

Apprenticeships: A Simple Guide

What is an Apprenticeship?

This is an option available once you leave school, after Y11. You work and learn at the same time to train for a specific job – it usually takes between 1 and 3 years. You end up with a qualification that proves you can do that job. There are over 180 apprenticeships in 80 occupational areas – popular choices are hairdressing, bricklaying, motor mechanics, office administration, accountancy.....the list goes on.

If, by 16, you hope to gain:

Level 1 qualifications equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grades D to G: Some Apprenticeships at Level 2 may be available to you.

Level 2 qualifications equivalent to 7 GCSEs at grades A* to C: Apprenticeships at Level 2 or 3 may be available to you.

You learn whilst at work and with a college or training organisation. You study for qualifications related to your job at levels 2 or 3 and also take functional skills (Maths, English and ICT).

Assessment (measuring how well you are doing in your training) is by a mix of:

- Observation by an assessor (someone watches what you do to check it's correct, tells you what to improve and how)
- Assessment of evidence of your work (you make a folder of written work proving how and why you do things in your job)
- Examinations (there may be some specific tests you have to pass)

An apprenticeship may be for you if....

- You are confident, determined and committed - there is strong competition for many apprenticeship places. There will be an interviews and assessments.
- You know what specific job you want to do for a living
- You want to earn while you learn – minimum apprentice pay is currently £95 per week
- You like working alongside people who know what the job is about rather than just learning at college with people of your age
- You prefer learning by:

Doing

Watching

Following

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Where can an Apprenticeship lead?

From an Apprenticeship you may be able to go on to:

- An Advanced Apprenticeship **Level 3**
- A Higher Level Apprenticeship **Level 4**
- Further training in your chosen industry
- Higher Education; University or College
- Skilled employment and further training.

What are Young Apprenticeships?

These are available in years 10 and 11 but only in some occupational areas – students follow the core curriculum in school and have about two days a week on in college / on work experience.

(You will need to check your Options / Pathways booklet for these courses)

How can I find out more?

- Your Connexions Personal Adviser
- Your Careers Co-Ordinator
- Your teachers
- www.apprenticeships.org.uk,
- www.connexions-hw.org.uk
- The Area-Wide prospectus (www.connexions-hw.org.uk - then; Area Prospectus)
- www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
- Connexions Direct on 080 800 13 2 19
- The Apprenticeship helpline 08000 15 06 00
- www.careersbox.co.uk

What other options are available to me?

- Diplomas
- Foundation Learning
- GCSEs / A levels
- Employment with part time learning or training
- Current “stand alone” qualifications
- Higher education

Some of these options are available in Y10 / Y11 e.g. GCSEs, some Diplomas.

Other options are not usually available until you are older e.g. A levels (usually for students aged 16 – 18, after achieving GCSEs at A* - C and / or a level 2 Diploma). Higher Education (for students aged at least 18 who have a level 3 qualification)