



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2024

National Apprenticeship Week 2024 takes place from the 5th – 11th February. This year's theme is **Skills for Life**.

In school, every student will have had the opportunity this week to learn about apprenticeships during form time.

Exploring how the subjects they enjoy could lead to future apprenticeship opportunities is useful for all students, whether they are:

- Just starting to think about the world of work in years 7 and 8;
- Choosing their GCSE options in year 9;
- Exploring post-16 options in years 10 and 11; or
- Deciding between work or university in year 13.



Q&A display
in the Blue
Dining Hall

LET'S TALK APPRENTICESHIPS

As a parent or carer, trying to understand all the different opportunities available to young people when they leave school can feel overwhelming.

At Rossett we are committed to providing you with easily digestible information that explains options, busts myths, and hopefully helps you feel empowered to support your young person in making decisions.



WHAT NEXT?

There is a wealth of information about apprenticeships available online, which can make it difficult to know where to start.

The following pages break the key elements down into sections, and provide links to up-to-date information that you can use to explore apprenticeships with your young person.



WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP? - 8 KEY FACTS

1. **An apprenticeship is a real job** available to individuals aged 16+ (with no upper age limit). Apprentices are typically employed for at least 30 hours per week.
2. **All apprentices will earn a salary** of at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices, which is currently £5.20* per hour. Many employers pay more.

National Minimum Wage (hourly) rate	
National Living Wage (23+)	£10.42
21-22 Year Old Rate	£10.18
18-20 Year Old Rate	£7.49
16-17 Year Old Rate	£5.28
Apprentice Rate	£5.28

*THIS WILL RISE TO £6.40 PER HOUR IN APRIL 2024.

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP? CONTINUED...

3. **Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months.** Most apprenticeships take between 1 - 4 years to complete. It will depend on the level of the apprenticeship and how it is delivered.

4. **Apprenticeship Levels:**

Apprenticeships range from Level Two (equivalent to GCSEs), right up to Level Seven (Master's level). It is even possible to achieve a degree through an apprenticeship. Read more about levels [here](#)

Apprenticeship Levels

Intermediate	Advanced	Higher	Degree
Equivalent to 5 GCSEs at Grades A*-C / 4+	Equivalent to 2 A-Levels	Equivalent to a Foundation Degree or above	Equivalent to a Bachelor's or Master's Degree
You can receive: Level 2 NVQ, Diploma, National Certificate	You can receive: Level 3 NVQ, National Certificate, BTEC	You can receive: Foundation Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma	You can receive: Foundation Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma

5. **Apprentices do not pay for their training.** All apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government, meaning that an apprentice will never have to pay for their training.

6. **Apprentices receive paid, off-the-job learning** The equivalent of 6 hours per week is spent undertaking paid, off-the-job learning, gaining valuable skills and qualifications.



HOW DO APPRENTICESHIPS LINK TO SCHOOL SUBJECTS?

It can be hard to see how the subjects studied at school link to apprenticeship opportunities.

Amazing Apprenticeships has created fantastic subject-led posters, student activities, and videos to give students ideas of how the subjects they are learning now, could lead to exciting opportunities in the future. Check them out [here](#)



7. Apprentices spend the majority of their time on-the-job. Most of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience of the workplace.

8. There are thousands of apprenticeships in more than 170 industries. New apprenticeships are advertised each week, covering a wide range of job roles. You might be surprised at the variety and breadth of roles available.



APPRENTICESHIP MYTHS BUSTED

Apprenticeships have changed, but many people's opinions of them have not. If you have heard they are badly paid, dominated by men, only for those who don't do well at school, don't lead to a career etc, see if this [myth buster](#) can change your mind.



SPOTLIGHT ON DISABILITY

Real-Life Examples

THIS IS MY STORY is a 6-minute film following the stories of apprentices with learning differences, disabilities and health conditions. This version includes subtitles and a British Sign Language Interpreter.

[Click here](#) for ideas on how to find inclusive employers

and [click here](#) for a list of key apprenticeship terms that are used to describe all opportunities.

SPOTLIGHT ON DISABILITY

RateMyApprenticeship describes disability inclusion as "all about creating a safe and happy workplace where people are celebrated for their differences - rather than overlooked because of them".

RateMyApprenticeship compiles a list of the 100 best apprenticeship employers in the UK for school and college leavers, and rates BAE Systems, Cummins, Sage, Clifford Chance, and Savills as among the best for their disability initiatives.

Check out the full list of 100 best employers [here](#)





SPOTLIGHT ON THE BLACK APPRENTICESHIP NETWORK (BAN)

In the 21/22 academic year, non-white apprenticeship starts made up less than 2 in 10 apprentices at all ages (14.7%).

The **Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network (ADCN)** champions apprenticeships and diversity to employers, and encourages more people from diverse backgrounds to consider apprenticeships. You can find a list of employer members [here](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BLACK APPRENTICESHIP NETWORK (BAN)

A new collaboration between Amazing Apprenticeships and the Black Apprentice Network (BAN) was created to tackle the underrepresentation of individuals who are of African and Caribbean descent.

You can watch [this short film](#) to hear from two of the BAN founders, Kwesi Bimpong and Rubin Aboagye-Poku, as they introduce the partnership between The Black Apprentice Network and Amazing Apprenticeships, and why it is so important.

You can find a collection of apprentice stories and experiences, showcasing some of the current and past apprentices who are members of the Black Apprentice Network [here](#)

Find out more about Black Apprenticeship Network [here](#)



A GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

FOR CARE EXPERIENCED
YOUNG PEOPLE/
CARE LEAVERS

SPOTLIGHT ON CARE EXPERIENCED APPRENTICES

Care experienced young people can access additional support from their employer and training provider if needed. This support can help apprentices to make adjustments to enable them to carry out their role effectively and complete their apprenticeship.

If eligible, young apprentices can also be supported to claim the **Care Leaver's Bursary** of £3,000).

Full details on all the support available can be found [here](#)

A summary of the **support offered by Jobcentre Plus** can be found [here](#)

LEEDS APPRENTICESHIP RECRUITMENT FAIR

Leeds first direct arena #LARF24

Monday 5 February 2024
1pm - 7pm
Leeds first direct arena



WHERE CAN YOUNG PEOPLE LOOK FOR APPRENTICESHIPS?

- Search on the **National Apprenticeship Service** website.
- **Contact employers directly** - many large organisations, small businesses, start-up companies, local councils and health authorities are on the lookout for the right apprentice. People who are proactive enough to get in touch can really stand out.
- **A significant number of recruiters now hire via social media channels** and this means that a lot of positions never get advertised on job boards or other websites. Searching on **Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook, Linked in and X** can be a great way of finding opportunities.
- **Search online jobs boards** like [Indeed](#), [Monster](#), [Totaljobs](#), [Reed](#), [GetMyFirstJob](#) and [Apprentice Employment Agency](#).
- **Attend an Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair** - the next local one is in Leeds on Monday 5th February 1-7pm
- **Use your network** - tell everyone you know you are looking for an apprenticeship! You never know what or who they might know.



HELPFUL APPLICATION RESOURCES

Rate My Apprenticeship Parents Hub offers expert advice to help you guide your young person through every step of the application journey.

This link will take you directly to the Parents Hub Career and Application Advice page, which provides information on CVs, cover letters, application forms, common interview questions, assessment centres and psychometric testing.

Amazing Apprenticeships also provide a brilliant **Step-by-Step guide to applying for an Apprenticeship**

APPLYING FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are becoming more and more competitive. Last year there were around 72 applicants per job, so it is important that young people invest time and effort in their applications.

The application process for every apprenticeship vacancy is different. It may simply involve a CV and cover letter, or there may be several elements and stages involved.



Amazing
Apprenticeships



BREAKING NEWS

RESOURCES FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS

Students in Year 13 can apply for Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships as well as, or instead of, applying to university. But what exactly are degree and higher level apprenticeships?

[Find out the essentials about higher and degree apprenticeships](#)



Apprenticeship

University

When deciding whether to do an apprenticeship or go to university, it can be helpful to weigh up the pros and cons. The Prospects.ac.uk website provides useful, up-to-date information that can help your young person explore which route might be best for them [Should I go to university or do an apprenticeship?](#)

RESOURCES FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS

Hot off the Press!

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Vacancy Listing for 2024 Recruitment has just been released.

It is only released twice a year, and the January 2024 edition has just gone live!

[Find it here](#)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

The Parent Perspective is a podcast series for parents and carers, designed to help you to support your young person with careers advice and guidance. You can find all episodes and related resources [here](#)

Here you can access [Monthly Parents' and Carers' Packs from Amazing Apprenticeships](#) to help your young person search and apply for apprenticeships.

If you have any questions, or would like further help, please contact wainwrighte@rs.rkt.co.uk

