



Severn Vale School
An Academy

Careers Newsletter

APPRENTICESHIPS – What are they & how to get one

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WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

8 key facts you need to know

- 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 Apprentices are paid a salary**
All apprentices will earn a salary of at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices which is currently £4.81* per hour. Many employers pay more!
- 3 Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months**
Most apprenticeships take between 1 - 4 years to complete. It will depend on the level and delivery model of the apprenticeship.
- 4 Apprenticeships range from level 2 to level 7**
There are apprenticeships at levels equivalent to GCSEs right up to Master's level and you can now achieve a degree through an apprenticeship.
- 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 will receive paid off-the-job learning**
The equivalent of 6 hours per week of an apprentice's paid time will be spent undertaking off-the-job learning, gaining valuable skills and qualifications.
- 7 Apprentices will 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 will be amazed at the variety and breadth available!

*The National Minimum Wage for apprentices is reviewed each April.

Discover more about apprenticeships:
www.amazingapprenticeships.com



REASONS TO GO FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

- You enjoy more hands-on learning
- You feel ready to get 'stuck in' and be in the working environment
- You feel ready to commit to full-time hours and to be working most of the year, as well as studying
- You have a genuine interest in the career you're training for
- You're prepared to show grit and determination in finding and applying for apprenticeships, as well as preparing for interviews and assessments
- Perhaps you've tried out this area of work during work experience, volunteering or through a Saturday/holiday job

REASONS NOT TO GO FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

- You think it's an easy option, that gets you out of studying/learning
- You don't really know what you want to do in the future
- You're only in it for the money
- You're not prepared to be proactive at searching and applying for vacancies and to put in all the effort to try and secure an apprenticeship
- Your Mum / Dad / Carer wants you to do an apprenticeship

How to find an Apprenticeship

Understanding Levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE's at a pass
Advanced	3	2 A level's at a pass
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or Master's degree

There are 2 levels of Apprenticeships that you can apply for at age 16:
Intermediate / Level 2 and **Advanced / Level 3**.

Most vacancies are advertised though National Apprenticeship Service website

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

A great way to start is to browse the website by either Job/Company or area e.g. Renishaw or Gloucester

[Search for an apprenticeship – Find an apprenticeship – GOV.UK \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](http://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

Or you can browse by your interest e.g. Finance or Agriculture.

[Browse by your interests – Find an apprenticeship – GOV.UK \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](http://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

You will need to create an account and register for alerts so that you are informed every time a vacancy becomes available – you will need a NONE school email and a mobile number – please sign up to be alerted by TEXT and EMAIL so that you don't miss out on any vacancies.

You will need a CV to apply for apprenticeships – either to send off the whole CV or to use this information to fill in company applications forms.

Remember apprenticeships are a JOB – you will get paid and you will be expected to turn up every day. Think carefully about if you are ready to join the working world at 16 or if you would be best to join at 18.

TOP TIPS:

- Vacancies can be advertised at any time of the year. Larger companies with established apprenticeship schemes tend to advertise between November – February, but this varies from one company to another.
- Always have a back-up plan of a college or sixth form place. The recruitment process can be lengthy and you may not know if you have been successful until the Summer before you start
- Apply for as many vacancies that interest you. It is a competitive process, so give yourself the best possible chance of success
- Be proactive and contact companies in your area to ask if they are taking on any apprentices. Consider sending a CV and personalised letter showing your interest.
- Look out for open events held by employers and through college apprenticeship providers
- Some sectors will far prefer you join as an apprentice rather than doing a college course and then joining – these include:- Hairdressing, Barbering, Beauty etc.
- Register with Apprenticeship services at local colleges, via contact details on their websites (see below for website addresses) and through apprenticeship searching portals or agencies such as www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk and South West Apprenticeship Company: <https://theswac.org.uk>.

USEFUL RESOURCES:

National Apprenticeships Website	https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/
Amazing Apprenticeships	https://amazingapprenticeships.com/
Not Going To Uni	https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/
UCAS: Apprenticeships Info	https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships
Gloucestershire College: Guide	https://www.gloscol.ac.uk/courses-and-apprenticeships/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-guide/
NHS Gloucestershire Apprenticeships	https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/work-for-us/apprenticeships/

Still feeling unsure how to find or get an apprenticeship???

Ask for a Careers Appointment by emailing careers@severnvaeschool.com