

'An apprenticeship lets you get on-the-job training and study for qualifications at the same time. Some even give you a degree!'



As part of the National Apprenticeship Week, we took 38 of our Sixth Form students to the National Apprenticeship Show at Sandown Park in Esher on Tuesday, 6th March.

There were over 100 Companies on site, ready to explain their Apprenticeship programmes to our students. Companies such as Amazon, IBM, Vodafone, BT, Sky, Lloyds Bank, KPMG, Accenture, Siemens, Virgin Atlantic, The British Racing School, Schrodgers and Ernst & Young are all offering Apprenticeship Schemes to students, in the following areas:



### How old do you have to be to do an apprenticeship?

You can become an apprentice from the age of 16 and up to any age. This is because an apprenticeship is a full-time job so you need to have finished school to start one.

If you want to do a higher or degree apprenticeship instead of university, the chances are you'll do A-levels or a lower-level apprenticeship before starting at aged 18.

### What are the different types of apprenticeship?

It might seem like there are a million different kinds of apprenticeship out there, but it all breaks down into four basic levels:

- Intermediate: Studying for up to 5 GCSEs.
- Advanced: Studying for 2 A levels.
- Higher: Taking a level 4 NVQ, Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree.
- Degree: Taking a Bachelor's or Master's degree.

### What is a degree apprenticeship?

Simply put, they're apprenticeships with degrees! They were introduced by the government in 2015 to offer young people a practical route into work as well as some academic background on their subject. They are one of the four main types of apprenticeship.

Degree apprenticeships are set up by the employer, who works with a university to come up with a degree course which provides all the theoretical background behind the job. You'll graduate with a Bachelor's degree (like a B.Eng in Engineering) or a Master's degree (like an M.Eng). This makes it a level 6 apprenticeship for those who complete a Bachelor's, and a level 7 qualification for those who do a Master's.

Once enrolled, your time is split between university and work. You'll be paid a wage by your employer throughout the course, which will last at least three years, but could go on longer.

The trip was hugely successful and our students returned with lots of information. We are already looking forward to the event next year!

A comment from one our Sixth Formers:

The trip was a great eye opener in terms of opportunities. There were so many different career paths that I would have never considered. It seemed perfect for the type of person that would want to go down the line of engineering, housing, finance or marketing. In conclusion, the trip was a wonderful experience that enabled students to really dive into their own future and find out first-hand what the future may hold.

