

Headteacher: Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

National Apprenticeships Week: 7th – 13th February 2022

To celebrate National Apprenticeships Week 2022, we will be supporting our students in developing their knowledge and understanding of what apprenticeships are, how they work, and areas in which they are available. During the week, students will have assemblies, activities in lessons, visiting speakers as well as follow up events to allow them to consider their future pathway options.

It is also important for you to know more about apprenticeships in order to be able to support your child at home.

What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships allow you to you to LEARN and EARN at the same time, and your job training is linked to a specific job role. Employers must pay you the apprenticeship wage, which is currently £4.15 an hour. However, many employers choose to pay more.

How apprenticeships work

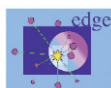
On an apprenticeship you're employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification - usually for one day a week either at a college, university or training centre. By the end of your apprenticeship, you'll hopefully have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in your chosen career or progress to the next apprenticeship level.

What you'll learn depends on the role you're training for. However, apprentices in every role follow an approved study programme, which means you'll gain a nationally-recognised qualification at the end of your apprenticeship.

These qualifications can include:

- **Functional skills** - GCSE-level qualifications in English, maths and IT.
- **National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)** - from Level 2 (comparable to five GCSEs) up to Level 5 (similar to a postgraduate degree).
- **Technical certificates** - such as BTEC, City and Guild Progression Award etc.
- **Academic qualifications** - including a Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND), foundation degree or the equivalent of a full Bachelor's degree.

Apprenticeship levels



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There are four different levels of apprenticeship:

- Intermediate - equivalent to five good GCSE passes.
- Advanced - equivalent to two A-level passes.
- Higher - equivalent to the first stages of higher education, such as a foundation degree.
- Degree - comparable to a Bachelors or Master's degree.

Benefits of becoming an apprentice

As an apprentice, you will learn and train for a specific job. As such, you will get paid as well as receive holiday leave. You won't get paid as much as someone who is fully qualified because you are training, but it may lead to a full time job once you are qualified or put you on a career path with lots of future potential. Being an apprentice means you get hands on experience in a real job, developing the skills and knowledge needed for that role. You will however still need to study for the theory part of your qualification, and this is usually at least 20% of your working hours. This will likely take place at a college, university or with a specific training provider. You will complete assessments both during and at the end of your apprenticeship. You can start an apprenticeship regardless of if you are at the start of your career, want a change, or if you are upskilling in your current job. You can also have a previous qualification, such as a degree, and still start an apprenticeship. As long as you are 16 or over, not already in full time education, and you live in England, you are eligible to apply for an apprenticeship.

How to apply

Apprenticeships can be applied for like any other job role in that vacancies can arise throughout the year and there is no set period that you need to apply. The timing can depend entirely on employers and when they need to recruit. The earliest that our students in year 11 can apply is July 1st, after year 11 has finished. However, there is plenty of research and preparation that can be done if this is a pathway they are considering.

National Apprenticeship Service www.apprenticeships.gov.uk gives you more information on how to apply for apprenticeships. College websites, local training providers and employment agencies are also good places to search for apprenticeship vacancies.

Apprenticeships can be a competitive and unknown process for many young people. If you would like more support or information for you or your child, please get in touch. We are hosting an apprenticeship workshop in school later this term that will be delivered by ASK
Apprenticeships that will support young people who are considering applying to understand the



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process. For more information, guidance and support, there are more resources available in the websites listed below:

Amazing Apprenticeships: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/about-ask/>
Apprenticeships.gov: <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/naw-2022>
Apprenticeships.gov: <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>
Find an apprenticeship: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>
NAW 2022: <https://www.nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/>

If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Kind regards

Liz Stevenson
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Shenley Academy

