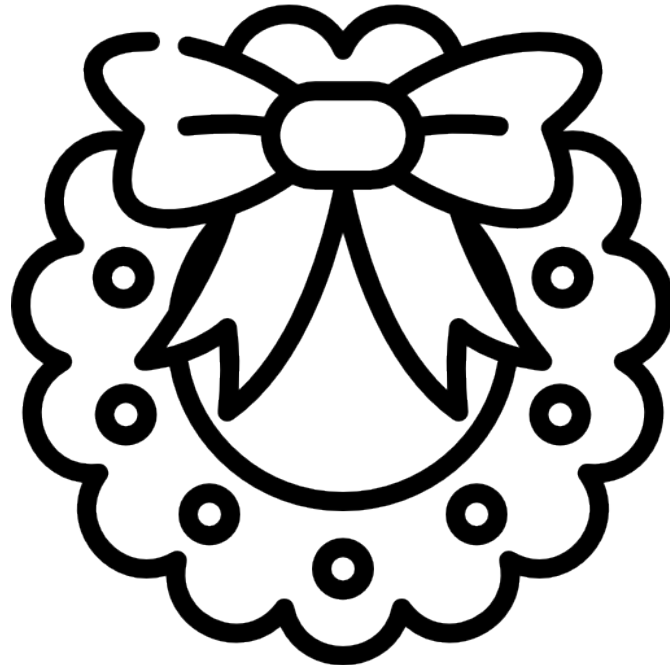


# Parents' and carers' Pack

Helping your child search and apply  
for apprenticeships

Edition 31: December 2021



# Welcome

Carolyn Savage,  
Head of Youth Engagement and Apprentice Participation

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the December 2021 edition of our parent and carer pack. As we draw closer to the end of the year, we reflect on all of the work that has been done over the course of the Autumn term to inspire and inform young people about the benefits of technical education.

We take a look back at the National Apprenticeship Awards, which were held on the 1st December and were a truly inspiring event, celebrating everything brilliant about apprenticeships. We hear from two apprentices, Lee and Christa, about their experiences through their apprenticeships. We explore the benefits that volunteering can give to your children and look at the progression opportunities after a T Level. We also take a deep dive into Media and Journalism apprenticeships and explore apprenticeship standards that you may not know about.



It is an exciting time to start thinking about the upcoming year and all of the opportunities open to young people.

Carolyn Savage  
Head of Youth Engagement and Apprentice Participation  
Education and Skills Funding Agency, part of the Department for Education

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# National Apprenticeship Awards 2021

A quick look at this year's awards

## The National Apprenticeship Awards 2021

Congratulations to all the finalists in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2021!

The National Apprenticeship Awards, now in their 18th year, have been designed to recognise and reward apprentices, employers and apprenticeship champions.



Apprenticeships can shape lives and businesses across England. The awards give both individuals and businesses the chance to showcase the very best across the country.

Throughout October, each region held their own awards ceremony, celebrating and inspiring apprentices and employers. The winners were then shortlisted for the national awards.



Visit [apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://apprenticeships.gov.uk) to find out more.

The ceremony took place on the 1st December 2021, and was hosted by TV celebrity, Dan Walker. The evening welcomed an array of inspiring nominees, speakers and award-winners.



Congratulations to apprentice winners:

- Gemma Smith, Intermediate apprentice of the year
- Jess Liddy, Advanced apprentice of the year
- Adam Hearn, Higher or degree apprentice of the year
- Nihal Dillon, Rising star of the year

Congratulations also to all employers who were recognised and awarded over the evening. All nominees and winners shared truly inspiring stories and are great advocates and role models for apprenticeships.

The event is a great way to inspire young people and encourage them to consider an apprenticeship as a career option.

### Find out more

To view the full list of winners and highly commended, or to watch the ceremony in full, please visit:

<https://appawards.co.uk/live-stream>



# T Levels: what's next?

There are a number of opportunities available after completing a T Level

T Levels are the equivalent of 3 A levels, which means they offer the same opportunities or more for young people aged 16-18.

Below are some examples of routes individuals can take after completing a T Level.

T Levels provide a strong foundation that can lead to a range of opportunities in:

- employment
- apprenticeships
- Higher and further education

**TAKE YOUR  
FUTURE  
TO THE  
NEXT LEVEL**

## EMPLOYMENT

T Levels offer individuals the option to go straight into employment. This could be relevant to what has been studied or it could be a new industry or job role.

The employer may wish to help their apprentice explore workplace qualifications so that they can continue learning.

## APPRENTICESHIPS

There is a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available after completing a T Level. This could also include a higher apprenticeship at Level 4.

Apprenticeships start at level 2 and progress through to level 6 and 7, so ensure you research which is most suitable.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

T Levels are assigned UCAS points which means many universities accept them in their admissions process. This means that they provide the same higher education opportunities as A levels.

### FIND OUT MORE

To discover more about these options, please follow these links

#### T Levels

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk>

#### Higher Technical Qualifications

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/htqs>

#### Apprenticeships

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>

#### National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

### QR codes

Scan to  
visit the  
websites



# Apprenticeship in media and journalism

An introduction to the apprenticeship opportunities in media and journalism

## What is media and journalism?

The UK media industry is one of the largest markets in the world. It covers any medium that allows businesses to share information, such as TV, radio, newspapers and podcasts.



The media industry has always invested in entry level training apprenticeships.

There are a wide range of media and journalism apprenticeships that can lead to a variety of jobs.

Large companies such as the BBC, Sky, Channel 4 and ITV also offer official government apprenticeship schemes.

## Entry requirements

Typically, most apprenticeships ask for maths and English GCSE 9-4 (A\*-C) or functional skills Level 2.

However, many employers will be happy to support the apprentice with any relevant English and maths qualifications.

Degree level apprenticeships are also available which may require further qualifications as part of the entry requirements.

## Top tip:

Check individual job adverts because entry requirements will vary by both employer and training provider.

## Apprenticeship levels

Media and journalism apprenticeships are available from intermediate Level 2 all the way up to degree Level 6/7 apprenticeships.

Some media companies may also offer internships and work experience for those who might not be ready for a Level 2 apprenticeship.



## Skills and attributes employers might be looking for:

1. Attention to detail
2. Communication skills
3. Creativity
4. Time management
5. Flexibility
6. Initiative
7. A passion for media

# Apprenticeship in media and journalism

An introduction to the apprenticeship opportunities in media and journalism

Take a look at some of the different apprenticeships:

## TRAINEE JOURNALIST

**Duration:** 18 months

**Responsibilities in this role:**

- Creating original content in a variety of mediums
- Researching news stories and articles
- Working to strict deadlines
- Building a network of contacts
- Ensuring all legal processes are followed

**Typical jobs:**

- Journalist
- PR and Communications
- Researcher
- On screen talent



## PUBLISHING ASSISTANT

**Duration:** Typically 18 months

**Responsibilities in this role:**

- Data management
- Stakeholder management
- Drafting contracts
- Ensuring publications meet all agreed rights and legal responsibilities
- Following publishing guidelines to meet deadlines and budgets

**Typical jobs:**

- Editorial assistant
- Marketing assistant
- Publicity assistant



## BROADCAST PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

**Duration:** Typically 12 months

**Responsibilities in this role:**

- Production planning including budgeting
- Writing briefs
- Ensuring health and safety procedures are followed
- Preparing all materials needed for productions
- Assisting with the editing

**Typical jobs:**

- Researcher
- Production Co-ordinator
- Management Assistant



## How to find a media apprenticeship

You and your child can find more information about media and journalism apprenticeship vacancies through the Find an apprenticeship service.

For the full link, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

You can register for an account and set up alerts so you don't miss any opportunities.

Scan to visit the website



# Apprentice Perspective: Life as an apprentice at PebblePad

Meet Christa, a Digital and Technology Solutions (DTS) degree apprentice at PebblePad

**I decided to do an apprenticeship as** I really liked the idea of mixing study with work. It means that I can get the qualifications that I need in the industry, whilst being able to apply up-to-date technical and soft skills alongside professionals who have years of experience in the industry.

**I was so nervous** starting my apprenticeship. In 2020, mid-way through a pandemic I started working at PebblePad – an EdTech SaaS provider for Higher Education – and studying at the University of Wolverhampton. I have been learning lots about the back-end parts of our business and in particular NUnit! I was hoping that we would be back to face to face delivery but alas, that was not to be.

Nonetheless, my first month was amazing and I found myself being kept busy across a variety of projects, including independent projects! Even though we were based online, I was still allocated a buddy to help me settle in, it was so important for me. My buddy has been supportive – we still catch up now even though I am fully settled!



I'm proud to see us all grow as people as we have gained confidence, taken on things that we originally found scary, learnt from mistakes, and (most importantly) have had fun! The most significant area of growth for me personally has been confidence in my online presence and presentation skills because these give me the opportunity to share what I have learnt and hopefully help other people too – whether that be technical skills or being an apprentice in general!

**My advice to you** is to not compare yourself to other people. Compare yourself to yourself. See how you have grown and changed, and reflect on your own journey, not the journey of anybody else. Also, talk to other apprentices and listen to their stories and experiences, as this helped me to get an idea of what to expect and confirm that an apprenticeship was what I was looking for.

**I never thought that** being a degree apprentice would offer so many 'extracurricular' activities! I have been lucky enough to partake in Hacktoberfest, attend Code Mesh, which is a tech conference, and I have gone back to my old college to talk about my apprenticeship experiences. I also experienced my first work Secret Santa and Christmas party (albeit online).

**I am so proud** of the overall growth that I, and others I have worked with, have made during the apprenticeship so far. There were three other apprentices starting with me, and we have two groups of more senior apprentices, all working under the guidance of our dedicated Apprentice Teams Leader.



# My life as an apprentice with a disability

Meet Lee, a Level 3 Information Technology apprentice at Maersk, and hear about his experiences as an apprentice with a disability

I found my apprenticeship through a world-leading tech and digital skills organisation called QA. Before I started the apprenticeship, I got in touch with the Apprenticeship Development Manager at Maersk, to see how the company could support me and my disability.

My disability means that Maersk has had to adapt and overcome boundaries so that they were inclusive of my disability. I am profoundly deaf and have been since birth, which means that I rely on lipreading. Colleagues were made aware of my deafness before I started, and Rebecca has supported me in making my working day as smooth as possible.

When speaking to people, I make sure they know of my disability if they weren't already aware, and ask that they face me when speaking to me and possibly slow down their speed in which they talk, so I can lipread accurately.

I have also been assigned a desk buddy, Ben, who started his apprenticeship at the same time as me. We have worked together for 18 months now and he is there to also support me, alongside Rebecca. We have built an effective working relationship, making sure to communicate clearly and concisely; A prime example of this is if there was a fire in the building. I cannot hear the alarm, so Ben must know where I am at all times, in the event that this occurred. He is then able to let me know and we can both leave the building safely.

Other challenges I have faced during my apprenticeship have mostly been to do with Covid-19. When we all started working from home, myself and my colleagues began using video calls to have meetings, which meant we needed to find an accessible piece of software that included captioning. My company were very supportive and installed software onto my work laptop, making it more accessible for me. It was also made a rule that everyone should have their cameras on, so that I was able to continue lipreading and so that the calls were more inclusive of my deafness.

I am proud of being a part of the South East Ambassador Network. This means that I get to highlight my disability and hopefully encourage other disabled people into considering an apprenticeship.



I am passionate about being an example to those who may not think apprenticeships are possible for them if they have a disability. As part of the Ambassador Network, I also go into schools and gives talks about my apprenticeship, which I hope inspires students to think about options other than university, when preparing to leave school.