

Apprenticeship/Traineeship options

Apprenticeships and Traineeships are becoming a real alternative route for those leaving school as it allows them to gain real life work experience, study towards a relevant qualification in that industry field and receive a wage for their work. There has never been a better time to consider an apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships are stereotyped as a 'second rate' option but this couldn't be more misguided; there are many subject options which allow an apprentice to study to degree level, same as what they would receive at university and get the benefit of combining these qualifications with years of practical experience.

Apprenticeships take between 1 and 6 years to complete, and cover 1,500 job roles in a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing.

The parent's guide to apprenticeships on GOV.UK offers useful downloads as well as more information on the benefits of an apprenticeship and the entry requirements. We would recommend all young people start their research and vacancy searches using the following website - www.getingofar.gov.uk



Facts about Apprenticeships

- The National Minimum Wage for an apprentice is £3.50ph (as of April 2017) with apprentices aged 16-18 taking home around £151.88 (on average) per week.
- After finishing, the majority of apprentices (90%) will stay in employment (including 2% self-employed), with seven in ten (71%) staying with the same employer.
- A quarter of former apprentices had received a promotion (23%) within 12 months of finishing, and for intermediate and advance apprentices, three quarters reported taking on more responsibility in their job after completing their apprenticeship.
- All apprentices work towards an accredited qualification which could include – NVQ, BTEC, HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, and Undergraduate Degree and in some industries Masters Degrees.
- Most apprenticeships will support individuals with their Maths and English if they were not able to achieve a C grade at GCSE level.

Facts about traineeships

- A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that unlocks the great potential of young people and prepares them for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'.
- Designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment.
- You will not be paid a training wage on a traineeship however young people should be aiming to progress onto an apprenticeship upon completion of a traineeship.
- It's important that young people speak to their employers on the traineeship as they may be able to offer financial support with transport or equipment costs.