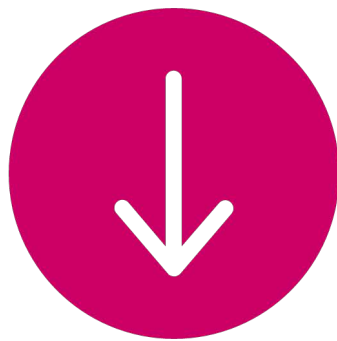
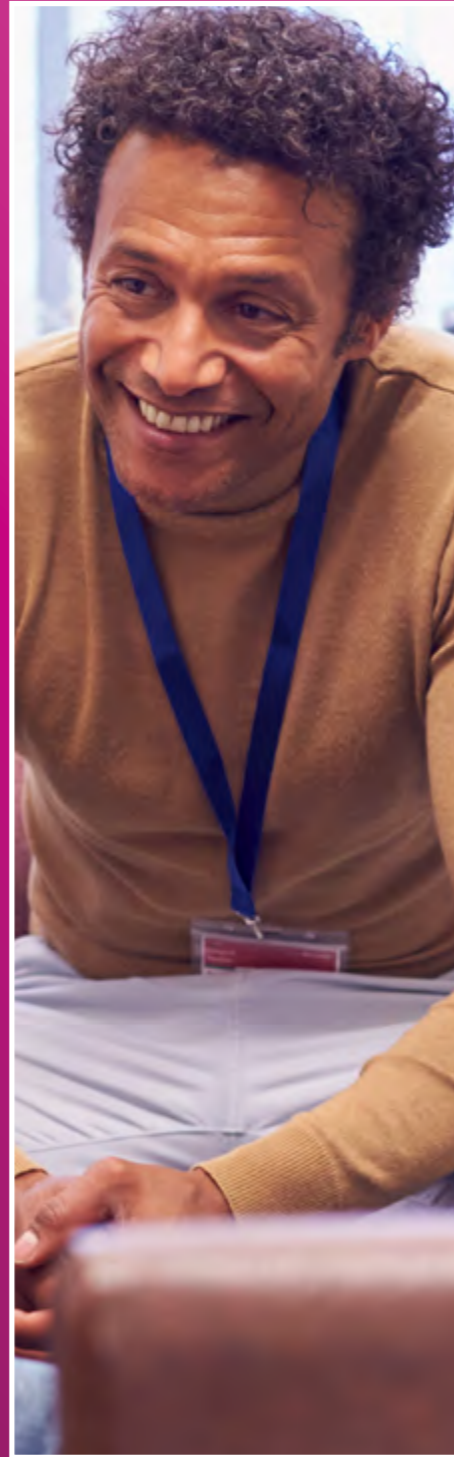


**The following pages are taken from
The Parents' Guide to NAW 2023 and
may be of interest/useful for quick
reference**





The Parents' Guide to

NAW 2023

National Apprenticeship Week 6-12 February

Introduction

As a parent, you're more likely to know about the university route to careers rather than the apprenticeship route. You may not have personal experience of apprenticeships or even know anyone who has taken one. This could sway you towards dismissing apprenticeships as a second-rate option rather than a first choice career plan. Don't rule out the fact that an apprenticeship could be the right choice for your child. They offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment resulting in a professional qualification. There are no tuition fees (these are covered by the employer and the government) and the salary can cover living expenses.

Apprenticeships used to be associated with trade industries (such as electricians, mechanics or plumbers). Nowadays, apprenticeships can be taken in a wide range of industry sectors and provide entry to all types of careers, including accounting, banking, IT, law, management and television. Relatively new to the apprenticeship suite are "degree apprenticeships", offering an "earn while you learn" route to BSc or BA status. In other words, the end qualification is the same as if your child had attended university full time, the difference is that they will not have incurred any debt in tuition fees and will finish their degree with robust and transferable workplace skills.

There are also options to take short term apprenticeships. If your child is not comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one or two year options and still gain recognised, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible.

Taking an apprenticeship is not an easy option and competition can be fierce. It takes organisation and dedication to balance work, where your child will be expected to contribute to the same standards as everyone else, and study. Holidays are far fewer than at college or university. However, if they learn more easily through practical application, the work based nature of apprenticeships will suit them well and they will obtain valuable experience which will strengthen opportunities in finding rewarding work when the apprenticeship is over.

Join us

If you're interested in regular updates about other ways you can help your teenage children, click here and join our online community.

[Sign up here](#)

Introducing apprenticeships: a great pathway to career success

Apprenticeships are a fantastic choice for many students, either straight after GCSE or after sixth form. They provide a way of getting qualifications while doing a real job and are a great alternative to full-time study for those students that prefer practical experience over classroom learning.

Apprenticeships help build solid, professional skills transferable from one organisation to another. Employers pay a salary and tuition fees are covered by the employer and the government. Apprenticeships can last from one to five years – and result in a professional qualification.

Qualifications

Apprenticeships offer students versatility. Depending on their age, experience and qualifications already achieved, there are different entry levels for apprenticeships, starting at Level 2 (straight after GCSE for those that have few or no GCSE passes) through Level 6/7 (degree level). The qualifications obtained at each level range from GCSE/BTEC equivalent, A/T Level, diploma/foundation right through to masters degree. Qualifications are nationally recognized.

Length of study

Apprenticeships can last for just one year or as long as seven (or more) depending on the final qualification. If your teen isn't comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one- or two-year options and still gain recognised, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind later on and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible. This means they don't have to make decisions about long-term commitment when they are young or unsure of their future direction, but needn't miss out on getting higher level qualifications if they decide later that's what they want to do.

Work and study

As well as doing the job itself, apprentices will get dedicated time during the working week to study the education element of the apprenticeship. This usually takes place at a college, university or other education centre. However, it may also be necessary to spend personal time completing projects and keeping on top of studies, so just like being in full-time education, there may be "homework" during evenings and weekends.

Finance

Tuition fees for apprenticeships are paid by the government/employer. Apprentices are also paid a wage for their time, so they will usually complete their apprenticeship debt free. However, there will be costs for education materials, travel to and from work and possibly living expenses (if they are not based at home).

After the apprenticeship

Many apprentices are offered full-time roles with the company where they have served their apprenticeship. However, if your teen wants to try a different company, or even a different industry, they'll have first-hand experience in the workplace. This can provide a significant edge over those that have obtained qualifications through full time education, when applying for other jobs elsewhere.

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Learn more at:

<https://bit.ly/kcukjobs1122>

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Apprenticeship levels



Typical length
12-18 months

Entry requirements:
None or few

Qualifications obtained:
GCSE, BTEC or equivalent

Who's it for?
Mostly for 16-year-olds with limited or no academic qualifications.



Typical length
3-5 years

Entry requirements:
A levels or equivalent

Qualifications obtained:
Higher national diploma / foundation degree

Who's it for?
Mostly for those who want to qualify for professional career paths without attending university or college full-time.



Typical length
12-24 months

Entry requirements:
Usually 5 GCSEs

Qualifications obtained:
A levels or equivalent

Who's it for?
Mostly for 16-year-olds with reasonable academic achievements but who don't want to study in sixth form.



Typical length
3-7 years

Entry requirements:
At least 2 A levels or equivalent

Qualifications obtained:
A BA or BSc degree or higher

Who's it for?
Mostly for those with excellent sixth form results that want to study for a degree or similar whilst working.

The Parents' Guide to... Educational routes

| Level | Qualification | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 8 | NVQ 8 | Doctorate (PhD) | |
| 7 | Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7 | Masters degree (MA) | |
| 6 | | Bachelors degree BA or BSc | |
| 5 | Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4 | Foundation degree FdA or FdSc | Higher National Diploma (HND) |
| 4 | | Higher National Certificate (HNC) | |
| 3 | Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3 | A levels Grades A-E | International Baccalaureate |
| 2 | Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2 | GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*) | T Levels |
| | | | BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate |
| 1 | Traineeship / NVQ 1 | GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D, E, F or G) | BTEC first diploma |
| | Applied / work route | Academic route | Vocational route |

Levels of Education

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 8 qualification levels (1 - 8) plus an entry level qualification for those just starting. Generally, the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Levels 1-3 are typically taught in schools and colleges.

With so many different qualifications, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead to next. To help you understand, we've created a summary of what the levels mean highlighting academic, vocational and work-based routes to higher education.

Is an apprenticeship the right choice?

ADVANTAGES

Apprenticeships provide focused and applied training for those who already have a strong interest in a job or industry.

Not everyone is suited to academic style learning and apprenticeships provide a practical approach to obtaining qualifications.

Apprenticeships provide paid employment. In addition, your child will leave debt free.

Gaining work experience and on the job training may provide your child with a competitive advantage when applying for full time employment.

Apprenticeships develop key transferable skills which are considered lacking in the labour market.

Apprenticeships may provide future employment within the company and working within an organisation may reveal job roles they did not know existed.

Some students flourish with the responsibility and structure of an apprenticeship.

Degree apprenticeships offer the chance to gain a BA or BSc without incurring the debts associated with university study.

CONSIDERATIONS

Apprenticeships may narrow options early on. Your child will need to have a fairly clear idea of the type of career they wish to pursue.

It may be difficult for your child to combine studying with working.

The salary of an apprentice can be quite low and your child will also need to consider financing their travel and living expenses if they are not living at home.

Your child may feel that they are missing out on the 'student life' offered at universities. However,

some universities and colleges still offer their degree apprentices a strong student experience.

Student fairs and networking events at university enable students to explore different career routes that they were not aware of when leaving school.

Many companies provide graduate schemes for university leavers on completion of their degree.

Degree apprenticeships are still quite new, so there is only a limited number of vacancies available at the moment.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Does your child have a clear idea of the type of job they want to pursue?
- Is your child more suited to an applied and hands-on working environment?
- Is your child organised and able to balance work with academic study?
- Does your child enjoy practical / active homework assignments?
- Will your child perform better under

the guidance of a supervisor in a work environment?

- Will your child enjoy the combination of different learning environments?
- Has your child undertaken any paid or voluntary work that they enjoyed?

Don't worry if your child is still unsure which option is right for them. Students can apply for degree and higher apprenticeships at the same time as applying to university through UCAS.

Find out more:



Researching apprenticeships

Apprenticeships vary in the qualifications that can be achieved, length of commitment and balance between work and study. They may involve moving away from home. With so many variables, it might help to think about the different elements separately to work out which type of apprenticeship suits your child best.

What level of apprenticeship is appropriate?

First, your child needs to decide which level of apprenticeship they wish to take. This will be determined by two things:

- Having the necessary qualifications to be accepted;
- How long they intend to commit to their apprenticeship.

For post-GCSE apprenticeships, your child will need 5 GCSE passes to apply for Level 3 or a minimum standard of Maths and English to apply for Level 2.

To apply for a post-sixth form apprenticeship, your child will need Level 3 status (two A levels or equivalent) and in some cases (even for lower level apprenticeships), they may need to have exceeded this.

Alternatively, they may opt to take a different type of apprenticeship (i.e. higher at Level 4 or 5). They will still obtain a recognised professional qualification (but not the equivalent of a degree) and their commitment to the apprenticeship will

be shorter (between one and two years usually). Later they could choose to build on their apprenticeship to gain further qualifications up to masters level.

Degree apprenticeships offer an attractive alternative to studying full time at university, whilst still obtaining a BA or BSc. Like university, this will mean committing to three or four years study and – unlike university – it will mean working in a real job too! Level 7 degree apprenticeships offer the chance to obtain a masters degree.

What sectors are they interested in?

Next, they should decide on their area of interest and see what apprenticeships are available within that sector. If they don't know where their areas of interest lie, it's time to do some research! Of course, careers advisers can help at school, but they might want to jump online themselves. If they get bored reading about a certain sector, chances are that's an indication the sector isn't for them. Getting some work experience is also a good way of deciding whether reality matches up to the theory of a dream job.

Will the apprenticeship help them get the career they want?

There's no need to be too specific about the job or role they ultimately want, but it's important that they can see a correlation between their apprenticeship, the areas of study, the experience it will give them, and where they want to be in the future (say five years' time).

Finding an apprenticeship

There's a wide range of ways to seek out apprenticeships and we recommend using a selection of options rather than relying on one.

Government website

Most apprenticeships are posted on the Government's website. By creating an account, your child can set up alerts and filters to see opportunities that are of most interest to them and to be emailed when new opportunities arise. However, not all apprenticeships will appear.

Industry sector

It's smart to check apprenticeships directly on company, university or college websites. If your child doesn't know which of these sites to select, then they should first do some research on which industry sector may be of interest, and then find companies within this sector.

Job boards

National job agencies will also advertise apprenticeships and options can be narrowed to review within local distances from home or specific job types. This might be a particularly good way to seek out apprenticeships in level 3-5 range.

Useful links

[GOV. UK Search](#)

[Apprenticeship Search](#)

Companies direct

Another alternative is for them to identify companies that are of interest and check those websites for apprenticeships.

Be warned! Applications to well-known international companies (such as Amazon, Coca-Cola, Facebook, Google, Virgin) will be highly competitive; however, it might be a good starting point for identifying what's included in the apprenticeship and seeking out other companies that provide similar content.

School careers advisor

If your child is still at school or college, then getting them to speak with their careers adviser is a good move. Careers advisers are often the first to hear from companies advertising new apprenticeships

For more information:



Top 10 apprenticeship employers: 2022

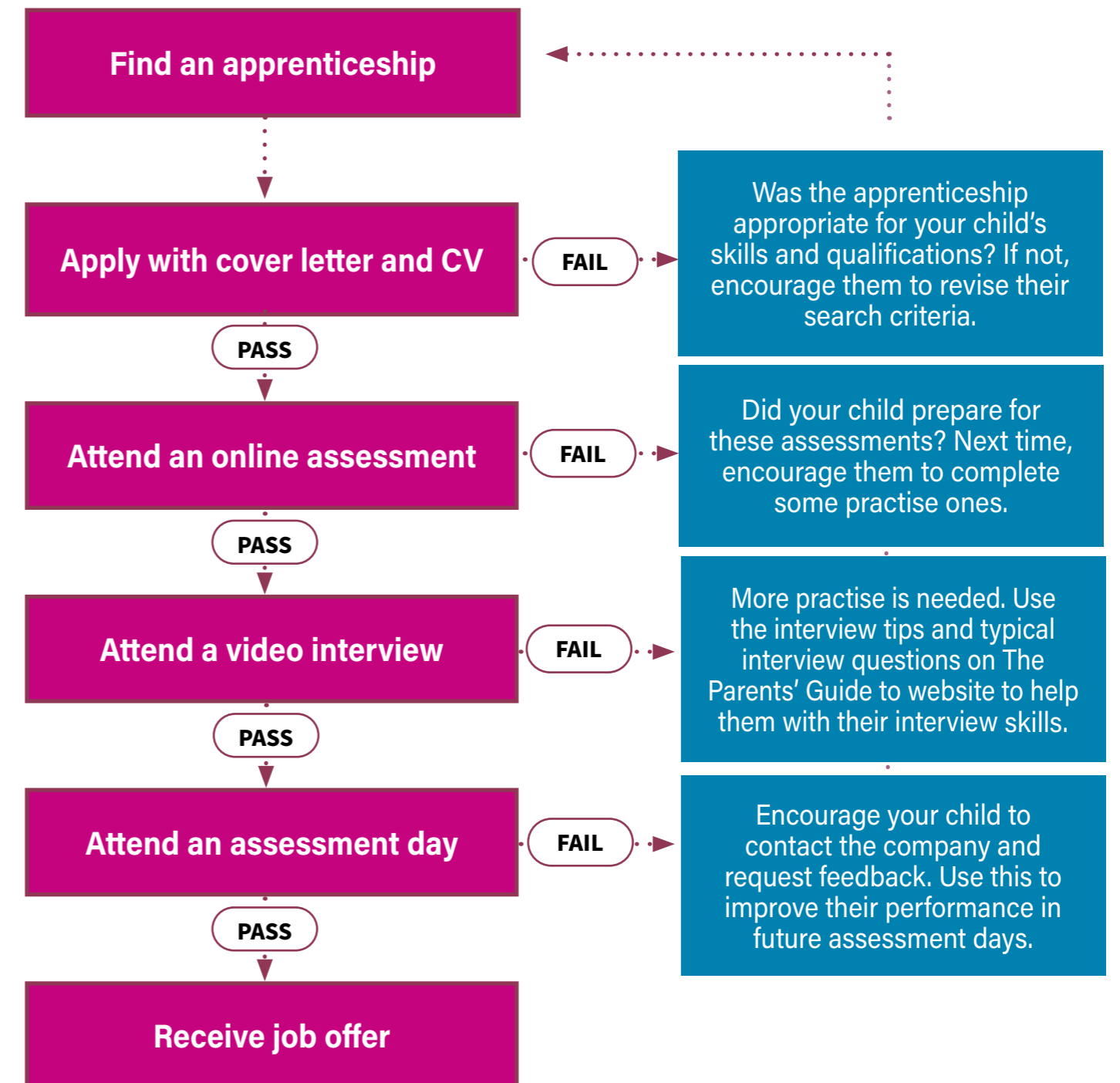
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Based on 6,000 reviews - statistics compiled by www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
For the most up-to-date version, [click here](#).

Applying for an apprenticeship

The application process is very similar to applying for a conventional job and, with the exception of degree apprenticeships, opportunities can arise at any time of the year.

Your child will need a CV, to be able to complete an application form, be interview ready and may need to complete aptitude tests. Plenty of practise is a good way to prepare.



A spotlight on T Levels

T Levels are an exciting new option in sixth form education that provide a recognized qualification tailored to industry needs and skills. It's a great choice for students that want to learn practical skills relevant to certain jobs, regardless of whether they want to go on to study for a degree, take alternative further education or go straight into the workplace.

One T Level is equivalent to three A levels and the course lasts for two years. T Levels involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day

on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

T Levels are a vocational alternative to A levels (because they focus on industry) and include practical study as well as classroom learning. They differ from apprenticeships because the study and working time is reversed. Unlike BTECs, T Level courses were developed with businesses and offer an industry placement.

The following T Levels will be available from September 2023:

- ▶ design, surveying and planning for construction
- ▶ digital production, design and development
- ▶ education and childcare
- ▶ building services engineering for construction
- ▶ digital business services
- ▶ digital support and services
- ▶ health
- ▶ healthcare science
- ▶ onsite construction
- ▶ science
- ▶ accounting
- ▶ design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- ▶ engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- ▶ finance
- ▶ maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing
- ▶ management and administration
- ▶ agriculture, land management and production
- ▶ catering
- ▶ craft and design
- ▶ hair, beauty and aesthetics
- ▶ legal services
- ▶ media, broadcast and production

T Levels - what's involved and where might it lead?

Passing a T Level will demonstrate the following:

- an approved technical qualification specific to the chosen industry area with compulsory elements and, in some cases, optional specialisms;
- an industry placement in their chosen industry area (equivalent to at least 45 days, usually offered as a single day over a period of weeks or a concentrated block, but may be another combination);
- a minimum standard in English and maths (if this had not already been achieved before starting the T Level).

Students receive a nationally recognised grade and a breakdown of their achievements on the course, including how they did on their work placement. If they don't pass all elements of their T Level, they'll

receive a T Level statement of achievement outlining what has been completed.

What can they do after?

T Levels offer a broad range of further opportunities after sixth form, including:

- university;
- alternative further education;
- apprenticeships;
- jobs from related industries;
- job from their placements.

This means that students with a T Level qualification can go on to study for a degree, a related higher level apprenticeship, take a different course or go straight into a job. Alternatively, they can go on to a higher level education or work in a non-related field if, during the course of study, they didn't enjoy their industry specialism and want to take a different path.