

CHOICES

The monthly parent & carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education

CONSTRUCTING CAREERS
FROM T LEVELS TO
APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM
NEW 'MODERN' WORK
EXPERIENCE MODEL

NEW FOUNDATION
APPRENTICESHIPS LAUNCH
IN AUGUST 2025



MY DAUGHTER THE AWARD-WINNING APPRENTICE

HEAR FROM PROUD FATHER, RANJIT

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If you have a story to share about apprenticeships or technical education - we would love to hear from you.

Please reach out to the Amazing Apprenticeships team below:



MY DAUGHTER: THE AWARD- WINNING APPRENTICE!



Meet Ranjit, whose daughter Jainna is a multi-award winning Project Manager Degree Apprentice, as well as vice-chair of the Ethnicity Inclusion Network and co-founder of The Brown Girl League.

How did Jainna decide to do an apprenticeship?

Academically, Jainna was very strong - she got four A*s at A-level, and she had offers from some of the biggest universities. But from an early stage of doing her research, she realised that maybe going to university was not the right thing for her. She did weigh up university life versus working, but she really wanted to work and didn't know what she wanted to study at university. When she heard about the project management apprenticeships, she was very excited.

Were you happy she was looking at apprenticeships?

I had no doubts whatsoever about her doing an apprenticeship. I still think that there is, unfortunately, a stigma attached to apprenticeships,

where people think they are for people that are not academic and more of a practical person. That's definitely not the case. Financially it's brilliant (I've got four daughters!) - they're paying for her degree and she's going to come out with no debt. When you weigh up £9.5k a year for university fees, plus other costs like living expenses, compared to the good salary she's earning and the company paying for her degree, it makes an apprenticeship a great idea! Plus, she's getting five years' worth of work experience while she's doing her degree. She's not going to come out of university and have to try and find a job.

"If I was thinking how I could future-proof my kids, an apprenticeship is the way to go."

Did you support her to apply?

Absolutely, we supported her to research and explore different vacancies across different areas. There weren't loads of vacancies in project management so she had to do a lot of research. I don't think she originally envisioned working for an aerospace company in the STEM sector, but it aligns very well with her skill set and she loves it.

How did you know an apprenticeship was right for her?

It's not whether I thought it was right for her or whether the school thought it was right for her. As adults, we can provide guidance, but it's got to be right for your child. That's the most important thing.

They need to be able to decide themselves what is right for them. Two of my daughters went to university, Jainna is doing the degree apprenticeship and my youngest is yet to decide as she's just doing her GCSEs.

How has Jainna found working and learning?

Jainna has really excelled at balancing working and learning. She does four days a week at work and one day at university, which is mostly remote.

One thing I feel she might have missed out on a bit is university life and some of the skills you develop there too. But I think the skills that she's learned on her apprenticeship have outweighed that - the ability to motivate herself to go into work every day, for example. She passed her driving test and within two months she was driving quite a long commute to work and back.

“Don’t just think about now, think about what they could become in four or five years’ time. If I was thinking about how I could future proof my kids, then an apprenticeship is the way to go. ”



offering them and why they're offering them, the growth that they can offer a person and what future prospects there are.

Don't just think about now, think about what they could become in four or five years' time. If I was thinking about how I could future proof my kids, then an apprenticeship is the way to go. They're working, they're earning money, they're learning, and they're growing as individuals. And if I was on the other side, hiring someone, would I hire someone straight out of university, or would I hire someone that's been working for four years as an apprentice and learning on the job?

She does socialise with colleagues and it might not be the same as if she was at university, but I think this has prepared her better for life. She also does things outside of work – like co-founding the Brown Girl League for example, and she has got a very large network.

Has she had any standout moments?

She's had so many opportunities - she met Keir Starmer last week, she's been to the Houses of Parliament for lots of meetings, she is an ambassador for the Association for Project Management and she works with

Future Leaders UK, she's won numerous industry and apprenticeship awards...I could go on!

What would your advice be to other parents and carers?

The first thing is to discuss it with your children. Have an open mind about the different options, whether that's university, whether that's work, whatever it is.

You've also got to look at all the options when it comes to apprenticeships and it's good to understand the companies that are





BUILDING A CAREER WITH TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Nylah studied a T Level in Construction, Design & Build and is now a Level 4 Construction Apprentice at Berkeley Group.



Stand out moments

A real stand out moment was National Apprenticeship Week 2025 – I met the Secretary of State for Education and the Leader of Lambeth Council, attended a careers fair and spoke on a webinar.

Looking to the future
After my level 4 apprenticeship, I'm planning to move on to a level 6 with the support of my employer. I'm really excited for the future.



Career opportunities

I'm really lucky to be working on Opal Village, an exciting build of new apartments that re-imagines an iconic Victorian gasholder – building in a circle is really different and challenging!



Level 4 Apprenticeship – learning on-the-job

I work on the design side of the construction, liaising with the build team, commercial team, architects and structural engineers.

Level 4 Apprenticeship – learning off-the-job

I spend one day a week at university, learning the theory side that I can then put into practice at work.



T Level industry placement
I gained so much from my 45-day placement - experience and knowledge of working in construction and ended up securing an apprenticeship with them!



T Level in Construction, Design & Build

I chose a T Level because I originally wanted to pursue a career in architecture, but I didn't want to go through the route of having to study maths and art at A-level.



TL

FINANCE APPRENTICESHIPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE FUNCTION (GFF)



The GFF works across the Government to make sure that public money is spent wisely.



DAN

LEVEL 7 FINANCE APPRENTICE AT HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS

I work in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), specifically with the Fraud Investigation Service. As an apprentice, I have taken on key tasks and responsibilities since day one and put into practice what I learn during my studies on a daily basis. I was a career-changer, and had a degree, but not the experience many finance roles require, so an apprenticeship was the perfect entry route into a finance career. I would highly recommend a GFF apprenticeship. Having worked in many other industries, I can safely say the roles offered here are amongst the best on the market and there are so many Government organisations that there will always be something new to experience.



LIBBY

LEVEL 3 ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT APPRENTICE AT HM TREASURY

Studying finance has always been of interest to me. After completing GCSE and A-levels, I didn't feel university was right for me and I just wanted to get into the workplace. After taking on my current role, I chose to do an apprenticeship to gain a further understanding into the background of finance. It has offered me hands-on experience, applying knowledge every day from my learning to my work tasks. If you're considering an apprenticeship, I would say go for it. I've had opportunities I never thought I would, like attending an awards ceremony at No.11 Downing Street, which I helped organise!



MEA

LEVEL 4 PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING APPRENTICE AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

I have always known that I wanted to work in finance, but I didn't want to study it at university, as I didn't think it would be right for me. I decided to do an apprenticeship so I could study and gain a qualification and valuable experience whilst working, which I really enjoy. I have a key role in ensuring all procedures are followed while we embed a big new system, to ensure its smooth and seamless operation, which in turn develops my skills and knowledge further. A GFF apprenticeship is an amazing opportunity for growth as you are fully supported throughout, both in your work and study.



SAM

LEVEL 7 FINANCE APPRENTICE AT UK RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

At UKRI's Science and Technology Facilities Council, I work closely with scientists in the Central Laser Facility, preparing budgets and analysing financial reports to ensure value for money. By doing an apprenticeship, I'm gaining vital experience while being supported in my ACCA studies, and working on exciting projects like the Vulcan 20-20, which aims to build the world's most powerful laser. I thought that working in finance would involve sitting at a desk all day staring at spreadsheets - little did I know I would be working in a science laboratory, playing a small role in pioneering scientific research which could benefit the planet for years to come! I would highly recommend a GFF apprenticeship for the breadth of opportunities - there is something for everyone.



MODERN WORK EXPERIENCE

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

WITH NICOLA HALL



We hear from Nicola Hall, Director of Education at The Careers & Enterprise Company, about the upcoming changes that look beyond the traditional placement and deliver fresh ways for young people to access work experience.

As parents and carers, we all want our children to thrive in a world full of career possibilities. **Modern work experience** is an approach informed by a refreshed Government vision. It guarantees every young person access to **high-quality, multiple workplace experiences** - totalling ten days and spread throughout secondary education. These experiences are underpinned by clear learning outcomes, **employer-led** in design, and aligned with the expectations that schools need to uphold to deliver excellent careers provision, ensuring they build the skills and behaviours your child needs to succeed.

Importantly, modern work experience encourages schools to start early—ideally from Year 7—so that young people can explore a variety of **industries and occupations** over time. A progressive approach helps your child make informed choices before critical exam options decisions and supports those with fewer social networks by opening doors to new connections.

Understanding modern work experience means knowing it's more than a single placement. Expect a **blend of experiences**, as interests develop, placements

become more personalised, your child may progress from **short workplace visits** to **longer collaborations** with embedded projects that spark curiosity and confidence.

Talk with your child about what they've learned: Which workplace cultures inspired them? What new skills did they practise? Your **conversations reinforce their discoveries** and help turn experiences into real insights.

To support schools and employers in delivering these opportunities, a national network of **careers hubs** is working with the Government to pilot new approaches and support employers to develop a strong pipeline of inspirational experiences. These hubs also support careers leaders in schools to develop good careers programmes. You can look up your own child's careers leader on your school website.

You can get involved by supporting modern work experience through your own employer or business. By **partnering with educators**, you strengthen the bridge between learning and the world of work. Modern work experience isn't just a box to tick—it's a vital stepping stone that helps young people explore, aspire and prepare for their futures. As parents, your encouragement and involvement make all the difference.

Find out more

Find out more about [modern work experience](#) here.

THE POWER OF WORK EXPERIENCE



What is work experience and why is it important?

Work experience doesn't have to be full-time employment. It can be a weekend job, a school placement, volunteering, or even helping in the family business. The purpose is to give young people a taste of the working world and help them to develop practical skills. Often, employers are looking for candidates who show initiative and a proven interest in the field. Work experience can help to demonstrate that.

How work experience can help your child:

1. Builds valuable transferable skills

Through work experience, your child could develop skills such as communication, teamwork, timekeeping, and problem-solving skills.

2. Makes their application stand out

Apprenticeship programs are competitive. As reported on the [latest government statistics on apprenticeships](#) more than 200,000 young people started an apprenticeship between 2024 and 2025. Work experience could help your child's application stand out by showing they've already taken steps to prepare for working life.

3. Prepares them for the workplace

Having some real-world experience gives young people a head-start when adjusting to full-time work. They're more confident, more prepared, and more likely to succeed.

[Read the ISE article to learn more about what students think about work experience.](#)

4. Helps them discover what they enjoy

Sometimes, trying a job or role is the best way to figure out whether it's the right path. Work experience helps your child explore different careers and make informed decisions about their future.

How can you help?

- **Encourage them to look for part-time or holiday jobs**, even if they're not directly related to their dream career.
- **Help them to explore volunteering opportunities** in areas they're passionate about.
- **Talk to family, friends, and local businesses** to see if they'd be open to letting your child shadow someone for a few days.
- **Find organisations that offer work experience for young people, like Uptree.** Uptree is on a mission to see employers everywhere offer unique experiences of work to demystify careers and help students transition from education to employment. They have a wide offer of in-person and virtual work experience days that your child could take part in. You can learn more by visiting their website.

"The events that I was accepted onto allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the working environment and helped me to figure out exactly what it is that I enjoy doing and the jobs I could pursue as a career"

Uptree student

Find out more about Uptree here: uptree.co

DISCOVER DISABILITY RIGHTS UK (DRUK) RESOURCES



Into Apprenticeships Guide – updated for 2025

Into Apprenticeships is a guide for Disabled people, parents/carers and key advisers about applying for apprenticeships in England. It deals with common questions such as how to find an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and what support is available in the workplace. There are several stories written by Disabled apprentices about their own experiences and the challenges they have faced. As well as taking advantage of the support on offer, the apprentices talk about the importance of their own creativity, perseverance and motivation.

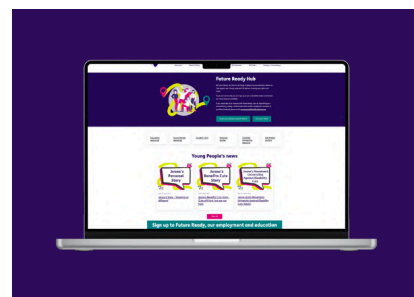
Download it here: disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/apprenticeships

Future Ready Hub

DRUK has created a hub for all things employment and education related to help support young Disabled people through their post-16 options, knowing their rights and more.

Visit the hub and sign up to their e-newsletter:

disabilityrightsuk.org/future-ready



Speaking from Experience: Getting It Right for Disabled Apprentices report

This Disabled Apprentice Network report considers what works well through collecting and analysing young Disabled people's experiences of how they receive information about apprenticeships; their engagement with training providers and employers, and the support they have received. They also collected the views from various stakeholders who work with Disabled young people. If your child is a young Disabled person looking to develop their career, this report will have something of interest for them.

Find the full version and easy read version here:

disabilityrightsuk.org/disabled-apprentice-network

Disabled Students Helpline

The Disabled Students Helpline offers information and advice by phone and email on post-16 education and training to Disabled students, apprentices, trainees, their parents, carers and any professionals supporting them.

Email: students@disabilityrightsuk.org

Telephone: 0330 995 0414

Telephone opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Calls are free from a landline but mobile providers may make a charge.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH...

BBC
BITESIZE
CAREERS



HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAREER ROUTE?

We've teamed up with BBC Bitesize Careers to find answers to the top questions that parents and carers have.

Discussing your child's career path can often be challenging. **Mark Anderson** from **BBC Bitesize Careers** shares 5 ways you can help them make informed decisions about their next steps.

1 Learn about their options

Find out as much as you can about the career options available – the more you know the better equipped you'll be to support your child. A great place to start is the BBC Bitesize Careers website.

2 Share your own career journey

While things have changed since you started your career, sharing your experiences, both the successes and challenges, can provide valuable lessons. This will help your child gain insight into their own journey.

3 Encourage exploration

Encourage your child to step outside their comfort zone. Trying new things, such as volunteering, hobbies or gaining work experience, can help them discover hidden strengths and skills.

4 Help them discover what they are good at

Parents often spot strengths in their children that they might not recognise. Take the time to highlight their talents, whether it's being organised, good with numbers, skilled in coding or great with people. This boosts their confidence and helps them make choices that align with their abilities. ["Help! What am I good at?"](#) is a video podcast hosted by BBC Radio 1's Katie Thistleton that you could watch or listen to together for tips and advice.

5 Ask thoughtful questions

Sometimes the big questions such as "What will you do with your life?" can be overwhelming, so instead, try asking questions that open up meaningful conversations without adding pressure, like:

- What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?
- If all jobs paid the same, what would you choose?
- What cause or issue in the world do you care about enough to make a difference?

FOR MORE IDEAS, VISIT THE
BBC BITESIZE CAREERS
[WEBSITE](#) BY SCANNING
THE CODE.



WHAT ARE FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS?



Launching in August 2025, new Foundation Apprenticeships are designed to support young people aged 16-21* to access apprenticeship programmes in priority sectors. *Available up to the age of 24 for certain eligible young people.

What are Foundation Apprenticeships?

Foundation Apprenticeships are a brand-new programme, available from 1st August 2025, designed to support young people aged 16-21 to access paid employment through an apprenticeship. For eligible young people with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, care experience, those who are in prison, or prison leavers, this programme will be available to the age of 24.

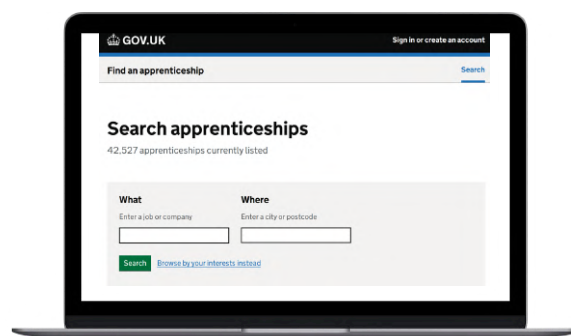
Key facts about Foundation Apprenticeships

- Apprentices will be paid a salary (meeting at least the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices - currently £7.55 per hour).
- Foundation Apprenticeships will be for a minimum of 8 months, with progression to a level 2 or 3 apprenticeship built into the programme.
- The first foundation apprenticeships focus on industrial strategy and government mission areas, including:
 - Engineering & manufacturing
 - Building service engineering
 - Engineering and manufacturing
 - Construction
 - Finishing trades
 - Onsite trades
 - Digital
 - Hardware, network and infrastructure
 - Software and data
 - Health
 - Health and social care

Where can I find apprenticeship vacancies?

One of the best places to begin will be the government's Find an Apprenticeship website. This platform provides an excellent starting point and lists thousands of 'live' apprenticeship vacancies from across England.

findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk



What types of opportunities will be available?

As Foundation Apprenticeships are new programmes, it is going to take a bit of time for employers to start offering them. Many employers will receive up to £2,000 from the government to support them with the costs of creating these new opportunities, so look out for vacancies becoming available over the coming year.

Where can I find out more?

Check out the [Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](https://www.institute-for-apprenticeships-and-technical-education.org/) website.

EXPLORE HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS



Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are an exciting development in technical education. HTQs are new and existing level 4 and 5 qualifications that have been approved to deliver the skills employers need because they are high-quality and job-focused.

This series of informative webinars has been designed to help you find out more about HTQs in key sectors and areas of the country. Hear from HTQ providers, employers, students and the HTQ team at the Department for Education by joining as many of this series of webinars as you'd like.

BOOK NOW



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

Date and Time	Title and Description
Wednesday 4 th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in the West of England Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the West of England, including hearing from local provider, the West of England Institute of Technology.
Tuesday 5 th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in Construction Join this webinar to find out more about HTQs, with a focus on the Construction sector, including hearing from a provider, Exeter College.
Tuesday 10 th June 2025 11:15-12:00	HTQs in Digital & Technology Join this webinar to find out more about HTQs, with a focus on the Digital & Technology sector.
Wednesday 11 th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in the North West Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the North West, including hearing from local provider, Wigan & Leigh College.
Thursday 12 th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in Life Sciences Join this webinar to find out more about HTQs, with a focus on the Life Sciences sector.
Wednesday 18 th June 2025 11:15-12:00	HTQs in Business & Finance Join this webinar to find out more about HTQs, in the Business & Finance Sector.
Wednesday 18 th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in the West Midlands Join this webinar to find out more about HTQs in the West of England.

Date and Time	Title and Description
Thursday 19th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in Advanced Manufacturing Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the Advanced Manufacturing sector, including hearing from provider, Oaklands College.
Wednesday 25th June 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in the East Midlands Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the East Midlands, including hearing from local provider, Northampton College.
Thursday 26th June 2025 11:15-12:00	HTQs in Tees Valley Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in Tees Valley.
Tuesday 1st July 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.
Wednesday 2nd July 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in London Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in London.
Tuesday 8th July 2025 11:45-12:30	HTQs in the Creative sector Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the Creative sector.
Wednesday 9th July 2025 13:15-14:00	HTQs in the Clean Energy sector Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the Clean Energy sector.
Thursday 10th July 2025 15:15-16:00	HTQs in the Clean Energy sector Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the Clean Energy sector.

HOW TO RESEARCH AND APPLY FOR HTQs: THURSDAY 12TH JUNE



If your child is looking for a post-18 qualification that is flexible, job-focussed and an excellent way to progress to a higher/degree apprenticeship, a full degree or a highly-skilled job, join this webinar on the 12th June to find out more about HTQs, answering these questions and more:

- What are HTQs?
- Where are they available?
- How and when do you apply?
- How does the funding work?
- What could you do after an HTQ?



Register here:
amapps.uk/htq-parent-webinar



Find out more about HTQs here:
amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs

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.

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 12th June 2025 15:30 - 16:00	How to research and apply for HTQs If your child is looking for a post-18 qualification that is flexible, job-focussed and an excellent way to progress to a higher/degree apprenticeship, a full degree or a highly-skilled job, join us to find out more about HTQs.
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.
Thursday 26th June 2025 15:30 - 16:00	Understanding the different types of apprenticeship training providers Join this webinar with apprenticeship expert and special guest, Ben Rowland, CEO of the Association of Employment & Learning Providers (AELP).
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!

CATCH UP

The entire back catalogue of webinars are available to view on catch up at a time to suit you. Visit the webpage and scroll to the bottom - then select and play whichever recordings you wish.

amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars



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