

The Path Ahead

National Apprenticeship Week Special

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026

National Apprenticeship Week 2026: 9 – 15 FEBRUARY 2026

A week-long celebration that brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

National Apprenticeship Week is the perfect time to celebrate the power of learning, earning, and building a future—and this special edition does just that. Inside, you'll find our Apprenticeship Alphabet, showcasing Apprenticeship opportunities from A to Z, highlighting the incredible variety of pathways available across industries. We've also included a handy selection of useful websites to help you discover, explore, and apply for great opportunities, whether you're just starting out or looking for your next step. Dive in and see where an apprenticeship could take you.

SKILLS FOR LIFE

**IT ALL STARTS
WITH SKILLS**

#NAW2026



NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2026



Courteous

Community Minded

Committed

Conscientious

National Apprenticeship Week

Apprenticeship Levels Explained

Apprenticeship levels in the UK (Levels 2-7) define the qualification depth, ranging from GCSE equivalent to master's degrees, requiring 1-6 years to complete. Key types include Intermediate (Level 2), Advanced (Level 3), Higher (Levels 4-5), and Degree (Levels 6-7), allowing for progression from entry-level to professional expertise while earning a wage.

Apprenticeship Level Comparison Table

Level	Name	Equivalent	Duration	Suitable For
2	Intermediate	GCSE	12-18 months	Beginners, career starters
3	Advanced	A-Levels	18-24 months	School leavers, early career
4	Higher	1st year of university	18-30 months	Technicians, specialists
5	Higher	Foundation Degree / HND	2-3 years	Supervisors, specialists
6	Degree	Bachelor's Degree	3-4 years	Professional-level roles
7	Degree (Master's)	Master's Degree	2-5 years	Senior leadership, regulated careers



National Apprenticeship Week



Please see the link for latest degree apprenticeship vacancies. This document comes out in October and January every year.

[Higher-and-Degree-Listing-January-2026.pdf](#)

We want to highlight National Apprenticeship Week because it showcases the wide range of exciting pathways available to our students beyond traditional routes. Apprenticeships combine hands-on experience with nationally recognised qualifications, helping young people earn while they learn and develop valuable workplace skills. By celebrating this week, we can raise awareness of local and national opportunities, challenge misconceptions, and inspire students to explore diverse career options. It also allows us to engage with you, our parents/carers in meaningful conversations about progression routes, ensuring every student feels informed, supported, and confident about their future choices from our school.



National Apprenticeship Week

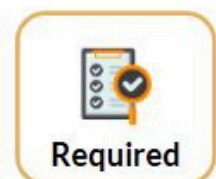
Range of apprenticeships



Higher & Degree apprenticeships

- ✓ University fees paid by employer and/or Government
- ✓ No debt
- ✓ Integrated degree or degree level
- ✓ Experience
- ✓ 4-6 years
- ✓ 100+ universities (plus colleges, training providers)
- ✓ Employer selects University/provider

Work full-time and study part-time



Outline of Apprenticeship Interview Process

- Online application**, - Includes personal details, education, reasonable adjustments
- Online assessments** - Practice, practice, practice, behavioural, cognitive, verbal and numerical reasoning
- Video interview** - Check Vision, Mission, Values and Skills they look for (Job Descriptions)
- Assessment centre** - Be a team player, include all, be kind
- Final interview** - With a person from early careers



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Online assessment tips

Read through instructions carefully and do the practice links first Allocate enough time and have notes ready dress smartly make sure you are in a quiet place and you will not be disturbed Ensure you have a stable internet connection

How to prepare for a video interview?

Research the employer make a positive first impression, smile! Practice questions Choose a comfortable environment Check your technology works let the company know if you need support, extra time any adjustments

Assessment Centre Group workshops

Two assessors, six to ten candidates, Individual presentation or a task 30 minute group discussion - looking for how you prepare, How you contribute and how you communicate

Keep an eye on the time

Build rapport and ask supportive questions

Listen to others opinions and thoughts

Ensure everyone contributes and invite those in that are slow to start

Back up ideas with evidence to support it and do not talk over other and if you do apologise

Virtual or In Person interviews

Most companies use a pre-recorded format and are looking for great communication skills Four competency based questions - STAR method of reply Situation, Task, Action, Result Tell me about a time when Read Job Description carefully Try to incorporate what the company is looking for in your answers



Use this method to answer questions

STAR Method



Using the 'STAR' technique to answer competency-based questions The STAR ('Situation, Task, Action, Result') technique is a recognised format used in interviews to answer competency-based questions like "tell me about a time you solved a problem to a tight timescale". Using this method to answer interview questions allows the applicant to provide strong examples of proof that you possess the experience and skills for the apprenticeship.

Situation Explain a recent challenge or situation that relates to the question.

Task Describe the tasks, objectives and targets relevant to the situation.

Action Describe the action taken to complete the tasks and objectives, why those actions were taken and what the alternatives were.

Result Explain the outcome of the situation, for example what objectives and targets were met. Don't forget to describe key learnings from the situation and how they have been used since.

SITUATION
TASK
AACTION
RESULT



Useful Websites for Apprenticeships

Here are some useful websites to use when looking for an apprenticeship.

- https://www.mygreatfirstjob.com/mentoring_
- [Find an Apprenticeship](#) – Government-run website that helps you find an apprenticeship.
- [A Guide to Apprenticeships](#) – Find out what it's like to be an apprentice – the opportunities, benefits and just how far an apprenticeship can take you in the future.
- www.amazingapprenticeships.com - Lots of information about apprenticeships and a really good 'vacancy' section showing the types of apprenticeships company offer.
- <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships> - Get to know all about apprenticeships with leading employers useful tips and hints, vacancies and UCAS has to offer.
- [Higher-and-Degree-Listing-January-2026.pdf](#)
- <https://higherin.com/top-employers/apprenticeships>
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
- www.thebigchoice.com
- www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk
- www.allaboutschoollavers.co.uk/jobs
- www.careermap.co.uk
- <https://targetcareers.co.uk/>
- <https://www.future-talent.com/apprenticeship/section/apprenticeships>
- <https://www.apprenticesandgraduates.co.uk/>
- [https://www.screenskills.com/information-and-resources/information/apprenticeships/\(Film/Theatre\)_](https://www.screenskills.com/information-and-resources/information/apprenticeships/(Film/Theatre)_)
- <https://www.qa.com/learners/become-an-apprentice/>
- [\(Computing and Digital apprenticeships\)_](#)
- <https://apprenticewatch.com/>
- <https://www.multiverse.io/en-GB> (Business & digital mainly).
- To find out about career ideas after studying a particular degree see: www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree
- For a general overview of requirements: www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors
- [PDF-a-guide-to-apprenticeship-interviews](#)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

A - ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

Accounting and finance: more than one route

Think Ahead



Accountancy isn't one-size-fits-all. It offers a wide range of roles, progression opportunities, and ways to build a career over time.

We support students who are:

- thinking about an apprenticeship
- considering university, including a BSc route linked to ACCA
- looking for a more gradual way to build confidence and experience before taking their next step

Our pathway video may be helpful for students exploring their options:

[Watch video](#)

C - CLANCY

Clancy roles have gone live. If you wish to apply, please direct them to our website:

[Clancy Group](#)



COMPUTACENTER

Scan the QR for details..

**Computacenter
Live Early
Careers Page**



Apprenticeships Alphabet

D - DUNELM

Starting your career with Dunelm opens a world of possibilities

Applications are now open for Dunelm's apprenticeship vacancies.

You could apply for apprenticeships in Supply Chain & Logistics, Merchandising, Buying, Retail, or the exciting new Made to Measure Fitting apprenticeship opportunity.

Find out more about the roles and how to apply below...

[APPLY NOW](#)



Watch this recording to meet the Early Careers team at Dunelm to learn about apprenticeship opportunities in Retail, Supply Chain & Logistics, Commercial, Fitter and more. In this recording, you'll find out about Dunelm's early careers programmes, hear from a panel of current apprentices and pick up some hints and tips for your apprenticeship application.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Find out about the new Made to Measure Fitting Apprenticeship - a unique role blending hands-on technical skills, customer interaction and the freedom of being out on the road. Apprentices work towards a Customer Service apprenticeship qualification, while gaining specialist training in fitting blinds, curtains and shutters in customers' homes.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Explore Dunelm's profile on Amazing Apprenticeships' popular Meet the Employer platform to explore the skills they're looking for in their apprentices, their application processes, the help and support available to apprentices, behind-the-scenes apprentice experiences, and much more.

If you're interested in applying for Dunelm's vacancy opportunities, Meet the Employer is the perfect place to visit to get yourself prepared to apply!

E - EDF

A Parents & Carers Guide to Applying for Apprenticeships with EDF

This new practical, easy-to-read guide explains who EDF is, what an EDF apprenticeship involves, the range of programmes available and the benefits of an apprenticeship with EDF. It also lays out the application process and shares tips on how parents and carers can best support young people at each stage of the process.

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)

Help with applying for open vacancies

EDF's apprenticeship vacancies are OPEN for applications

Vacancies are open for applications in roles ranging from Wind Turbine Technician to Health Physics Monitor, Engineering Technicians to Human Resources, Project Management to Business Administration, Health and Safety, and more.

[EXPLORE EDF APPRENTICESHIPS](#)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

E - EDF (CONTINUED)

Use EDF's Meet The Employer Profile to help boost your application

EDF's profile on Meet the Employer allows you to explore the skills they're looking for in their apprentices, their application processes, the help and support available to apprentices, behind-the-scenes apprentice experiences, and much more!

[VISIT EDF'S PROFILE](#)

F - FINANCE

An exciting opportunity for students in the South East who are considering a future career in finance, but who may not be considering university. The NHS Finance Insights Placement Scheme is now open for applications for new entrants starting this September. We would be grateful for your support in promoting this social mobility initiative within your school or college community.

About the Scheme

This award-winning scheme offers paid (NHS Band 2, approx. £24k), full-time, 12-month work placements within the NHS. It is specifically designed for individuals at the start of their career journey who may face barriers to traditional entry routes.

- No previous experience required.
- No degree required.
- Full training and mentorship provided including practical technical and personal skills.

Student Feedback

A trainee who started at a Hampshire Trust last September shared her experience so far:

"Coming into this program, I was nervous... However, I couldn't feel more comfortable. My trust was really welcoming... I have learnt so much in a short amount of time. This opportunity has played a key role in strengthening my CV and professional development."

Eligibility Criteria

To apply, candidates must meet the following three criteria:

- Right to work: You have the right to work in the UK.
- Education: You have not attended university and are not planning to attend.
- Background: You have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the last 6 years OR the main income earner in your household is in a role categorised as a lower socio-economic background.

Locations & Trusts

There are 5 Trusts participating in the South East this year. While some home working is possible, candidates must be able to travel to the office of their chosen trust regularly.

- Crawley: South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (Nexus House)
- Reading OR Windsor: Thames Valley Integrated Care Board (Bath Road or King Edward VII Hospital)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

F - FOOTBALL

Future Pro Footballers Academy, launching at the Wycombe Campus. This collaboration will provide students aged 16–19 with the unique opportunity to combine their education with elite football development. The partnership introduces a Football Academy Pathway alongside the Level 2 Sports Coaching and Level 3 Sports & Physical Activity programmes. Learners will study towards recognised qualifications while training and competing in a professional, academy-style football environment.

The academy will provide structured football development for both boys and girls, offering an inclusive pathway for motivated students to progress in football alongside their education. Squads will compete in appropriate leagues, delivering a high-quality and competitive playing programme for all participants. Learners selected for the academy will take part in two to three football training sessions per week during college hours and represent the academy in weekly league and cup fixtures, gaining valuable experience in competitive football.

FPF Academy has a proven track record in player development, with 30 players signing for professional clubs in the past 24 months, including Manchester United, Brentford, Crystal Palace, Luton Town, Oxford United, Queens Park Rangers, Fulham, MK Dons, Reading, Tottenham Hotspur, Watford, Stevenage, Arsenal, Brighton and West Ham United. The leadership team includes Director of Football Conrad Mukova, an Official Arsenal FC Scout, adding professional insight and talent identification expertise.





Buckinghamshire
College Group

F.P.F. ACADEMY X BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE GROUP



16 - 19 COLLEGE PROGRAMME

2026/27 SEASON

FOOTBALL ACADEMY & NCFE SPORT PATHWAY

COLLEGE OPEN EVENINGS

(FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS)

COURSE TASTER SESSIONS

Experience a real academy-style session and
discover the NCFE Sport pathway.

27th JANUARY

24th MARCH

16th JUNE

26th FEBRUARY

30th APRIL

11th JUNE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE
GROUP - WYCOMBE CAMPUS



**Buckinghamshire
College Group**

WHAT YOU'LL GET...

- Training with UEFA A & B licensed coaches
- Level 2 NCFE Sports Coaching
- Level 3 NCFE extended diploma in sport and physical activity
- Competitive fixtures & matchdays
- Strength & Conditioning + performance support
- VEO video analysis
- Exposure to pro & elite academy scouts
- Clear pathways into football & the sports industry

WHO IT'S FOR

- Boys & Girls
- Ambitious players aged 16-19
- Students serious about football and education

This is your pathway — to professional football, coaching, sport science, or the wider sports industry.



POST-16

TRIAL SESSION



chelseasoccerschools.co.uk

Chelsea FC Post-16 College Programme will be running a trial session at Hillingdon Sports & Leisure Complex in October this year. This will be open to all prospective male players to attend for the 2026/27 year.

The day will include an Introduction and overview of our Post-16 Programme and include a training session focusing on the technical and tactical aspects of the game. To confirm attendance please book online by scanning the QR code.

Area	Venue	Date
Uxbridge	Hillingdon Sports & Leisure Complex, UB8 1ES	Monday 16 th February 2026
Timings	Players	Pitch Surface
10.00-12.00pm	Male	3G





POST-16

TRIAL SESSION



chelseasoccerschools.co.uk

Chelsea FC Post-16 College Programme will be running a trial session at Hillingdon Sports & Leisure Complex in February this year. This will be open to all prospective female players to attend for the 2026/27 year.

The day will include an Introduction and overview of our Post-16 Programme and include a training session focusing on the technical and tactical aspects of the game. To confirm attendance please book online by scanning the QR code.

Area	Venue	Date
Uxbridge	Hillingdon Sports & Leisure Complex, UB8 1ES	Monday 16 th February 2026
Timings	Players	Pitch Surface
13.00-15.00pm	Female	3G

Apprenticeships Alphabet

G - GUIDES

To support schools during National Apprenticeship Week, we're offering a limited-time licence to The Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships. You'll be able to share this specialist guide with your parents on your website (or any other way that works for you).

The guide is written specifically for parents and helps to:

- explain how apprenticeships work in practice
- clarify the different levels and progression routes
- compare apprenticeships and university pathways
- support informed, balanced conversations at home

[Click here to get ready for NAW](#)

H - HEALTHCARE

See poster on the next page...

I - INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Insight into Fidelity International

Exclusive Webinar on Apprenticeships in the Investment Management Industry

Wednesday 18th February, 6pm - 7pm | Online via Zoom

If you're a Year 13, Year 12 student or school leaver exploring apprenticeships and beginning to think about your next steps, this session is for you.

We're inviting students and their parents or carers to join an exclusive webinar with Fidelity International, offering a clear and honest insight into careers within the investment management industry.

This session is designed to help students and parents/carers feel informed, confident, and supported when making important early-career decisions.

What you'll gain from attending

By joining the webinar, you will:

- Gain a realistic insight into careers within the investment management industry
- Learn about Fidelity International's apprenticeship programmes, including how they work, the qualifications gained and long-term career pathways
- Hear directly from Fidelity's Head of Early Careers about what they look for in applicants (Continues after NHS Careers Cafe poster)





NHS CAREERS CAFÉ and Apprenticeship Event

Are you a young person
looking to discover careers in
healthcare or a career changer
looking for a new role?



FREE EVENT – FOR YEARS 10, 11, 12, 13 STUDENTS
Booking isn't essential, but to help us plan,
please scan the QR code and reserve a space



**MONDAY
2 MARCH
2026
4.30pm –
7.00pm**

- Meet a range of healthcare professionals
- Explore NHS career pathways
- Participate in hands-on practical sessions

**Medicine • Nursing • Healthcare Science •
Paramedic • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Rad
• Corporate (Estates, Finance, HR) and many more**

Work experience and apprenticeships talk at 5.30pm

Careers question time at 6.15pm

Put your questions to our panel

Contact us

E: apprenticeships@ouh.nhs.uk

Address: Academic Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital

Visit: www.ouh.nhs.uk/working-for-us

Apprenticeships Alphabet

I - INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

- Listen to current apprentices share their experiences, day-to-day responsibilities and honest advice
- Understand the application process, key stages and what to expect at each step

Parents and carers are encouraged to attend, as the session will also provide reassurance and practical guidance on how best to support students as they make early career choices.

Who are Fidelity International?

Fidelity International is a global investment management company helping people plan for their financial futures. Founded in 1969, Fidelity operates across multiple countries and supports millions of individuals with saving, investing and long-term financial planning. As a privately owned organisation, Fidelity places strong emphasis on long-term thinking, development and career progression. Fidelity International is responsible for total client assets of USD \$862.0 billion and over 2.9 million clients across Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, South America, and Canada. With a global footprint in over 25 countries.

Event details

Date: Wednesday 18th February

Time: 6pm – 7pm

Location: Online via Zoom (joining link shared after registration)



How to join

Please register using the link below to confirm your attendance:

[Insight into Fidelity International](#)

[Exclusive Webinar on Apprenticeships in the Investment Management Industry](#)

[Wednesday 18th February, 6pm - 7pm | Online via Zoom](#)

J - JCB

At JCB, we believe in nurturing the next generation of talent through our early careers programme. Joining JCB means becoming part of one of the world's largest manufacturers of construction equipment, where innovation and excellence are the focus. Whether you are interested in engineering, business, or technical roles, JCB offers rewarding career prospects. If you can embrace the opportunity to learn and grow, seize the chance for a career at JCB and help shape the future of construction and agriculture.

[Find out More](#)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

JET2 HOLIDAYS

Get your career off to a flying start with Jet2.com and Jet2holidays
[Find out More](#)



JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP

If you want to gain hands-on experience, master new skills, and earn recognised qualifications as you build a rewarding career, the John Lewis Partnership offers a vast range of apprenticeships. With a clear path for advancement and the opportunity to contribute from day one, our apprenticeships empower people to shape their future and become a driving force in our success.

[Find out More](#)



L - LLOYDS

A Lloyds apprenticeship is a smart way to get new skills, relevant qualifications, and experience from day one. And get paid. There's sure to be something to fit your interests. Make a meaningful impact for customers across the UK. Get hands-on with next level tech to help support customers. Learn from people who know their stuff and who'll help you develop. There's over a thousand apprentices across the group, all sharing the experience. You'll be part of a thriving community that's moving forward fast.

[Find out More](#)



M - MOTT MACDONALD

Mott MacDonald is an employee owned engineering, development and management consultancy with 20,000 people in more than 50 countries, delivering the transport, energy, water and infrastructure projects that support everyday life. Our apprentices gain hands on experience on real projects while working towards professionally recognised qualifications, supported by structured development, mentoring and our Early Careers Professionals network. This inclusive environment helps apprentices build skills, confidence and connections as they begin shaping their future.

[Find out More](#)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

N - NANDO'S

Take a look at our apprenticeship opportunities

[Find out More](#)



NESTLÉ

At Nestlé UK & Ireland we offer a range of programmes at our sites across the country – from Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) to Degree Apprenticeships (Level 6). Each combines academic study with practical, on-the-job experience, allowing you to earn a salary while working towards a nationally recognised qualification. Whether you want to keep manufacturing lines running, boost brand digital presence or get products onto shelves, we have the role for you! Earn, learn, and grow – with real experience, in-demand skills, and no student debt!

[Find out More](#)



NETWORK RAIL

If a career full of opportunity and possibilities matters to you. You matter to us. Our apprenticeships are designed to provide you with practical on the job training mixed with classroom-based learning.

[Find out More](#)



R - ROYAL MAIL

Royal Mail sits at the heart of communities across the country and our apprentices are crucial in helping us to build trust at the doorstep and shape the future with fresh thinking. Their passion and enthusiasm extends to every element of what they do. It's a pivotal time for us as we continue to evolve our business, and with a variety of apprenticeships on offer, it's an ideal place to begin, or to progress, your career.

[Find out More](#)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

S - SCREWFIX

It's not just customers who rate Screwfix highly; our teams love working here too. We've worked hard to create a culture of inclusivity and genuine community.

[Find out More](#)



SPECSAVERS

What sets our people apart is our curiosity and passion for our work. As an apprentice, you'll be part of a team who care deeply about eyecare and hearing health, and who strive to be the best they can be. Our award-winning apprenticeships offer a great stepping stone into our business and a way to upskill on the job. If you want to learn new skills, discover your hidden talents, and help make a difference to people's lives every day then choose an apprenticeship with Specsavers. By the end of the apprenticeship, you'll be fully qualified in a role that you can excel at. We'll help you to progress from day one, with support and guidance in place to help you decide where you want to go next. We're looking for apprentices to work in customer services, optics, and spectacle technicians - we welcome applications from everyone at any age who doesn't have experience already. Love people? Love life at Specsavers.

[Find out More](#)



T - TESCO

Tesco PLC offers a wide range of apprenticeship programmes, from Level 2 to Level 7. We currently have over 1,000 apprentices across business areas including retail, finance, and leadership.

[Find out More](#)



TUI

Your career adventure starts here! Ready to make your mark in the world of travel? With a presence in over 180 destinations globally, TUI offers more than just career opportunities – we provide a platform for you to grow while helping others explore the world.

[Find out More](#)



Apprenticeships Alphabet

W - WICKES

Join Wickes, a growing business where apprentices learn on the job and grow their careers.

[Find out More](#)



WOODLAND TRUST

Like our trees, we want people to grow and thrive. Visit the Woodland Trust careers page, where your passion for nature can make a real difference.

[Find out More](#)

