



**Apprenticeships Guide
for Parents 2012:13**

What is an Apprenticeship?

As a parent you want your son or daughter to get the best possible start in their career. For many young people following an academic route is not for them.

Lots of young people want to get straight into the workplace and start earning money and an Apprenticeship allows them to do just that.

Apprenticeships are an excellent way of gaining qualifications, through hands on work experience and as an employee. Your son or daughter can earn as they learn.

WHY DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

- Nationally recognised qualifications
- Workplace experience
- Practical skills and knowledge
- A real wage
- Better job security
- Paid holidays
- Route to university, further or higher education or training

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Apprenticeships typically take one to two years to complete depending on the level of the Apprenticeship, the apprentice's ability and the industry sector. Our Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of occupational areas from Childcare and Hairdressing to Equine and Construction and some are available at two levels - Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship. An Apprenticeship is essentially a set of qualifications called a 'framework' developed by Sector Skills Councils and each occupation has its own framework.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Think Apprenticeships are only for young people? Think again! Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age 16. There are no formal requirements as Apprenticeships are not just based on previous academic achievement. However, apprentices need to be committed, motivated, enthusiastic and reliable. Applicants will be interviewed prior to starting on an Apprenticeship programme.

Frequently Asked Questions

HOW WILL MY SON/DAUGHTER BE ASSESSED?

- Assignments
- Exams
- Observations in the workplace by your son or daughter's employer and assessor

WHO PAYS FOR THE TRAINING?

The government pays the full amount for 16-18s, or if they are aged over 19 it is expected that the employer will contribute to the cost of training.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL MY SON/DAUGHTER GET?

The College takes full responsibility for your son or daughter's off-the-job training. We will also appoint a tutor/assessor who will work with your son or daughter's employer to make sure training is well-planned. The employer will provide on the job training and pay wages. The College maintains regular contact to make sure our apprentices succeed.

HOW OFTEN WILL MY SON/DAUGHTER COME INTO COLLEGE?

Usually one day a week, however some programmes are completed in the workplace and assessed by a workplace assessor.

HOW DO APPRENTICESHIPS COMPARE WITH GCSEs AND A LEVELS?

We offer two levels of Apprenticeships:

- Apprenticeships - equivalent to five good GCSEs
- Advanced Apprenticeships - equivalent to two A Level passes

HOW DO I FIND OUT APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

The National Apprenticeship Service runs an Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service. This is an online system whereby employers and learning providers can advertise and manage vacancies, and potential apprentices can search, apply and then manage their applications for Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships opportunities. The service helps match young people to employers with an Apprenticeship vacancy. The Vacancy Matching Service is a great way to find the right Apprenticeship and we'll help with that too!

For more information visit:
www.apprenticeships.org.uk



