also paid a wage for their time, so they will usually complete their apprenticeship debt free. However, there will be costs for education materials, travel to and from work and possibly living expenses (if they are not based at home).

## After the apprenticeship

Many apprentices are offered full-time roles with the company where they have served their apprenticeship. However, if your teen wants to try a different company, or even a different industry, they'll have first-hand experience in the workplace. This can provide a significant edge over those that have obtained qualifications through full time education, when applying for other jobs elsewhere.

## KONECRANES®

Want to become an industry leading Service Technician?

## Join our Apprenticeship Scheme

We are recruiting Apprentice Crane Service Technicians to start at the beginning of the next academic year, Autumn Term 2023.

### Where?

We have Apprenticeship opportunities in Aberdeen, East Kilbride, Gateshead, Teesside, Warrington, West Midlands, East Midlands, Bristol, Andover and Rochester.

### Learn more at:

<https://bit.ly/kcukjobs1122>

#beyouatkonecranes





# Apprenticeship levels



**Typical length**

12-18 months

**Entry requirements:**

None or few

**Qualifications obtained:**

GCSE, BTEC or equivalent

**Who's it for?**

Mostly for 16-year-olds with limited or no academic qualifications.



**Typical length**

3-5 years

**Entry requirements:**

A levels or equivalent

**Qualifications obtained:**

Higher national diploma / foundation degree

**Who's it for?**

Mostly for those who want to qualify for professional career paths without attending university or college full-time.



**Typical length**

12-24 months

**Entry requirements:**

Usually 5 GCSEs

**Qualifications obtained:**

A levels or equivalent

**Who's it for?**

Mostly for 16-year-olds with reasonable academic achievements but who don't want to study in sixth form.



**Typical length**

3-7 years

**Entry requirements:**

At least 2 A levels or equivalent

**Qualifications obtained:**

A BA or BSc degree or higher

**Who's it for?**

Mostly for those with excellent sixth form results that want to study for a degree or similar whilst working.

# The Parents' Guide to... Educational routes

Level	Qualification				
8	NVQ 8	Doctorate (PhD)			
7	Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7	Masters degree (MA)			
6		Bachelors degree BA or BSc			
5	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)		
4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)			
3	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate
2	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)		BTEC first diploma	
1	Traineeship / NVQ 1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D, E, F or G)		Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	
	Applied / work route	Academic route	Vocational route		

## Levels of Education

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 8 qualification levels (1 - 8) plus an entry level qualification for those just starting. Generally, the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Levels 1-3 are typically taught in schools and colleges.

With so many different qualifications, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead to next. To help you understand, we've created a summary of what the levels mean highlighting academic, vocational and work-based routes to higher education.



# Is an apprenticeship the right choice?

## ADVANTAGES

Apprenticeships provide focused and applied training for those who already have a strong interest in a job or industry.

Not everyone is suited to academic style learning and apprenticeships provide a practical approach to obtaining qualifications.

Apprenticeships provide paid employment. In addition, your child will leave debt free.

Gaining work experience and on the job training may provide your child with a competitive advantage when applying for full time employment.

Apprenticeships develop key transferable skills which are considered lacking in the labour market.

Apprenticeships may provide future employment within the company and working within an organisation may reveal job roles they did not know existed.

Some students flourish with the responsibility and structure of an apprenticeship.

Degree apprenticeships offer the chance to gain a BA or BSc without incurring the debts associated with university study.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Apprenticeships may narrow options early on. Your child will need to have a fairly clear idea of the type of career they wish to pursue.

It may be difficult for your child to combine studying with working.

The salary of an apprentice can be quite low and your child will also need to consider financing their travel and living expenses if they are not living at home.

Your child may feel that they are missing out on the 'student life' offered at universities. However,

some universities and colleges still offer their degree apprentices a strong student experience.

Student fairs and networking events at university enable students to explore different career routes that they were not aware of when leaving school.

Many companies provide graduate schemes for university leavers on completion of their degree.

Degree apprenticeships are still quite new, so there is only a limited number of vacancies available at the moment.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

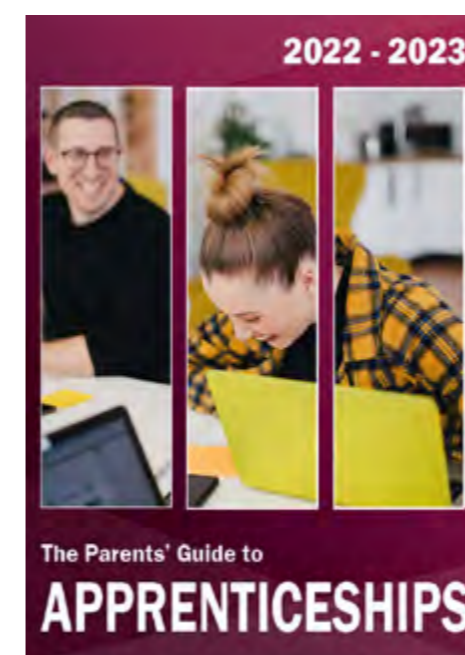
- Does your child have a clear idea of the type of job they want to pursue?
- Is your child more suited to an applied and hands-on working environment?
- Is your child organised and able to balance work with academic study?
- Does your child enjoy practical / active homework assignments?
- Will your child perform better under

the guidance of a supervisor in a work environment?

- Will your child enjoy the combination of different learning environments?
- Has your child undertaken any paid or voluntary work that they enjoyed?

Don't worry if your child is still unsure which option is right for them. Students can apply for degree and higher apprenticeships at the same time as applying to university through UCAS.

## Find out more:





## A smarter way to get started.

Our apprenticeships help young people kick-start their careers and discover their potential. Our community of experts provides support, and our global organisation offers countless opportunities to develop, progress and make an impact.

**Discover our range of apprenticeship programmes.**

**Find out more**

**Early careers programmes | Deloitte UK**

# Researching apprenticeships

Apprenticeships vary in the qualifications that can be achieved, length of commitment and balance between work and study. They may involve moving away from home. With so many variables, it might help to think about the different elements separately to work out which type of apprenticeship suits your child best.

## What level of apprenticeship is appropriate?

First, your child needs to decide which level of apprenticeship they wish to take. This will be determined by two things:

- Having the necessary qualifications to be accepted;
- How long they intend to commit to their apprenticeship.

For post-GCSE apprenticeships, your child will need 5 GCSE passes to apply for Level 3 or a minimum standard of Maths and English to apply for Level 2.

To apply for a post-sixth form apprenticeship, your child will need Level 3 status (two A levels or equivalent) and in some cases (even for lower level apprenticeships), they may need to have exceeded this.

Alternatively, they may opt to take a different type of apprenticeship (i.e. higher at Level 4 or 5). They will still obtain a recognised professional qualification (but not the equivalent of a degree) and their commitment to the apprenticeship will

be shorter (between one and two years usually). Later they could choose to build on their apprenticeship to gain further qualifications up to masters level.

Degree apprenticeships offer an attractive alternative to studying full time at university, whilst still obtaining a BA or BSc. Like university, this will mean committing to three or four years study and – unlike university – it will mean working in a real job too! Level 7 degree apprenticeships offer the chance to obtain a masters degree.

## What sectors are they interested in?

Next, they should decide on their area of interest and see what apprenticeships are available within that sector. If they don't know where their areas of interest lie, it's time to do some research! Of course, careers advisers can help at school, but they might want to jump online themselves. If they get bored reading about a certain sector, chances are that's an indication the sector isn't for them. Getting some work experience is also a good way of deciding whether reality matches up to the theory of a dream job.

## Will the apprenticeship help them get the career they want?

There's no need to be too specific about the job or role they ultimately want, but it's important that they can see a correlation between their apprenticeship, the areas of study, the experience it will give them, and where they want to be in the future (say five years' time).



# Finding an apprenticeship



FREE ENTRY

BOOK TODAY

## THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP & EDUCATION EVENT



Millennium Point **Birmingham**  
Tuesday 28 March 2023

9am until 3pm

### Get face-to-face careers advice at this momentous event!

The event hosts over **80 exhibitors** including universities, employers and training providers, all showcasing their career options. Find out about university courses, Intermediate to Degree Level Apprenticeships and other paths to employment.

Meet many of The Gatsby Benchmarks by attending this event every October and March.

Before the event, a lot of the pupils had shown an interest in apprenticeships but didn't know the path they wanted to take. We are now going to go through their options. Events like this, where they can get all the information in one go is really useful to us.

Teacher

It's been absolutely brilliant. It's been informative and it's been really fun as well.

Student

Book online today or call the events team on **0800 023 5407** for more information.  
[nationalapprenticeshipevents.co.uk/group-bookings/](https://nationalapprenticeshipevents.co.uk/group-bookings/)



share with us nationalapprenticeshipevents @careerevent nationalapprenticeshipevents

Supported by



There's a wide range of ways to seek out apprenticeships and we recommend using a selection of options rather than relying on one.

### Government website

Most apprenticeships are posted on the Government's website. By creating an account, your child can set up alerts and filters to see opportunities that are of most interest to them and to be emailed when new opportunities arise. However, not all apprenticeships will appear.

### Industry sector

It's smart to check apprenticeships directly on company, university or college websites. If your child doesn't know which of these sites to select, then they should first do some research on which industry sector may be of interest, and then find companies within this sector.

### Job boards

National job agencies will also advertise apprenticeships and options can be narrowed to review within local distances from home or specific job types. This might be a particularly good way to seek out apprenticeships in level 3-5 range.

### Useful links

GOV. UK Search

Apprenticeship Search

### Companies direct

Another alternative is for them to identify companies that are of interest and check those websites for apprenticeships.

Be warned! Applications to well-known international companies (such as Amazon, Coca-Cola, Facebook, Google, Virgin) will be highly competitive; however, it might be a good starting point for identifying what's included in the apprenticeship and seeking out other companies that provide similar content.

### School careers advisor

If your child is still at school or college, then getting them to speak with their careers adviser is a good move. Careers advisors are often the first to hear from companies advertising new apprenticeships

### For more information:







HM Government

Get The Jump

Earn while you learn with an apprenticeship

GET THE JUMP SKILLS FOR LIFE APPRENTICESHIPS

## Get the Jump on all the education and training opportunities for your child

For young people, choosing what to do next can be daunting and many aren't aware of the different options open to them when they leave school or college.

The 'Get the Jump' Skills for Life content hub on the National Careers Service website has been designed to help young people aged 14-19 to understand their

education and training choices and how they compare to each other.

There are new technical education routes alongside the tried and tested academic pathways that you may not be aware of. You and your child can find more information about these and where they can lead to by visiting the [Get the Jump website](#).

One of the routes you may be less familiar with is apprenticeships. An apprenticeship is a job where you learn, gain experience, and get paid.

An apprentice spends 80% of their time in the workplace and 20% on classroom-based learning.

Apprenticeships are designed by employers, they include transferable skills and knowledge and can lead to skilled employment, higher education, or another apprenticeship at a higher level.

**Find out more from current apprentices:**

### Jeiya, Degree Apprentice, Digital and Technology Solutions

*"The highlight of my apprenticeship has been my personal and professional growth. Personal growth, as through my apprenticeship, I was able to come out of my shell to network with strangers and speak in front of a crowd. Professional growth, as I started with zero programming experience to gradually being able to contribute to the building, testing and deployment of applications."*

### Elliot, Degree Apprentice, Chartered Management

*"I chose a degree apprenticeship, as I believe the concept of splitting your time between study and work is the best way forward and allows you to study at university and then apply your studies in the workplace the next day. Not only this, but I now have the opportunity to develop my professional skills, which will allow me to get ahead on my career path and progress faster into the world of work. A salary is also helpful in taking the pressure off student loans and living away from home should you choose to do so."*

### Jack, Mechanical / Electrical Engineering Apprentice

*"My older brother did an apprenticeship, so I knew the benefits before I started – you get qualifications and experience, and you get paid. I liked the sound of learning both theory and practical skills, rather than focusing just on theory at college, and I'm gaining skills that are relevant to my job. An apprenticeship also boosts your early career, because by the time others finish academic courses, I'll have years of work experience, as well as qualifications."*

In addition to apprenticeships, there is a range of other post-16 and post-18 education and training pathways such as T levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Find out more about all of the options open to your child on the [Get the Jump website](#).



## Top 10 apprenticeship employers: 2022



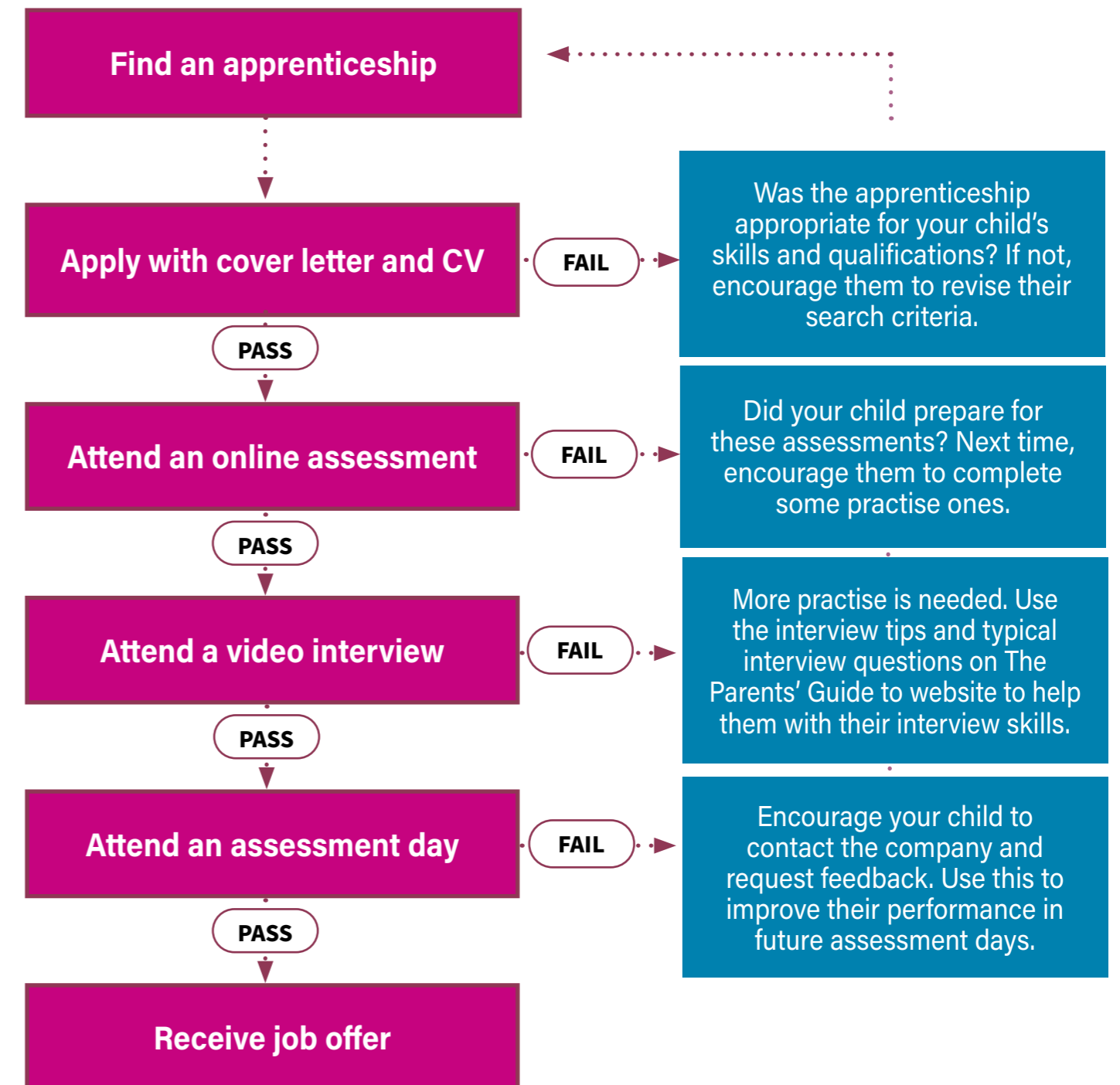
Based on 6,000 reviews - statistics compiled by [www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)  
For the most up-to-date version, [click here](#).



# Applying for an apprenticeship

The application process is very similar to applying for a conventional job and, with the exception of degree apprenticeships, opportunities can arise at any time of the year.

Your child will need a CV, to be able to complete an application form, be interview ready and may need to complete aptitude tests. Plenty of practise is a good way to prepare.





# A spotlight on T Levels

T Levels are an exciting new option in sixth form education that provide a recognized qualification tailored to industry needs and skills. It's a great choice for students that want to learn practical skills relevant to certain jobs, regardless of whether they want to go on to study for a degree, take alternative further education or go straight into the workplace.

One T Level is equivalent to three A levels and the course lasts for two years. T Levels involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day

on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

T Levels are a vocational alternative to A levels (because they focus on industry) and include practical study as well as classroom learning. They differ from apprenticeships because the study and working time is reversed. Unlike BTECs, T Level courses were developed with businesses and offer an industry placement.

## The following T Levels will be available from September 2023:

- ▷ design, surveying and planning for construction
- ▷ digital production, design and development
- ▷ education and childcare
- ▷ building services engineering for construction
- ▷ digital business services
- ▷ digital support and services
- ▷ health
- ▷ healthcare science
- ▷ onsite construction
- ▷ science
- ▷ accounting
- ▷ design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- ▷ engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- ▷ finance
- ▷ maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing
- ▷ management and administration agriculture, land management and production
- ▷ catering
- ▷ craft and design
- ▷ hair, beauty and aesthetics
- ▷ legal services
- ▷ media, broadcast and production

## FIND YOUR NEAREST T LEVEL

Search for colleges and schools who start delivering T Levels in 2020 and 2021






# Find out more from current students:



## John, student, Lincoln University, Architecture, Science and Technology:

*“The combination of classroom-based learning and an industry placement was hugely beneficial, as they both offered different opportunities.*

*Including a work placement within my learning proved to be invaluable. I learnt and developed key skills for the workplace and experienced a real working office where I learnt how business can be conducted, within the construction industry.”*

## Kian, student, Lancaster University, Software Engineering:

*“The highlight of the course has been with my industrial placement, having created a mobile app for room-booking at the Hampshire Constabulary Headquarters being an amazing project that I am glad to have worked on.*

*I started a degree at Lancaster University in September. A degree paired with the work experience I have gained through the T-Level will create an expansive portfolio to approach companies with, whilst developing my knowledge of Computer Science.”*

## Bandhana, T Level Student, Health and Science:

*“I’m currently applying to university for an adult nursing course and when I graduate, hopefully, I’ll be a registered adult nurse. I can go to university, I can do an apprenticeship, or I can go straight into work because I’ve gained the basic skills.”*

The ‘Get the Jump’ Skills for Life content hub on the **National Careers Service website** has been designed to help young people aged 14-19 to understand their education and training choices and how they compare to each other.

# T Levels - what’s involved and where might it lead?

Passing a T Level will demonstrate the following:

- an approved technical qualification specific to the chosen industry area with compulsory elements and, in some cases, optional specialisms;
- an industry placement in their chosen industry area (equivalent to at least 45 days, usually offered as a single day over a period of weeks or a concentrated block, but may be another combination);
- a minimum standard in English and maths (if this had not already been achieved before starting the T Level).

Students receive a nationally recognised grade and a breakdown of their achievements on the course, including how they did on their work placement. If they don’t pass all elements of their T Level, they’ll

receive a T Level statement of achievement outlining what has been completed.

## What can they do after?

T Levels offer a broad range of further opportunities after sixth form, including:

- university;
- alternative further education;
- apprenticeships;
- jobs from related industries;
- job from their placements.

This means that students with a T Level qualification can go on to study for a degree, a related higher level apprenticeship, take a different course or go straight into a job. Alternatively, they can go on to a higher level education or work in a non-related field if, during the course of study, they didn’t enjoy their industry specialism and want to take a different path.

## Useful links

**GOV. UK  
T Levels**

**The Parents’  
Guide to**

*I’m interactive!  
Click me and I’ll take  
you to their website*



SERIES 2  
AVAILABLE NOW!

NGTU  
NOT GOING TO UNI

Amazing  
Apprenticeships

THE  
PARENT  
PERSPECTIVE

Is the teenager in your life looking to make choices about their next steps?

Are you ready to support them to research their options?

How much do you know about the opportunities and career paths available?

What advice is out there?

### The Parent Perspective Podcast

The Parent Perspective Podcast explores the world of careers by speaking to engaging experts and inspiring special guests, from a wide variety of backgrounds.

All from the parent perspective!

### Our amazing host

Respected broadcaster and mum of four, Rachel Burden, hosts the latest season, bringing her own perspective as a parent to the podcast and asking the questions you want answered.



Listen via your preferred platform or

[www.amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast)

# Visit The Parents' Guide to for more support:

All our resources are ready for immediate download

## Parent Guides

Our range of interactive guides provide you with easy to follow advice, hyperlinks to reliable sources and the most up-to-date information.

## Support articles

Browse through our collection of online articles covering a range of topics, including:

- Post 16 options
- Post 18 options
- Personal development
- Study and exam revision
- Health and wellbeing

## Parent newsletter

Sign up to our parent newsletter and receive free support, advice and resources on how you can help your teenage children straight to your inbox.



[www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/parents](http://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/parents)



# NCW 2023 06-11  
MAR 23

## National Careers Week 2023:

National Careers Week is a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.

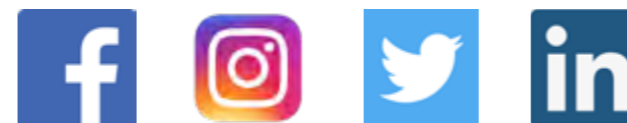
National Careers Week, this year from 6th - 11th March 2023, is the perfect platform to advise and inspire the next generation as

they enter the world of work. It encourages education providers to bring together students, local employers and advisers through careers events and activities.

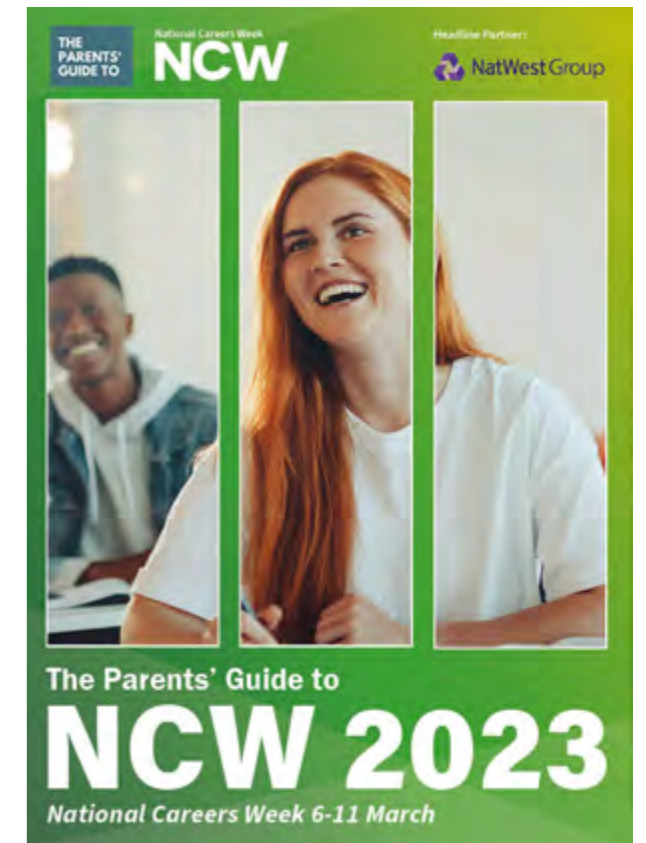
During National Careers Week every school, academy and college can offer careers advice and guidance to their students, with support from us with free resources, information on current career opportunities and advice on activities and exercises to

run. And access doesn't stop at the end of #NCW2023! Our dedicated websites are available throughout the year!

### Stay connected:



Download your copy  
for free





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