

Next Steps Launch for Parents & Guardians

Today's session:

1. Sixth form timeline
2. Options after leaving school?
3. UCAS Timeline / UCAS for students
4. Apprenticeship Timeline / support for students
5. Questions

We will support students in making competitive applications. Students need to put their efforts into their studies and subjects.



Grades:Currency



Right place. Right pathway

Parents evening: Thursday 16th April

Online. 10 minute appointments.

Students and parents to be present.

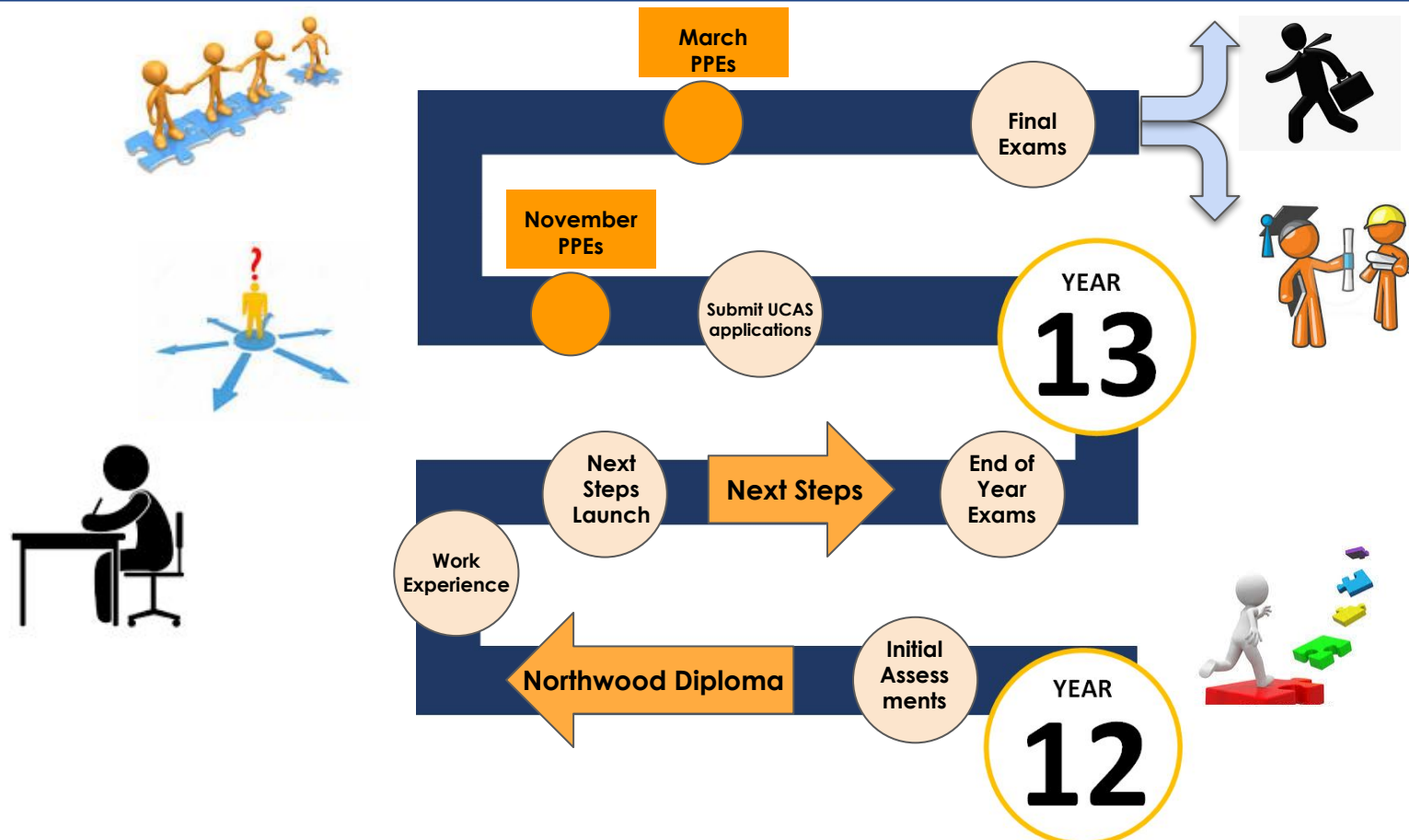
End Of Year 12 Exams: 18th June 3rd July.

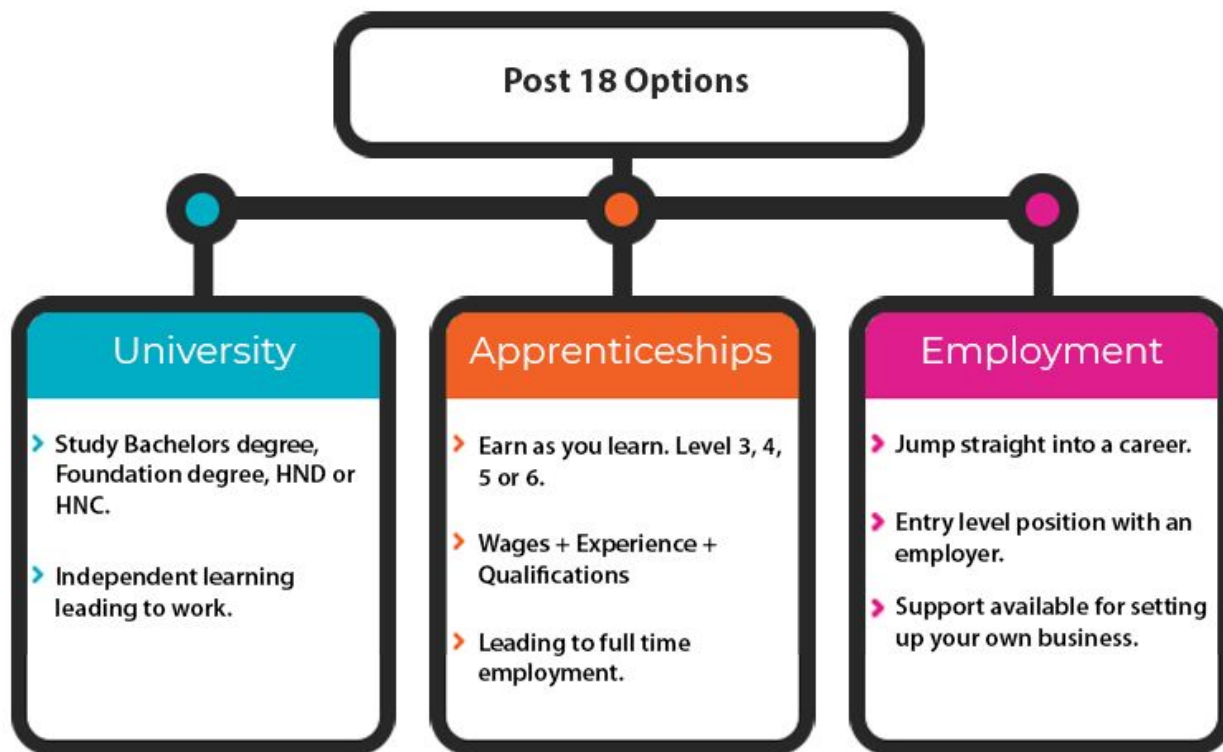
Will inform UCAS predicted grades.

Predicted Grades:

- Universities, apprenticeships make offers based on the grades the school predicts.
- We will use a range of data, but it will be largely be informed by the end of year exams
- Predicted grades will be aspirational but achievable and data-driven.

Sixth Form Timeline: Assessment in Year 13





I am not sure what I want to do- do I still need to go through the UCAS process?

Yes, the process of research, decision making, personal statement writing will help you no matter what pathway you take

What is UCAS?



Our Northwood 6th Form Journey

What is UCAS?

UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. It's the centralised service that students use to apply to university.

Think of **UCAS** as an online dating service: through it you can select and apply to universities, the universities take your proposal and decide whether or not to offer you a place.



Is University for you?



- Do you seek academic challenge?
- Do you want to study for a further 3, or more years?
- Does this excite you?
- Are you seeking to develop as a person?
- Do you want to develop your independence?
- Is this your own decision or an aspiration?
- Do you have a medium/long-term career plan?

This must be the right decision for each of **YOU!**

This year...

Of the 78 students in Year 13:

- 75 students applied to university,
- 2 have applied but have decided to defer application.
- An apprenticeship received from **JP Morgan**.
- 1 offer to Cambridge for Law
- 2 offers for Medicine at University of Nottingham/Lancaster
- 58% of the students received offers from Russell group universities.

UCAS

Placement summary

Active applications



Filter applications



78

0

0

Type of undergraduate course

After leaving school, most students going onto university or college study for an undergraduate degree. These are usually made up of modules (some compulsory and some optional) that add up to a full degree.

Here are some examples of the types of undergraduate courses you can do.

- Bachelor degree courses - which can include a placement year home or abroad
- Foundation years (1 year course)
- Diploma in Foundation Studies (art and design) (1 year course)
- Foundation degrees (usually 2 year courses; work has paid for this University route/ones which require fewer qualifications/exams)
- HNCs, HNDs, and other incremental routes (1 or 2 year 'top-up' course)
- Degree or graduate level apprenticeship (work will be running this or the trainer; highly competitive and high entry requirements) video [here](#)

What is the right course for each student?

Over the course of this term we will be utilising the time students have to begin this exciting journey of higher education. It's really important they are having an open conversation with family, friends and teachers about life after sixth form. Also doing as much research as they can when looking at the courses and universities they want to go to...this may be a good place to start [What University Course Should You Study ? & The Complete University Guide](#).

How many applications or courses?

Students can pick **5** courses from up to **5** Universities unless...

Are applying for a course in the following fields, then they only have 4:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary medicine
- Veterinary science.



Timeline for sending off your personal statement is earlier for these courses -
ucas deadline is the **15th October 2026**
but the school has an earlier deadline!

Oxbridge & Medics Group

If students are thinking about applying to Oxford, Cambridge or for Medicine / Dentistry / Vet Met / Vet Sciences - they will have already spoken to Mrs Kondal and a plan is in place. Have a look at this [guide to Oxbridge](#) to help you decide if this is for you.

Students interested in applying for these subjects will meet regularly with Mrs Kondal for preparation.

Maths / Physics / Computer Science / Engineering / Law

If students are thinking about applying for any of the above subjects - some universities require an admissions test.

There will be some extra support when preparing these applications, in particular if they have to prepare for any entrance exams.

[University Admissions Tests](#) and [Which university admissions test](#)

- They produce more than two-thirds of the world-leading research produced in UK universities and support more than 300,000 jobs across the country.
- Their economic output is more than £32 billion every year.

[illegible]

The importance of achieving a Gold rating

Among the **TEF** ratings of Gold, Silver, and Bronze, achieving a Gold rating is considered a significant achievement and a symbol of excellence in teaching. It indicates that an institution has consistently delivered high-quality teaching, provided excellent student support, and achieved outstanding student outcomes. A Gold rating is a feather in the cap for universities and a powerful marketing tool to attract domestic and international students seeking the best possible education.

[A list of all Gold Standard Universities](#)

Be interested, start the conversations now, be a positive sounding board and keep them regular. It might be good to consider:

- Subjects they study now
- A subject related to a career
- What do they enjoy doing? What are they good at?
- What are their career ambitions?
- Attend open days - ideally this summer. Find them [here](#).
- Help them to be ambitious and realistic in their choices
- Help them think about where they want to go
- UCAS provide a [Parent & Guardian](#) advice page where you can learn more about the application and the process.



Attend open days with your child - ideally this summer. Find them [here](#).

Most should fall on weekends.

Students can be authorised to attend up to 2 open days during school time.

They must give at least 48 hours notice before these days.



28-Mar Open Day



25-Apr Open Day

Open day calendar

Browse the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days

Select a month: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)

April 2026

← March

May →

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Wednesday

1
Apr.

Newcastle College

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 Newcastle Upon Tyne

Bournemouth University

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 Poole, Dorset

University of Roehampton

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 London

University of Winchester

Wednesday 1 April 2026 open day 📍 Winchester, Hampshire



UCAS Personal Statements - what's changed?

- Personal statement has changed from one longer piece of text to three separate questions.
- Make the process easier and more structured
- The new questions should help give you a starting point to shout all about you and your achievements
- Give strong examples to prove you're a good fit for your chosen course.
- The three questions will help you to scaffold your answers and ensure you include exactly what universities and colleges want to see
- Each answer will have a minimum character count of 350 characters, which is clearly labelled on the question boxes
- The 4000 overall character limit (including spaces) remains the same, as does what you're expected to include.

The new Personal Statement Questions

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

[Link here for
more details](#)

Northwood Diploma/WEX/Extra Curricular/Hobbies/Leadership

- Work experience, employment, or volunteering
- Personal life experiences or responsibilities
- Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities
- Achievements outside of school or college

UCAS

UCAS fees: £28.95

- Discuss choices with your child
- Citizenship and residency status questions on UCAS. Ensure your child has correct information

Student Finance

- Students will have a dedicated university led session on how to apply for student finance but the onus is on student to apply
- Requires information about parent/carer's income
- Requires national insurance number so ensure your child has one
- Passport/residency - if your child has not been born in the UK or does not have settlement status they may be subject to international fees

Timeline - school deadlines are earlier thanucas deadlines

13th April - 22nd May	Students work on UCAS tasks over the next 6 weeks (see next slide)
28th April	UCAS Search is updated with 2027 courses but students cannot register
12th May	Students will register with UCAS as a group during a registration with the new school buzzword.
22nd May	Students hand in My Future Document including first draft of Personal Statement 3 Qs
8th June	Students work on second draft of Personal Statement 3Qs ready to share with form tutors
6th July	Students submit their final PS 3Qs to Mrs K and Ms Domm and decide on final 5 choices
End Sept	All Oxbridge students and those for most courses in medicine, veterinary and dentistry to submit and pay for UCAS. Following payment the UCAS adviser will upload final predicted grades and teacher reference.
End Nov	All other applications for all other UCAS undergraduate courses will submit and pay. UCAS adviser will upload final predicted grades and teacher reference.

What next? The Plan

Date	Date	Task
13/04/26	24/04/26	Future choices & Northwood Diploma: Go through your diploma booklet and start adding notes where you have completed relevant research, community service, intellectual curiosity towards the course you wish to apply for, note, you cannot waffle, the research and 'why' is so important when applying to university. This is the 'My Future Doc' on GC.
20/04/26	24/04/26	Future Planning and course research: Pick 5 universities and courses that you are interested in and fill out on a google doc and submit.
24/04/26	On-going	Open days: You have now researched the universities now look into open days for these universities and others (keep your options up at this stage)
11/05/26	16/05/26	PS Notes: On a google doc, begin to make a bulleted list of everything you are able to add on to your personal statement - this will be your first draft (note form)
18/05/26	22/05/26	Draft: Finish your first draft (note form) of your personal statement questions and hand in - this is only a first draft, you will have many more chances to improve it!

UCAS Reference - Section 2

The UCAS reference is made up of **three structured sections** one of which is section 2 which asks for schools to enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement. Within the sub content, we are advised to add individual circumstances – e.g. mature student, disability, serious, acute, or chronic illness, bereavement, significant adverse personal circumstances (**with applicant consent**).

In September, you will receive a form to fill with section 2 information.

What makes a good UCAS Application

- Clear planning and choices made - do students really know what they have applied for, are they passionate?
- Appropriate predicted grades (Teachers make predicted grades and write references which go on their UCAS application.)
- Strong Personal Statement
- Variety of wider reading
- Work Experience
- Interest in studying the course at a higher level

End of Year 12 exams are really important - they inform predicted grades!

Grade	Tariff
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

It is SO important that students continue to work hard to the best of their ability to ensure their predicted grades are as high as possible.

This will affect the Universities they can or cannot apply to.

[Writing a Personal Statement - Tutorial Booklet | Resources](#)

[Applying for Art Degrees: a step by step guide | Resources](#)

[Geography: applying for Geography degrees - step by step guide with advice for Year 11 and Year 12 | Resources](#)

[Medical Schools entry criteria 2020: created by the Medical Schools Council | Resources](#)

www.medschools.ac.uk

[UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com) - UCAS Hub is a very useful tool for students to start exploring subjects, considering apprenticeships, shortlisting their final 5 and about writing personal statements and CVs

[Unibuddy on ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com/unibuddy): Unibuddy gives you a chance to speak to current undergraduates who have already experienced student life and the courses you are applying for

[UCAS Guide for Parents and Carers](https://www.ucas.com/guide-for-parents-and-carers) - to share with your parent/carer

University Open Days: These have all now gone virtual so you can search via [Open Days.com](https://www.open-days.com) or [UCAS Open Days](https://www.ucas.com/open-days)

[Student Stream](https://www.ucas.com/student-stream) is another useful research tool. There are many available.

Question	Answer																					
(Student:) <i>Do I have to do this preparation even if I don't want to go to university?</i>	Yes. It might be a really useful process in helping you to decide whether university is the right option for you. Writing a personal statement is so useful and can be adapted later for apprenticeship / job applications. Feel free to start researching other options and add them to your copy of the 'My Future' document so you have a record.																					
(Parent:) <i>What is a distinction in BTEC equivalent to as an A Level?</i>	<table><tr><th>Diplomas</th><th>A level</th><th>UCAS</th></tr><tr><td>D*</td><td>A*</td><td>56</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>A</td><td>48</td></tr><tr><td>-</td><td>B</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>M</td><td>C</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td>-</td><td>D</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>E</td><td>16</td></tr></table>	Diplomas	A level	UCAS	D*	A*	56	D	A	48	-	B	40	M	C	32	-	D	24	P	E	16
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Thank you for listening

This presentation will be available on the school website tomorrow to allow you to go through the links.

We will do questions at the end.

Other Pathways for your child to consider:

Apprenticeships appeal to those looking for **alternatives to university** as they take a more practical approach to learning. You'll focus on training for a specific career and learn your trade by actually doing the job. You'll gain hands-on experience and have the opportunity to apply your skills immediately. Here are some **pros** and **cons** from one of our very own 1st year apprenticeship students completing a Marketing degree apprenticeship with Unilever:

Pros	Cons
• Earning a qualification	• A lot of work & research
• Getting paid	• Miss out on 'uni life'
• Relevant work experience	• Preparing many applications to many employers (a lot of time/energy!)
• No debt	• Highly competitive
• Networking opportunities	• Career choice has to be made earlier
• Lots of career paths to choose from	

Luke Bennett

- 1st year degree Apprenticeship
- Apprentice Building Surveyor
- Workman
- University of the Built Environment
- A Levels studied:
- Geography=A/
Maths=A/History=B / EPQ=B



Muna Farah

- 1st Year History student
- Cambridge University
- Newnham College
- A Levels Studied:
- Chemistry=A /History=A*
/Maths=A /EPQ=A



Understanding apprenticeships



Today's session

What we'll be covering

APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT THEY ARE

ROLES & LEVELS

APPRENTICESHIP OPTIONS

SEARCH & APPLY

NEXT STEPS

What are apprenticeships?



Employed



Off the job



Intermediate -
degree



Paid a salary



Typically 1-6
years



Real
responsibilities



Contract

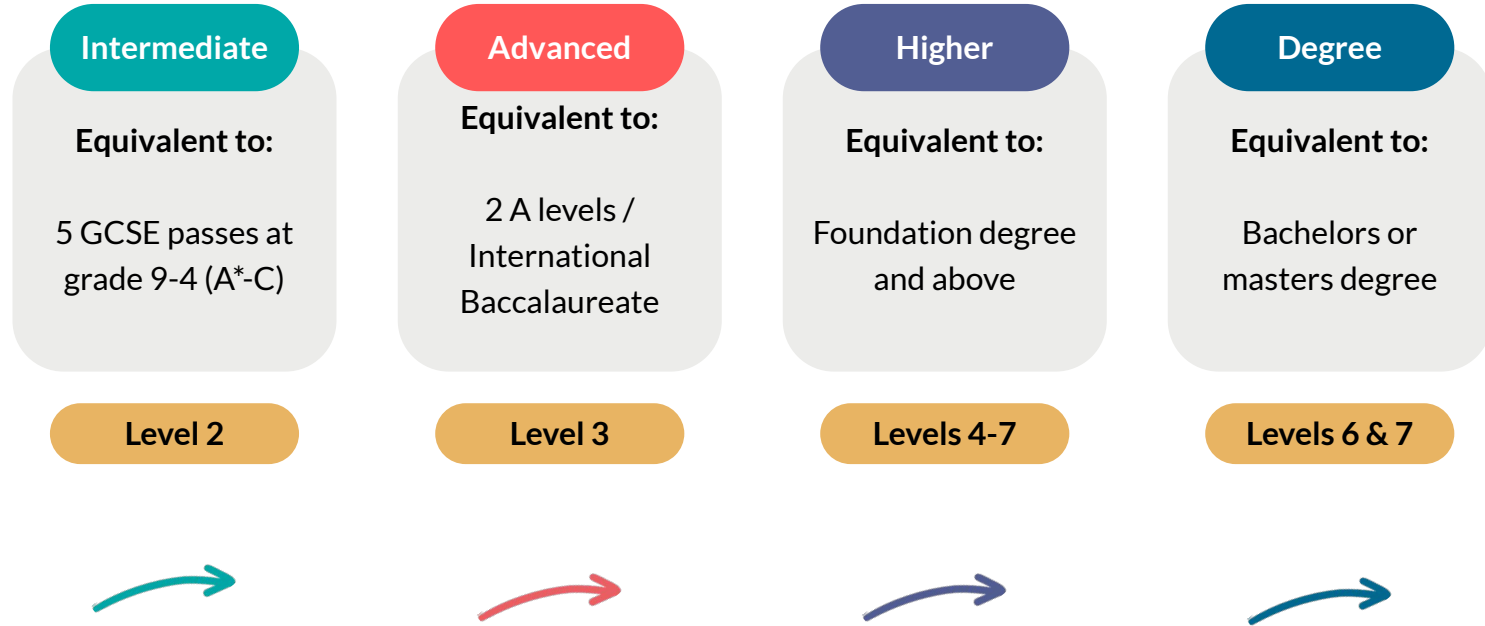


700+ standards



Not the easy
option

Levels of apprenticeships



Levels of apprenticeships

Intermediate (L2)

- Furniture maker
- Security operative
- Barber
- Aviation ground handler
- Dog groomer
- Florist
- Accounts assistant
- Pharmacy assistant
- Marina operative
- Junior estate agent

140+ standards

Advanced (L3)

- Engineering technician
- Pastry chef
- Multi-channel marketer
- Fundraiser
- Scenic artist
- Electrician
- Community wellbeing worker
- Data technician

230+ standards

Higher

- Visual effects artist
- Town planning assistant
- Sports coach
- Space engineering technician

110+ standards (L4)

- Vet technician
- Nursing associate
- Rail engineer
- Marine pilot
- Nuclear technician

40+ standards (L5)

Degree

- Geoscientist
- Accounting manager
- Midwife
- Social worker
- Civil engineer

110+ standards (L6)

- Doctor
- Game programmer
- Play therapist
- Solicitor
- Economist

60+ standards (L7)

Career starter apprenticeships

- ✓ Bricklayer, Plasterer, Electrician, Engineering Fitter, Plumber, Horticulture or Landscape Construction Operative
- ✓ Chef, Hospitality Team Member
- ✓ Business Administrator, Content Creator
- ✓ Cyber Security Technician, Digital Support Technician, Data/Software Technician, Information Communications Technician
- ✓ Early Years Educator, Teaching Assistant
- ✓ Dental Nurse, Healthcare Support Worker
- ✓ Freight Forwarding Specialist, Warehouse Operative

START YOUR CAREER THROUGH A CATERING APPRENTICESHIP!

A guide for young people.

DID YOU KNOW...

Chefs can be promoted from apprentice to a kitchen management role in a few years. They are in high demand across the country, making it a great choice for those looking to progress to the top. Most importantly, you don't need previous experience to get started. If you have a passion for food, like working as part of a team and are ready to learn, this could become your lifelong career.

AN APPRENTICESHIP IS A JOB WITH A SALARY

You'll also study the equivalent of one day per week to build skills in your chosen profession. The combination of practical work and classroom teaching means you can put into practice the things you learn. You'll gain skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving and IT.

You'll be well on your way to achieving your career goals while others are just getting started.

MEET SOME APPRENTICES



MEET THEO...
who found his passion as a Production Chef at an Italian restaurant.



MEET ESTHER...
a Commis Chef who aims to open her own restaurant.



MEET TOM...
who is now a Kitchen Team Leader.



DURATION:
APPROX. 12 MONTHS



SALARIES:
UP TO £20K.
THIS CAN RISE QUICKLY
DUE TO DEMAND.



FIND OUT MORE
ON THE NEXT
PAGE

HOW TO FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP

[apprenticeship](#)
search for apprenticeships in

nce. Both of these will work in all

on supporting senior chefs, helping keep the kitchen running smoothly. apprenticeship, you may move on to it.

10,000 people in the last 5 years, management positions and

it, Mitchells & Butlers




sions: banquets, business times in the early morning, the ned down by a '9 to 5'. You th a lively and supportive team.

MIGHT BE:

- preparing ingredients
- and salads
- thing dishes
- then clean

ING YOUR APPRENTICESHIP, GRESS TO:

- Senior Culinary Chef

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



Competitive



Progression

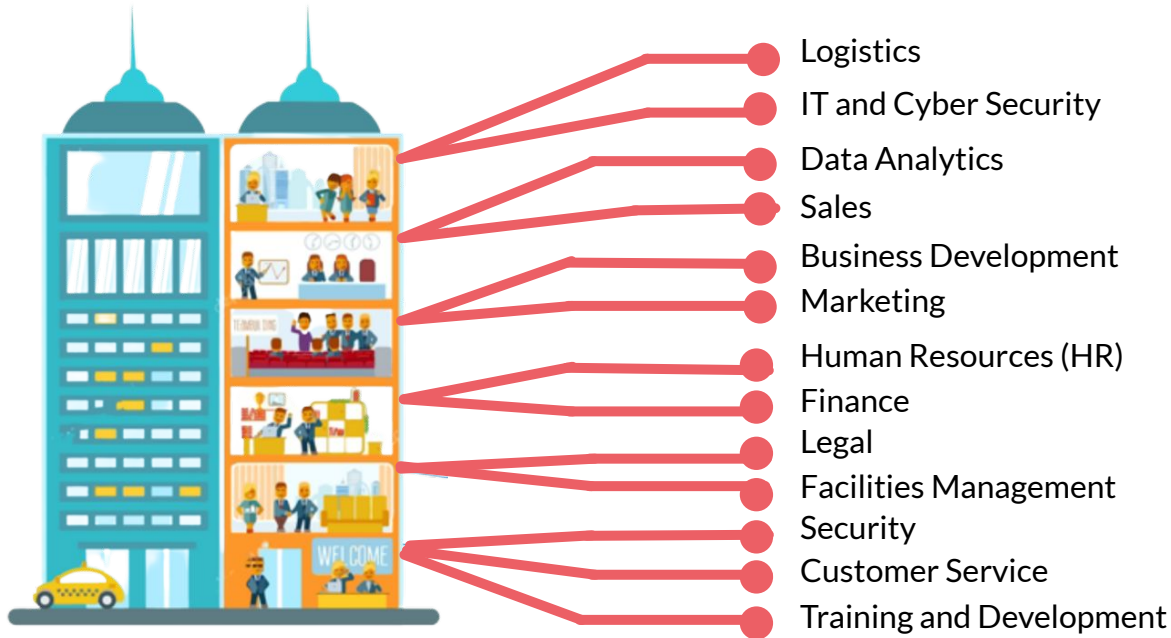


Required

Range of employers

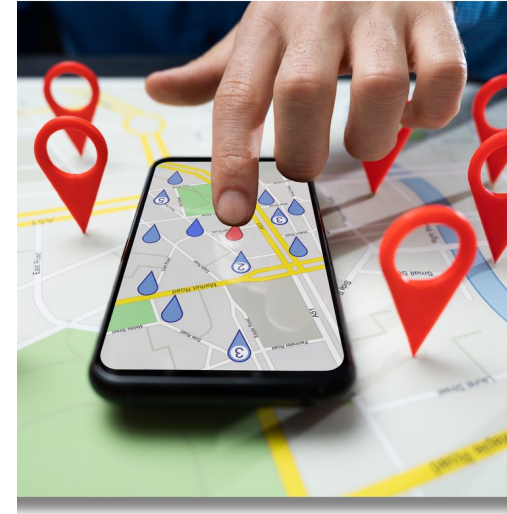


Look inside the company

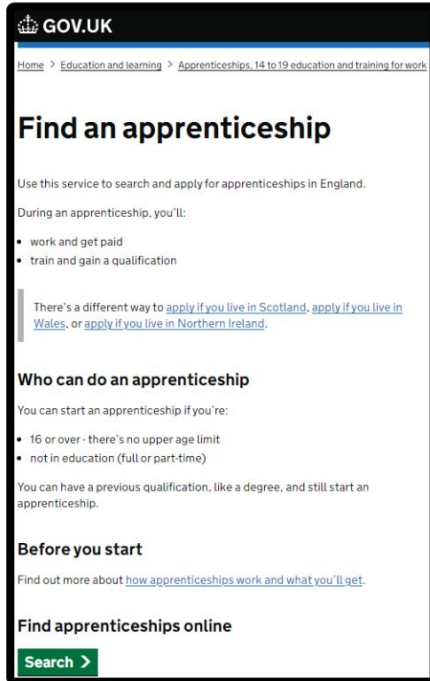


Apprenticeships in the local area

Job opportunity	Length	Level	Annual salary
Video content telemarketing apprentice	4 years	4	Competitive
RAF Air Operations Control Officer	3 years	5	£33,000
Technology Apprentice	3 years	6	Competitive
Serious and Complex Crime Investigator	2 years 6 month	6	£29,627 - £38,995



How do you find apprenticeships?



WHAT IS FAA?

Showcasing live apprenticeship jobs



20,000+ vacancies
over the year



Free to use

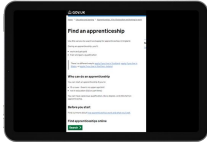


Secure site



Apply quickly

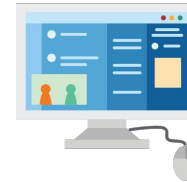
Where else to look



Find an
apprenticeship



Company websites



Careers websites



Social media



Friends and family



Higher and Degree
listing

Where else to look

Local councils



Useful websites & resources

Resources to support you in learning about apprenticeships



Application guides



Factsheets



Using Faa guide



Webinars



Employer profiles



Apprentice advice



www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Any questions?

Thank you for participating



What do I need to do? My advice to the student

Start researching - online, ask Year 13s, speak to your teachers

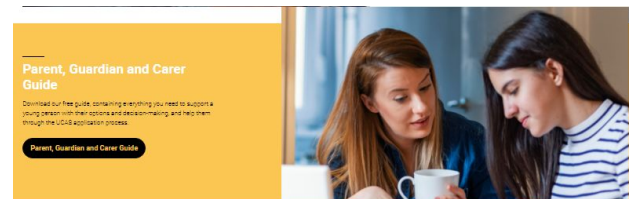
Start the conversation- with peers, family, teachers...

Work **with** us- get organised- plan visits, keep to deadlines-they are there for a reason

Keep working- in your subjects (grades are your currency in, NWD, extra- curricular and self development)

Explore all options- it is important to know what you don't want to do as much as what you do want to do

ADVICE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

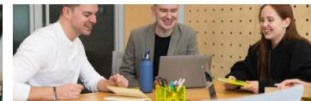


Alternatives to uni



Alternatives to uni

Going to uni or doing an apprenticeship are both great options. When researching your options, it's important to weigh up all options and make the right long-term decision.



Apprenticeship guide

What of an apprenticeship but not sure what it's all about? We share what you need to know and practical tips for supporting someone who might be thinking about an apprenticeship.

Researching their options



Planning their future

It's important students start considering their post-school plans early - read our advice on when to start.



Researching uni options

If your child decides university is the right path for them, there's still a lot of research to do. With approximately 35,000 undergraduate courses to choose from.



UCAS terms explained

We use quite a few terms in the application process. We've explained them all here. If you need to check anything, mean.

Useful Links:

ADVICE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS



Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide

Download our free guide, containing everything you need to support a young person with their options and decision making, and help them through the UCAS application process.

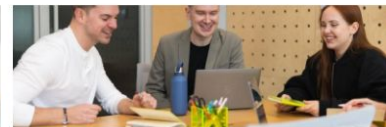
[Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide](#)

Alternatives to uni



Alternatives to uni

Going to uni or doing an apprenticeship isn't right for everybody. When researching post-16 plans, it's important to weigh up all options and make the right long-term decision.



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