

CHANTELLE @ BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE APPRENTICE STORY



TOPIC: Working as an apprentice at Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue



Overview

Chantelle works at Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue as a firefighter, where she started her firefighter journey as an apprentice. Through her apprenticeship, she was studying towards a Level 3 Operational Firefighter. This lesson plan has been designed for teachers to help students discover more about the broad range of apprenticeships available. Through her film, Chantelle explains why she applied for the apprenticeship, what it's like to work for the fire service and what the application process was like.

Preparation

Download Chantelle's **resource bundle** from the [Amazing Apprenticeships website](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com), which includes:

- Chantelle's Story Lesson Plan
- A supporting **PowerPoint** slide deck featuring imagery, activities and key questions for the lesson
- The student **worksheet**

Gatsby Benchmarks

- 1 A stable careers programme
- 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5 Encounters with employers/employees

Aims

- ✓ To develop an understanding of apprenticeships as a pathway for post-16s
- ✓ To increase awareness of the range of apprenticeship job roles and levels available

Objectives

Students will be better able to:

- Describe what being an apprentice at Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue is like
- Explain the different routes into an apprenticeship and the different types of support available
- Explore the benefits of being an apprentice

Warmer (5 minutes)

Use the PowerPoint presentation to show the students a photo of a fire engine (slide 2) and ask for some suggestions for the questions below:

How many firefighters are there in England?

Estimated 31,500+ as of March 2021

How many firefighters in England are female?

Estimated 2,640 as of March 2021



While and after listening activity (15 mins)

Explain to the students that they are going to watch a short film about a past firefighter apprentice. Introduce Chantelle to the students using the overview information. Hand out the student worksheet. Ask them to watch the film and explain to them that they will be answering True/False questions.

Now that the students have watched the film, ask them to work in pairs to check their answers to the True/False activity on the worksheet:

Answers

1. Chantelle knew she wanted to be a firefighter since the age of 3
True.

2. As a firefighter, Chantelle only puts out fires

False. Not only does Chantelle put out fires, she also has other responsibilities, such as helping her community to install smoke alarms, attending charity events and fêtes and practising her drills.

3. Chantelle has been a firefighter for 6 years

False. Chantelle has been a firefighter for 5 years. She spent the first 2 years as a firefighter apprentice.

4. Chantelle found her apprenticeship by looking on her employers website

True. Chantelle found her apprenticeship by searching on the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue website.

5. Chantelle felt like an outsider with the team being the apprentice

False. Chantelle felt a part of the team from the very beginning. She explains that the team is like a family.

6. Chantelle struggled to have a balanced social life due to her apprenticeship

False. Chantelle had a very active lifestyle while completing her apprenticeship. She got to spend time with friends and family and even visit her friends at university.

7. Chantelle's recruitment process followed the steps in process 1

Process 1:

- > Online application
- > Maths & English exam
- > Interview with employer
- > Deliver a presentation
- > Practical day at the station

Process 2:

- > Online application
- > Maths & English exam
- > Practical day at the station
- > Interview with employer
- > Deliver a presentation

False. Chantelle's recruitment process followed the steps in process 2.

After watching

After the True and false worksheet, get the students to work in pairs and think about the following questions. Get them to feed back to the class on their views.

1. What do you think is the most dangerous job Chantelle does as a firefighter?

Students own answers.

2. Chantelle knew from the age of 3 that she wanted to be a firefighter, what is your dream job and why? (If you have time, ask the students to google their dream job to see if they can do it as an apprenticeship.)

Students own answer.

3. How important do you think it is to have a balanced life between your work and your social life?

Students own answer.

4. Chantelle found her apprenticeship by looking on her employer's website – where else do you think you can look?

Students own answer.



Homework Task:

Ask the students to go to the Amazing Apprenticeships website and go to the International Men's Day case study booklet: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-apprenticeship-a-z-of-men-at-work-case-study-booklet/>

Ask the students to read about Connor, who is a firefighter for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. Ask them to write the answers to these questions:

1. Is Connor's apprenticeship level and type the same as Chantelle's?

Yes, they are both Level 3 Operational Firefighters.

2. What is the most exciting project Connor has worked on?

Representing his organisation as the standard bearer for the 2019 Festival of Remembrance in Durham Cathedral for Remembrance Sunday.

3. Connor got awarded the Silver Axe at the end of his initial Firefighter training. What is the Silver Axe award?

Silver Axe is historically awarded to the best recruit on a course.

4. Connor's inspirational male figure is Sir David Attenborough, who is your inspirational male figure and why?

Students own answer.

Extension Activity Suggestion:

Go to the [Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue website](#) to learn more about their apprenticeship and job opportunities.

