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The monthly parent & carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education

FROM APPRENTICE TO BOSS HEAR HOW AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRESSED CARL'S CAREER

> APPLICATION TIPS WITH APPRENTICE TANMAI

8 REASONS MY T LEVEL SUPPORTED MY CAREER PROGRESSION

GETTING STARTED WITH EXPLORING HTQS

TANMAI SHARES HER TOP TIPS FOR ASPIRING APPRENTICES





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DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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:



APPRENTICE INSIGHT JASMINE CONSULTING

Meet Jasmine, a Level 6 Building Surveying degree apprentice with JCA.

Tell us a bit about your role

I am a Building Surveying apprentice, currently going into my fifth and final year at the University of Salford. I started my apprenticeship in 2021.

What is a typical day or week like in your role?

My typical week varies drastically, no day or week is the same, that is what is so fantastic about Building Surveying - you can be doing a dilapidations survey on a Victorian property one day, and the next day you could be up on a roof!

Did you always want to go into construction?

I had originally wanted to become a family barrister, however after my

A-levels I decided that law wasn't for me. I didn't know what I wanted to do until my dad's friend, who owns a property development company, said why don't you become a building surveyor, as I had always had an interest in property. I did some research and decided to apply for an apprenticeship. I found my apprenticeship on the government website, Find an apprenticeship.

What do you like about the construction industry and have you faced any challenges?

I really enjoy the fact that there is such a broad spectrum to construction, it's not just your obvious jobs such as bricklayers there are building surveyors, architects, quantity surveyors, the list is endless! I must say that it has been difficult as a woman in the industry, as it is a very maledominated field, but there are companies out there that are trying to get away from this stigma!





Why did you decide to go down the apprenticeship route? I decided on the apprenticeship route after my A-levels, as I realised that a full-time university course just wasn't for me. I wanted to start my career, be paid and get into the industry and that is why apprenticeships are so great.

How is the learning part of your apprenticeship delivered?

My apprenticeship is being delivered on campus by the University of Salford. I work with my apprenticeship employer four days a week and attend university one day a week.

What is it like balancing working with studying for a degree?

It is tough, I'm not going to lie. It can be really challenging sometimes to juggle everything, but I just keep telling myself it will be worth it at the end!

APPRENTICE INSIGHT JASMINE CONSULTING

What sort of things do you learn and do at university?

My course is Building Surveying, so my studies at university are very broad. However, I also learn things that an architect or a quantity surveyor would, as they all cross over slightly.

I am also currently the course representative for Building Surveying at the University of Salford, so if any students have any feedback or any issues about the lectures etc. they can come to me.

What support do you receive during your apprenticeship?

Within my apprenticeship I have a line manager, however everyone in our office tries to support me when they can or if I need it. I also have a tutor as part of the university, who I can go to for anything that I need.

"I learn things that an architect or a quantity surveyor would, as they all cross over slightly."

What has been your proudest moment in your apprenticeship? My proudest achievement is being nominated for three awards. I ended up reaching the awards evening as a finalist in two of the categories. I am super proud of myself for where I am today, and that my employer nominated me for Apprentice of The Year and the Learning and Development Award.



What's your advice to potential apprentices about apprenticeships? Being an apprentice is tough - it requires a lot of hard work, perseverance, patience and motivation. However, it will be the most rewarding thing you can do. Not only are you in a working environment where you are being paid, but you are also studying towards a degree which is paid for and you come out the other end with a career and no debt. You are also already in employment, therefore there is usually no stress to find employment once you've finished your degree.

What would your advice be to parents/carers about apprenticeships?

I would stress to parents/carers to guide their children in the direction of an apprenticeship rather than a traditional degree course. It rounds you as a person, sets you up for life, puts you within the industry you want to work in and sets your career up. It is an amazing experience.



PARENT INSIGHT

MY SON'S APPRENTICESHIP JOURNEY

Charlotte tells us how her son Tommy became a Supply Chain apprentice.

SCHOOL

I think Tommy would tell you himself that he could have tried harder when it came to his GCSEs. He had good attendance at school, but by year 10 it was a social activity rather than an educational one. He achieved good grades in maths, English, geography and business studies, which were the subjects he enjoyed.





Tommy's school didn't offer the A-levels he was interested in, so he looked into the local college and came across BTEC Business Studies. He eloquently explained to us that he had a passion for business studies and it was how he saw his future, and he ended up passing with a distinction!



Tommy had a part-time job in retail at B&M while he was at college and he enjoyed the working world and everything it brought.

OPTIONS

Knowing how well he was doing in the workplace, plus working in apprenticeships myself, meant I wanted him to consider them as an option. He was hesitant at first as he was earning a good wage and the thought of going back to learning was a little daunting.

SUCCESS

Tommy is now in the second year of his Level 6 Supply Chain apprenticeship and spends two or three days a month at university. He is really enjoying it.

FULL-TIME WORK

Just as Tommy finished his BTEC, lockdown happened, so he decided to take some time to think about his next steps. He increased his hours at B&M to full time, which strengthened his work ethic, and gave him a better understanding of the expectations of an employer.

SEARCHING

Tommy created an account on Find an apprenticeship and I often shared apprenticeship opportunities with him. We spoke about the ones he liked and we looked at the expectations, the locations, and the future progression routes after the qualification.

Find out more about applying for apprenticeships: <u>amapps.uk/application-guide</u>



FROM APPRENTICE TO BOSS: CARL'S BUSINESS SUCCESS



Carl runs his own search marketing agency, crdone. but started out as a marketing apprentice. Read about how his apprenticeship gave him the opportunity to progress and run his own successful business.

Please tell us about the apprenticeship you completed

I completed a one-year Business Administration apprenticeship back in 2011, working as a marketing apprentice at a local college.

If I'm honest, I backed out of university the moment I reached the finance section of the UCAS process. I wasn't brave enough to have a tough conversation with my parents about finances, so I quietly decided it wasn't the route for me.

Initially I looked for a job, but then I came across apprenticeships. The chance to earn while learning felt like the perfect alternative, and working alongside experienced professionals proved to be the best way for me to grow.

What led to you choosing the marketing industry?

When I started, I didn't know much about the industry. But having been given an opportunity in it there was no way I was going to pass it up. I threw myself into it and quickly discovered a real passion for marketing and advertising.

It was an exciting time in the world of digital marketing, social media was taking off, online experiences were becoming a priority, and data was transforming marketing from an art into more of a science. With all these new channels and tools emerging, it somehow felt like everyone was learning alongside me, which made it even more exciting. That mix of creativity and strategy is what got me hooked.

What was your typical working day/week like when you were an apprentice?

My day started at 8:30 and wrapped up at 4:30, and every day was different. I supported the team with campaign planning, design work, website updates, and managing social media - all under their guidance. As we were a small team, I had the chance to get involved in so much more than I expected. I helped out at events, learning how and why things were done. That's what sparked my love for processes. Understanding how everything fitted together behind the scenes made me appreciate the strategic side of marketing, and it was a great way to build my skills while contributing to real projects.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

Once I started exploring the opportunities available, I realised just how many different career paths apprenticeships could open up. I found my apprenticeship through the Find an apprenticeship website. The application process itself was fairly straightforward.

My family and friends were all supportive, but they didn't fully understand the world I was heading into. My friends were off to university, and my older siblings worked in entirely different fields, so I had to do a lot of the research myself. That said, I made sure to run things past my parents whenever I could.

"Initially I looked for a job, but then I came across apprenticeships. The chance to earn while learning felt like the perfect alternative." "My apprenticeship gave me an essential grounding and opened the door to the private sector, which gave me the experience and skills I needed to progress. Without my apprenticeship, I wouldn't have been in a position to later build something of my own."



What support did you receive during your apprenticeship?

Having a coordinator was really useful, they kept me on track and made sure I had everything I needed for my coursework. But I was also lucky to be part of a great team who I could turn to at any time. Their support made a huge difference, whether it was answering questions, giving me feedback, or just helping me feel like a valued part of the team.

What is your role now and what was your journey to get there?

Now, I run my own search marketing agency, but it didn't happen overnight. After my apprenticeship, I moved into the private sector, which was a real eye-opener. I started as a Campaign Executive, learning the ropes of campaign management for a household name before taking on my own campaigns. Later, as a Web Optimisation Manager, I focused on improving online performance and providing insights to everyone - from marketing teams to board level. That role deepened my understanding of digital strategy, its impact, and how data drives business decisions. After that, I took some time to travel and began freelancing along the way. When I returned home, I decided to give it a proper go - and years later, here I am, running my own agency.

What has contributed to your success today?

My dad has always been a huge inspiration to me. He's the hardestworking person I know and never complains. That work ethic has stuck with me and played a big role in shaping my career.

My apprenticeship gave me an essential grounding and opened the door to the private sector, which gave me the experience and skills I needed to progress. Without my apprenticeship, I wouldn't have been in a position to later build something of my own.

Have you had any standout moments in your career so far?

Yes! I've been fortunate to receive a few awards, including Apprentice of the Year in 2012, but my proudest achievement by far was hiring my first employee. Being able to offer someone the same support I had throughout my career has been incredibly rewarding.

Apprentices bring fresh perspectives, energy, and a real eagerness to learn all qualities that are invaluable in a fast-moving industry like ours. Having started my own career as an apprentice, I know firsthand the impact of the right support, and I'd love to pay that forward.



Do you have any advice for others considering an apprenticeship?

If you're considering an apprenticeship, my advice is simple go for it. Find a company with a strong track record of developing talent, then be a sponge. Absorb everything, learn about every aspect of the business, and make the most of the opportunity. It could be the best decision you ever make.

APPRENTICE INSIGHT

APPLICATION TIPS WITH TANMAI 🕢





Tanmai has completed level 3 and 4 apprenticeships, and is now in the first year of her level 6 degree apprenticeship.

Tip 1 - Research

Employers look for candidates who show a genuine interest in their company. A great way to stand out is by finding a personal connection to their values, projects or initiatives. During my applications, I made sure to highlight what resonated with me from the research I did about each company.

Tip 2 - Giving examples

Employers don't just want to hear that you're a 'hard worker' or a 'great team player', they want proof. Did you lead a group project? Organise an event? Plan a multi-destination budget holiday with 5+ people? Show, don't just tell.

Tip 3 - Assessment centres

At assessment centres, employers aren't looking for the loudest person in the room. They want to see collaboration, problem-solving, adaptability and how well you work with others. Instead of treating it like a competition, focus on being a strong team player. Stay engaged, contribute thoughtfully, and listen as much as you speak.

Tip 4 - Rejection

Not every application will be a success, and that's okay. If you don't make it through, ask for feedback. Many companies are happy to provide insights that can help improve for the next time. The key is to keep going.

Read more...

Tanmai shares her insights, advice and experience in more detail here:

amapps.uk/tanmai



MANAGING PROJECTS AT THE BBC!

If your child is looking for a career that opens doors to working in multiple industries, allows them to lead teams and lets them use existing skills while developing new ones, project management could be for them.

The Association for Project Management (APM) recently spoke with apprentices who are laying foundations for future careers in the project profession. Here, Thomas, a Project Management Degree Apprentice at the BBC, shares his experience.

20-year-old Thomas, from Hampshire, began his Degree Apprenticeship in September 2023, in the BBC Studios Technology Transformation Group. The four-year course will see him gain a globally recognised professional qualification (APM's Project Management Qualification) as well as a degree in project management.

Having worked part-time during school and college, Thomas is used to balancing work and study commitments. Being able to carry that on through an apprenticeship was the perfect structure for him. Project management appealed to him because of its versatility. *"Wherever there's a project, there's a need for a project manager,"* he said.

Projects come in all shapes and sizes and happen all over the world. When projects succeed, society benefits. Every project needs a project team to keep a close watch on plans, budgets, teams, quality of outputs and any issues that may cause a problem to the project. Without one, projects are likely to fail. The role of a project manager is to apply processes, methods, skills, knowledge and experience to achieve specific project goals.





Skills commonly associated with project management include organisational skills, leadership, resilience and communication.

These skills are useful in many different industry types. Project management is therefore often seen as a versatile role that allows people to move into different business areas and industries if they choose to.

Thomas said: "The skills you gain in project management are transferable to a huge variety of contexts. I personally wasn't entirely sure what specific business area I wanted to go into, so that flexibility was really appealing".

"The single most important skill to have and develop is communication, which is a big part of the job role. Time management is equally important, project success relies on meeting deadlines."

"I THINK THERE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE A DEMAND FOR PROJECT MANAGERS. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR AI TO REPLICATE THE PEOPLE SKILLS REQUIRED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGER."

Thomas's degree apprenticeship is structured in a way where he spends four days of his working week in the workplace and a day a week attending university lectures. Beyond this, the degree side of the scheme has an element of independent learning, which is crucial to meeting assignment and exam deadlines and achieving good results.

While this structure may not suit everyone, Thomas says it may appeal to those who thrive under pressure and like to keep busy.

Thomas hopes his apprenticeship will enable him to experience working in various areas of the BBC, before he decides on where to focus his career. "In the long term, I want to explore the huge variety of opportunities that the BBC has to offer" he said. "A few areas that I'm particularly interested in are production, events management and construction."

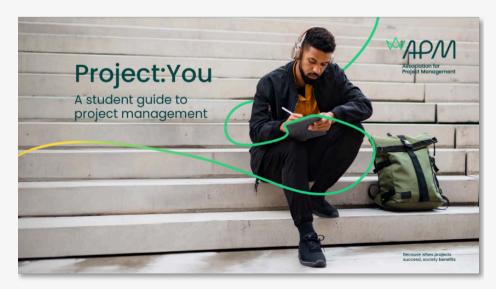
A natural question to ask is how much do project managers earn. APM's most recent <u>Salary and</u> <u>Market Trends Survey</u> found the average salary for project professionals has remained at £47,500 - well above the UK average. Of course, this depends on things like experience, where in the country you work and other factors. The survey also found the average salary for people aged 18-24 to be $\pm 27,500$, compared with the current average graduate salary in the UK of $\pm 24,000^*$.

The future is also looking positive for the project profession. <u>Projects add</u> <u>more than £186 billion of value to the UK economy every year</u>. What's more, 70% of project professionals in the UK say their company currently runs an apprentice scheme, with 96% of those people saying that such programmes improve skills within their teams. The demand for project management apprentices seems unlikely to reduce any time soon.

Thomas said: "I think there's always going to be a demand for project managers. I truly believe that it would be impossible for AI to replicate the people skills required to be an effective project manager".

"These schemes are undeniably very competitive, but that should not put you off applying. If the work interests you and you like the structure, you have the potential to thrive in one of these positions. Apply to as many as you can find. If you feel excited by the idea of working for a company, just apply. In this process, try not to let rejection faze you. Very often, you may be rejected by no fault of your own, but simply because of the sheer number of applicants. Resilience is the key to success in this context."

If your child is interested in a project management apprenticeship, download APM's student guide to project management, <u>Project: You</u>.



*Graduate Outcomes report, HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency), 2022

8 THINGS MY T LEVEL GAVE ME



Find out more about T Levels: <u>amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels</u>

A job: I was offered a full-time position as the first Trainee Assistant Site Manager at the company where I did my T Level industry placement. Without the placement, I wouldn't have had the chance to show them my character and potential!



Sophie, a former Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T Level student reflects on her experience.

2

4

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



Future study: I was given the option to study a degree apprenticeship or a level 4 qualification after my T Level, and although I haven't gone on to further studies straight away, it's something I may decide to do in the future.

Confidence: During my T Level I was asked to attend panellist events and board meetings with the DfE, which helped grow my confidence tremendously and if it wasn't for the T Level, I wouldn't have had these opportunities.

Study skills: Studying is hard, it requires discipline and hard work to get through college and I learnt so much from my tutors and colleagues about how to achieve the grades I wanted.

Experience: My T Level offered me real-life experience and insight into the industry I wanted my career in. If I hadn't done a T Level, I don't think I would've known where to start in my career.

Awards: I was nominated for the first South Eastern T Level Student of the Year, and Highly Commended National T Level Student of the Year, attending unbelievable events. I am just a regular girl who puts on her hard hat and orange trousers and goes to work – it shows anyone can go on to extraordinary things!



Work experience: The best thing about my T Level was the industry placement, which you don't get with other courses. If you love a practical way of learning, then I would definitely consider the T Level - it helped me so much, it might help you too.

Knowledge: My T Level also gave me knowledge of the different jobs my industry offers. In construction alone there are 180+ different jobs! The opportunities are endless...

5

6

APPRENTICE INSIGHT Heather's apprenticeship story



Heather aspired to be a sports photographer, however, halfway through university her life changed and so did her career direction. Find out how an apprenticeship at Specsavers got Heather back on track for a satisfying and rewarding career path.

At school, I studied photography, PE, and media which I really enjoyed. Once I'd completed my education, I thought I should go to university as my friends were all going to university too. So, I applied to a university to study photography and was accepted. I moved away from home and lived local to the university. At first it was fine but after a while, I felt unhappy. The subject itself wasn't what I thought it would be – it was a lot of theoretical studies and no actual hands-on photography.

Not wanting to give up on my education, I requested a subject change to sports (as I'm a rugby player already and really enjoy getting stuck in). For some reason, I still didn't get on well with it and found study time difficult. I was in a quandary – wondering why were my friends getting on so well at university and I wasn't. Then, my life took a bit of a turn when I suddenly became ill. This caused me to have to drop out of university on medical grounds, so that decision was taken away from me. When I started to get better, the thought of going back to university filled me with dread. I'd already been back home for a while whilst I was recovering, so I thought I'd explore my options. This is when I saw an Apprentice Optical Assistant being advertised at my local Specsavers.

I'd never considered an apprenticeship before as I didn't know anyone who had done one, so I didn't really know what to expect. But it sounded really interesting, and the advert alluded to the possibility of having a rewarding clinical or retail career which piqued my interest.

My illness had unfortunately affected my eyesight, which then made me more aware of and interested in eye health. So, when I saw the apprenticeship opportunity where I could learn more about eye care, it really resonated with me. I also love learning and doing things at the same time. I was so excited to be successful - and it's certainly exceeded my expectations. I get 1-1 coaching with my apprenticeship coach, ample study time, interesting theory work as well as practical experience, and it's opened the door to so many wonderful career opportunities.

I've completed my mock exam and am finishing off the last few subjects before booking in my end-point assessment. Specsavers have supported me all the way through my apprenticeship and are happy with me completing it early as I feel ready. Once completed, I'll become an Optical Assistant. For now I'll look to do a qualification to become a Dispensing Optician. Who knows, further down the line I might continue my studies while working at Specsavers to become a qualified optometrist. I know my store partner is fully supportive of my goals and wants to see me succeed.

Even though my career path is very different to what I thought it would be, I'm excited to see what the future holds. I'm grateful my apprenticeship has enabled me to retrain and learn new skills to lead me down a different path. If you're in a similar situation, or you want to change your career path later on in life, then an apprenticeship is an excellent way to do it. There's always time, it's never too late.



Find out about apprenticeships at Specsavers by visiting:

amazingapprenticeships.com/ employers/specsavers

HTQS INFORMATION

HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS



What are HTQs?

HTQs are new and existing level 4 and 5 qualifications that have been approved with the HTQ Quality Mark. They are a great way to continue your studies and get a good job, or to retrain or progress in your current career.

What is the HTQ Quality Mark?

Once a qualification is approved, it becomes known as an HTQ and can display the HTQ Quality Mark, meaning that you can be assured it delivers the skills employers need and is a quality choice.

Which qualifications are HTQs?

There are several different types of qualifications, for example HNDs, HNCs and Foundation Degrees, that are approved as HTQs. Only approved qualifications will display the HTQ logo, indicating a quality choice.

Where can I study an HTQ?

HTQs providers include:

- Universities
- FE Colleges
- Independent Training Providers
- Institutes of Technology

There are over 230 providers delivering HTQs across England.

Which approved HTQs are available?

New HTQs are being rolled out all the time. There are now approved qualifications in the following areas, with more to come:

- Digital
- Construction & the Built Environment
- Health & Science
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Business Administration
- Education & Early Years
- Legal, Finance & Accounting

From September 2025, HTQs in the following areas will be available:

- Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care
- Care Services
- Catering & Hospitality
- Creative & Design
- Protective Services
- Sales, Marketing & Procurement

How can you find an HTQ course?

You can:

- Search for HTQs by contacting providers directly.
- Search for HTQs on the UCAS website: <u>tinyurl.com/2s44vaby</u>
- Explore the brand-new <u>HTQs Course Listing</u>, which lists all the HTQs available across the country, organised by subject area with course levels, provider locations and links to the provider websites.

HTQ Course Listing





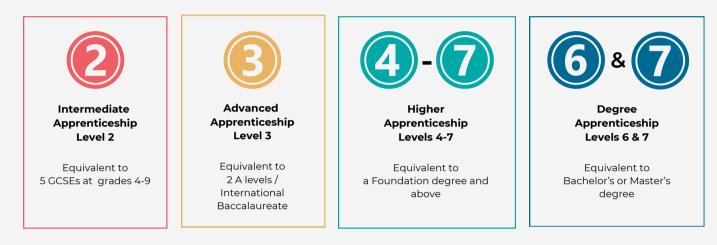
Find the listing here: amapps.uk/htq-listing



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

APPRENTICESHIPS UNCOVERED

All apprenticeships have a level, ranging from 2 to 7. The level of an apprenticeship is linked to the skills and knowledge you need to do your job role.



New apprenticeship standards are being developed and approved all the time. Here are just some of the apprenticeships you can do at each level and the current numbers of standards available.*

Intermediate (L2)

- Furniture manufacturer
- Professional security
 operative
- Barbering professional
- Aviation ground operative
- Dog groomer
- Florist
- Accounts or finance
 assistant
- Pharmacy services
 assistant
- Marina and boatyard operative
- Junior estate agent

140 standards

Advanced (L3)

- Engineering
- technicianPastry chef
- Pastry cherMulti-channel
- marketerFundraiser
- Fundraiser
 Scenic artist
- Domestic Electrician
- Community health and wellbeing worker
- Data technician

245 standards

Higher

- Junior visual effects artist
- Town planning assistant
- Sports coach
- Space engineering technician

115 standards (L4)

- Vet technician
- Nursing associate
- Rail and rail systems
 engineer
- Marine pilot
- Nuclear technician

44 standards (L5)

65 standards (L7)

Degree

Accounting finance

First officer pilot

111 standards (L6)

Game programmer

Senior professional

Play therapist

Social worker

Civil engineer

Geoscientist

manager

Midwife

Doctor

Solicitor

economist



Find out more

Find a list of apprenticeships standards here*: <u>amapps.uk/a-zstandards</u>

*correct at time of publication

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

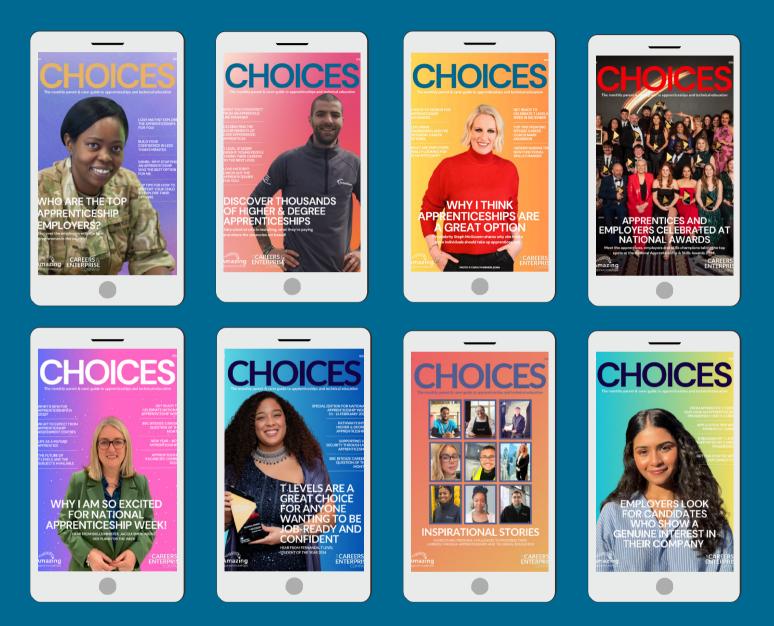
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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: <u>amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars</u> |
|---|---|
| Date and Time | Title and Description |
| Thursday 24th April 2025 15:30-16:00 | Preparing for Apprenticeship Assessment Centres The apprenticeship recruitment landscape is constantly changing, with many employers now utilising different methods to assess candidates, including assessment centres. Join us to hear from employers about how they work, what they're really looking for and their advice on how students can prepare. |
| Tuesday 29th April 2025 15:30-16:00 | T Levels: Everything you need to know Join this webinar to hear directly from employers about their T Level programmes, including how they are structured, the matching process, linking the curriculum to the workplace and the benefits of T Levels. |
| Monday 19th May 2025 15:30-16:00 | Apprenticeships for individuals with additional needs Many students have additional needs and may feel unsure about the support that will be offered by employers and training providers. Join us to hear about the flexibilities that can be offered and the support that apprentices will receive. |
| 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. |
| 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! |

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