

# CHOICES

The monthly parent & carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education



## APPRENTICES AND EMPLOYERS CELEBRATED AT NATIONAL AWARDS

Meet the apprentices, employers and skills champions taking the top spots at the National Apprenticeship & Skills Awards 2024.



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# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP & SKILLS AWARDS 2024

The National Apprenticeship and Skills Awards marked their 21st anniversary on the 27th November 2024. Apprentices, T Level students, employers and skills champions from across the country were recognised for their outstanding accomplishments.

Hosted by broadcaster and celebrity, Steph McGovern, the awards recognised and celebrated the incredible achievements of individuals and employers from across England. There were special appearances from Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister for Skills and also Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education.



Steph McGovern kicked off the awards, entertaining the audience with stories from her past. Steph shared her passion for apprenticeships, explaining how she had started her working life as an Engineering apprentice working with Black and Decker, right through to when she once interviewed Donald Trump!

The glittering night was a fitting way to celebrate and recognise the significant achievements of all finalists, who had competed with thousands of applicants to reach the regional and national finals. Hosted at the prestigious Royal Lancaster hotel in London, the audience was packed with apprentices, family members, colleagues and key representatives from the skills sector, all enthusiastically cheering the finalists on.

Baroness Smith added

*“Congratulations to all the employers, apprentices, and T Level students from across the country recognised at this year’s awards. Thank you all for your commitment to skills and technical education.*

*It was a pleasure to present the Gatsby T Level Student of the Year Award, the first time T Levels have been part of these awards. We have introduced 3 new T Levels this year – opening up more opportunities for young people in Craft and Design; Media, Broadcast and Production; and Animal Care.*

*Skills programmes are an essential way to build a rewarding career and create a skilled workforce. Well done all!”*



T Level Student of the Year, Fernanda Vargas from IBM



Visit [appawards.co.uk](https://appawards.co.uk) to find out more about the awards, view the full lists of winners and finalists from the regional and national finals, and how to enter for the 2025 awards!

# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP & SKILLS AWARDS 2024



Rising Star of the Year,  
Alexia Seabrook from Pizza Hut UK



Social Justice Employer of the Year, BAE Systems Plc.



Degree Apprentice of the Year,  
Alexia Williams from Rolls-Royce Plc.



SME Apprenticeship Employer of the Year, EN:Able Futures



Intermediate Apprentice of the Year,  
Marcus Richards from The Royal - Mitchells and Butlers



Advanced Apprentice of the Year,  
Anisha Roberts from William Jet Tenders



Special Recognition Award,  
Grace Hardy from Hardy Accounting



Skills Development Partner of the Year, Huw Davies from the BBC



Large Apprenticeship Employer of the Year, Capgemini

# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP & SKILLS AWARDS 2024



Higher Apprentice of the Year,  
Robert Ramsay Gosling-Kennedy  
from Lumi & Lumiere



Skills Champion of the Year,  
Ray Olive from North Cumbria Int.  
Care NHS Foundation Trust



T Level Employer of the Year,  
Lloyds Banking Group

## T LEVEL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

Lloyds Banking Group were crowned 2024 T Level Employer of the Year. We caught up with John Banks, T Levels and Apprenticeships Manager to hear what makes their programme so special.

I consider myself lucky to go to work each day and have the opportunity to support the next generation of inspirational young people looking to enter our industry.

It's right to acknowledge how, even in their infancy, the T Levels qualification is already helping to broaden access to rewarding and well-paid jobs. It's well known

that financial services is an attractive and highly sought after career option for many. However, pathways into the sector are not always accessible for all, which is why supporting T Levels is such an important venture.

Having started by offering six placements in 2022, our support for T Levels has since grown to offering over 100 placements this year. As well as helping us recruit from a wider pool of talent, supporting T Levels is also helping us welcome more people from diverse backgrounds into the sector, with 60% of those undertaking a placement with us coming from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Lloyds Banking Group are hosting a series of webinars with college partners to showcase to parents and guardians what T Levels are, and how they could provide a pathway into employment for their child.



### JOIN THE WEBINAR

To mark T Levels celebration week, Lloyds Banking Group are hosting a webinar on Wednesday 11th December from 6pm - 7pm.

[Click here](#) to register your free place.



# THE APPRENTICE PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Meet Sophie, whose two sons, Arthur (age 20) and Paul (age 18) are both apprentices. Sophie tells us about how she supported them to find their apprenticeships, and the websites and information that she found most useful.



## Tell us about your children's education and apprenticeship journey

My eldest son, Arthur (who is now 20 years old) left school after achieving his GCSEs. He enrolled for a Level 1 Electrician course at college, two days per week, and secured a job with a small local electrical installation firm. He really thrived in this environment and after completing the first year he started a Level 3 Electrical Installation apprenticeship with the same employer (with the training provider JTL). He is halfway through this Level 3 apprenticeship and very well established in the workplace. He has gained vast on-the-job work experience, plus amazing social skills. He spends most of his on-the-job time working with his qualified colleague at different sites in different towns and cities (including staying away overnight for work). His off-the-job training takes place one day a week at college. One of his school friends goes to the same college and they share the travel.

My younger son, Paul (who is now 18 years old) completed sixth form this year and started a Level 2 Engineering apprenticeship in September. He spends one day a week at college and the rest of the week in the workplace.

## How much did you already know about apprenticeships before they became apprentices?

Not much. We didn't get any information from their schools about apprenticeships, so I had to do my own research online.

## How did you find out more and build your knowledge?

I asked friends and family and did a lot of online research. The [apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) website was very helpful, also [Amazing Apprenticeships' parent resources](#) and some industry-specific information from apprenticeship training providers.

## How did you know this was the right route for your children?

None of us were keen on the idea of expensive university debts. Both my sons wanted to get into the workplace and they have thrived being out in the world, having their own role in an adult environment. They have been learning and earning at the same time – this has meant they have been able to pay for driving lessons and pass their driving tests, and Arthur has bought his own car.

## Did you have any reservations?

None whatsoever.



*The apprenticeships.gov.uk website was very helpful, also Amazing Apprenticeships' parent resources and some industry-specific information from apprenticeship training providers.*



### What would you say to other parents who are concerned about their child being supported in the workplace?

I have had no concerns at all – the employers and the training providers have reassured me that safety and wellbeing of employees is a priority. Talking to my sons, I can tell that they feel safe and secure in the workplace. I have been particularly impressed by the strong partnership working between the employer and the college, and Paul as the apprentice in his apprenticeship.

### What benefits have apprenticeships had for your children?

They have become amazingly self-sufficient, motivated and responsible. When they were at school, it was an effort to get them up, they didn't want to go, it was really hard work for me! Now, I lie in bed and listen to them getting themselves up and ready for work and out the door, on time, without fail, every day. They know they have to be punctual and reliable for their employer and their colleagues. And I am grateful every day that they have this responsible work ethic and self-esteem.

### What positives have you seen in your children since they started?

It has really contributed to our family environment. They are so much more mature and responsible – I put this down to being in an adult work environment, and I am not sure they would have got this from being at full-time university with others their own age. As brothers, they have become really close, and I love listening to them discussing their jobs together.

### How did they find the recruitment process?

Paul had to apply for quite a few vacancies before being successful. He struggled with motivation at times, and I think the application process might be more challenging for someone with no support from parents etc. When he did get the job, both the employer and the college said they really liked his CV and covering letter, and that they stood out clearly against other applicants.

### Did you support them in the application process and how did you find that?

[Find An Apprenticeship](#) was very helpful – we found and applied for Paul's apprenticeship via this website. I helped Paul through the process by supporting him to write applications and with interview practice.



Arthur's apprenticeship journey was different. He started the Level 1 course at college, then found the job around the college course (he did two days at college and three days at work). He was not getting paid for college time. However, after this he was able to start the Level 3 apprenticeship without another application as he was already employed, and now he is paid for his college time as part of the Level 3 apprenticeship. Although there was no job application, I did have to do paperwork with him for the training provider.

### Is there anything you would do differently with hindsight?

I would start the vacancy search and application process much earlier, while Paul was still at school, right from the beginning of his final year. Lots of the vacancies actually closed sooner than the published closing date, because they had such high volumes of applicants.

### What would your advice be to other parents and carers whose children are considering apprenticeships?

Go for it! It was the best decision for my boys. Work through the process together – do your research, look at vacancies, talk about career aspirations and explore how you can get there through different routes. Try to focus on sectors where there is likely to be demand in the future. Have realistic expectations – look at what is available in your local area, consider if you would want to travel or not, and don't get hung up on levels. A Level 2 or Level 3 apprenticeship is NOT a step back for someone who has completed 6th form - an apprenticeship is a job, very different to a full-time education course, and you will learn so many different skills that you simply don't get with a full-time course at college or university.

# APPRENTICE INSIGHT

Karimah is a multi-award-nominated journalist who is passionate about telling stories from underrepresented communities. She completed her Advanced Apprenticeship in Journalism in 2021 and now works as digital news producer at ITN News Production. In this article, Karimah shares her incredible journey into a successful career in journalism.

## Which apprenticeship did you complete?

I completed a Level 3 Junior Journalist Apprenticeship at Channel 5 News, ITN, in March 2023. I started the 18-month scheme in September 2021, when I was 19. In addition to my on-the-job training, I studied for the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) diploma at PA Media Academy to become a qualified journalist.

## What made you choose an apprenticeship?

I have always been fascinated by how live TV works and what goes into making a successful news story. I wanted to immerse myself in journalism, so studying for a recognised qualification while working in a newsroom appealed to me.

My apprenticeship at Channel 5 News, combined with studying for my NCTJ diploma, has helped me become a more confident, experienced and empathetic journalist. The scheme also allowed me to become qualified without accumulating debt, which has been incredibly beneficial.

## What made you want to pursue a career in this industry?

I have always enjoyed creating exciting and informative content that matters to young people. When I was in school, I would film short storytimes about various topics I found interesting to share with my friends. Whether I was giving a passionate review of a TV show or discussing a law that would affect me and my peers, I loved sharing my thoughts.



*Journalism has given me a platform to listen to what the public cares about, create stories tailored to a demographic and to raise awareness about issues I am passionate about.*

## How did you find your apprenticeship?

I had no idea that you could become qualified without going to university! It was in year 12, when I was studying for my exams and doing work experience at the BBC, that I discovered it could be an option. So, I decided to put my energy into securing a journalism apprenticeship.

I strongly believe in 'what's meant for you will not pass you by', but that didn't stop me from setting up job alerts for journalism apprenticeships on several websites! I would simply search 'journalism apprenticeships in London' online. I found The Media Mentor and Journo Resources to be quite useful. Eventually, I found my apprenticeship on the ITN Careers website.

### Did you receive any support when searching and applying for apprenticeships?

I had been doing a five-month trainee scheme at the BBC before deciding to pursue a qualification. My line managers at the placement were incredibly supportive. Although my role wasn't specifically focused on journalism, they assigned me tasks related to fact-checking and writing, allowing me to improve those skills. They also took the time to provide helpful advice on applications, which I greatly appreciated.

My mum was also extremely encouraging. She would send me any opportunities she came across, and on tough days, she would always offer reassurance. Having a supportive network is crucial when you are searching for an apprenticeship, as the process can sometimes feel overwhelming.



*Karimah covering the 2024 Olympics homecoming*

### What did a typical week include as a journalism apprentice?

During my apprenticeship, I worked in the office four days a week and attended my training provider, PA Media Academy, once a week. There, I learned essential material every journalist must know, including media law and ethics.

As an apprentice at 5 News, I participated in the daily morning meetings where we discussed the stories that would be covered in the program. On the news desk, we had a few hours to secure essential elements, including case studies and guest appearances, before the show broadcast at 5pm.

The fast-paced environment helped me quickly develop my time management skills, as well as my phone and email etiquette. In my role as an apprentice, I was often assigned to various locations to shadow a reporter, which was so much fun!

### How did your colleagues support you?

As an apprentice, I had regular catch-ups with my line manager, which I found extremely beneficial. These meetings allowed us to have an open dialogue about various topics. My line manager encouraged us to give constructive feedback to one another, which greatly assisted my development. The sessions also gave me the chance to discuss any areas where I wanted to improve. During one of these meetings, I expressed my interest to receive training in editing on Premiere Pro, as I lacked experience in that area. It's funny to think that now I edit videos every day at my job!

When it was time for exams, my trainer and line manager would arrange an extra day of study leave if needed, which helped me balance work and studies. A great thing about my training provider was that some of the modules involved filming and editing, so there was an opportunity for us to practise these skills and get feedback from trained professionals.

### What does your current role involve?

Since graduating last year, I became employed as a digital news producer at ITN News Production. In this role, I edit digital news packages daily for our three YouTube channels: On Demand News, On Demand Entertainment and Royal Family Channel, social media and commercial clients.

My apprenticeship was excellent preparation for my current position, as I frequently apply the foundational skills I learnt during that time.

**Why has your apprenticeship been so important to you?**

A month before starting my apprenticeship, I became homeless. Doing my apprenticeship transformed my life for the better! It taught me that there's no single path to success and that my circumstances don't have to limit me.

The valuable skills I learnt during my apprenticeship were crucial when it came time for my End Point Assessment (EPA). I am extremely proud that my EPA focused on a story I pitched and produced about how the cost of living crisis is impacting young homeless people. It was remarkable to see it broadcast on national TV, and I felt incredibly honoured to be trusted by my case studies to tell their stories accurately. This is such an important issue, and I hope to raise more awareness about it.

**How do you stay motivated in your career?**

We all face challenges that can significantly impact our lives. It's important to remember to be kind to yourself and to allow yourself to feel all emotions, both positive and negative.

When I have days that I need a pick-me-up, I like to read heartwarming emails and messages I've received. They remind me of my purpose and help me process my emotions, keeping me on the right track.

My approach may not work for everyone, but I believe it's essential to find a healthy way to cope with difficult days.



*Karimah covering the cost of living crisis*



*Karimah on location with ITN*

**What would you say to someone considering a career in journalism?**

Journalism has given me a platform to listen to what the public cares about, create stories tailored to a demographic and to raise awareness about issues I am passionate about.

If you're intrigued by something, there's bound to be someone else who shares that same interest. I love encouraging conversations and healthy debates, so becoming a journalist felt like my true calling.

My advice for anyone considering an apprenticeship is to not let any barriers you may face stop you from seizing opportunities. The wonderful thing about being a journalist is that someone at home will always want to see themselves represented and feel heard. You can be a part of that!

# THE GATSBY BENCHMARK REVIEW

## ...and what it means for parents and carers

### How parents and carers can play a vital role in their child's career journey.

#### What are the Gatsby Benchmarks?

Ten years ago, The Gatsby Foundation unveiled the eight Gatsby Benchmarks, setting a gold standard for careers guidance in England. These benchmarks, adopted as part of the Government's Careers Strategy, have transformed careers education in schools and colleges nationwide. A decade on, the [Gatsby Benchmarks](#) remains a cornerstone of the careers system. Still, with rapid changes in education and the labour market, the foundation has conducted a major review to achieve even more impact for young people for the next decade.

One critical theme from this review is parent and carer engagement. Here's what it means for you—and how you can help shape your child's career journey.

#### Why parents and carers are key

Whether you realise it or not, you are one of the biggest influences on your child's career decisions. From conversations at home to guiding them through choices, your role is essential. Recognising this, schools, special schools, and colleges are now being tasked to strengthen the support they offer parents and carers.

Starting in September 2025, the updated benchmarks aim to make it easier for you to stay informed, confident, and actively involved in your child's career learning journey.

“ Whether you realise it or not, you are one of the biggest influences on your child's career decisions. ”

#### What support will be available?

As your child progresses through their education, you can expect to see more opportunities to engage with their careers programme. Here are three key areas where you'll be supported:

- **Understanding Pathways:** You'll gain insight into the wide range of career pathways open to your child, helping you to understand options like apprenticeships, university, and vocational training.
- **Labour Market Information:** With clearer guidance on labour market trends, you'll be better equipped to discuss how industry needs and job prospects can impact your child's choices.
- **Personal Guidance:** You'll learn about your child's access to one-on-one career guidance - what it involves, when it happens, and how you can support it at home.

These resources will not only help you feel more knowledgeable but will also empower you to provide meaningful support at each stage of your child's journey.



# THE GATSBY BENCHMARK REVIEW

## ...and what it means for parents and carers

### How can you stay involved?

To make the most of these changes, take an active interest in the resources and events available through your child's school or college.

Here's how:

- **Visit Their Website:** Schools and colleges are required to provide careers information online, including resources specifically for parents and carers. This is a great first step to understanding what's on offer.
- **Explore Talking Futures:** The Talking Futures website [talkingfutures.org.uk](https://talkingfutures.org.uk) offers a range of free tools and resources designed to help you support your child's career decisions. Coming soon, a series of films to support you in feeling more confident about discussing and preparing your child for apprenticeship and vocational pathways.
- **Attend Events:** Engage with information evenings or workshops offered by your child's school. These are opportunities to ask questions and gain practical tips for career conversations at home.



### Supporting your child's best next step

Ultimately, the goal is simple: to help every young person find the pathway that suits them best. By engaging with the opportunities available and staying informed, you can help your child navigate their options and give them the best chance to succeed.

Remember, careers education isn't just about the future - it's about taking informed steps now. Together, with the support of schools, colleges, and resources like Talking Futures, you can ensure your child is ready for whatever comes next.

Written by the Careers & Enterprise Company

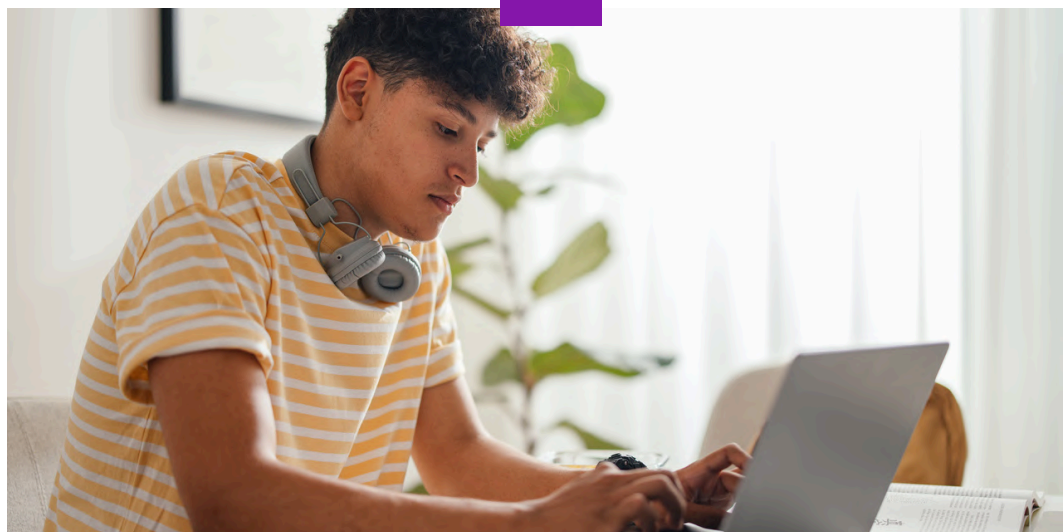


# QUESTION OF THE MONTH...

**BBC**  
**BITESIZE**  
**CAREERS**

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD WITH THEIR CV?

We've teamed up with BBC Bitesize Careers to find answers to the top questions that parents and carers have.



The New Year can be the perfect time to have those all-important career conversations at home. You can help your child to make a fantastic first impression by using the new [BBC Bitesize Careers CV building toolkit](#). Here are some quick tips to help their CV stand out from the crowd in 2025.

A CV (curriculum vitae) is sometimes called a *résumé*, and is often the first thing employers will ask to see from your child, so it must be a true reflection of their skills and experience.

Their CV should be clear and easy to read, no longer than two pages and consist of a few basic aspects:

- **Personal profile** - a few lines that shout about who they are and why they're right for the job.
- **Key skills** - list key skills with words and phrases that describe what they can do.
- **Education** - include formal education history (secondary school or above) and any other official training or academic awards.
- **Work experience** - list any work they've done. It could be paid work, volunteering, or any work experience.
- **References** - include someone who knows them well and can provide positive feedback. It could be a previous manager or trainer, but they could also ask a teacher or sports coach.
- **Hobbies and interests** - these are optional, but for those with less work experience, relevant hobbies and interests can point towards a broader skillset.

**Next steps:** For more tips, join Careers expert Shoshanna Davis on The Bitesize Careers video-podcast [Careers: Help! How do I write a CV and cover letter?](#)

VISIT THE BBC BITESIZE CAREERS [WEBSITE](#) BY SCANNING THE CODE.





**BITESIZE**

Join Radio 1's Katie Thistleton for the second series of The Bitesize Careers Podcast, tackling the most popular questions young people have asked about the world of work.



Together with your child, listen or watch the podcast episodes by scanning the QR code.



Episode 6: Help! What am I good at?



Episode 9: Help! How do I write a CV & cover letter?



Episode 7: Help! How can I set achievable goals?



Episode 10: Help! What should I do in a job interview?



Episode 8: Help! What do I do next?



Episode 11: Help! What is networking & how can it help me?



# APPRENTICE TO ASSISTANT MANAGER

## The Path to Success - Katie's story

### Embarking on a career through a School Leaver

Apprenticeship, Katie, now an Assistant Manager, shares her journey and experiences.



### Why did you choose a School Leaver Apprenticeship?

I chose a School Leaver Apprenticeship because I liked the idea of studying while working. The prospect of gaining real, on-the-job experience and earning money while avoiding debt was appealing. This path also allowed me to become a fully qualified Tax Adviser and Assistant Manager at the age of 22!

### What appealed to you about working for BDO?

During the interview process at BDO, I knew it was the right place for me. I felt like I could be my true self throughout and didn't just feel like a number. I had that feeling and gut instinct that BDO could offer me exactly what I was looking for in a career and School Leaver Apprenticeship scheme.

### What does a typical working day involve?

A typical day involves preparing tax advisory memos and reports tailored to specific client needs. Attending client meetings is a crucial part of my role, enabling me to build meaningful relationships and provide the best possible service.

“

I had that feeling and gut instinct that BDO could offer me exactly what I was looking for in a career

”

### What three skills are essential to your role?

Being personable, having a keen attention to detail, and maintaining an open-minded approach are essential to my role.

### What part of your job gives you the most satisfaction?

Providing clients with the best possible advice so that they can achieve their personal goals and intentions gives me the most satisfaction. In my department, we focus on building client relationships, ensuring that the general well-being of our clients is also a priority.

### Describe your job at BDO in three words.

Authentic, rewarding, and taxing (no pun intended).

### What are the challenges?

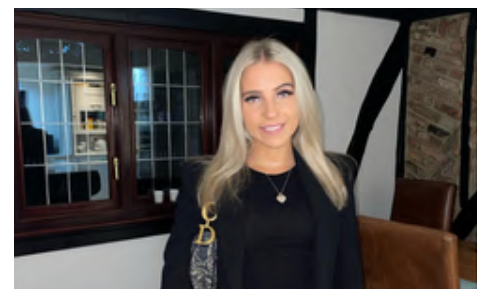
The challenges include complex analysis work for individuals with a non-domiciled status in the UK, which is a particularly grey area from a tax perspective. Managing workloads and priorities, especially during our busy season through December and January, is always balanced well.

### What training and development have you received at BDO?

I received a lot of in-house technical training with experienced tax specialists, as well as support from my buddy and Manager throughout the apprenticeship programme.

### What advice would you give to others thinking about joining a School Leaver Apprenticeship?

Do your research. Find the right firm that fits with your values and take advantage of all the amazing opportunities offered to you.



### What next?

Find out more about BDO opportunities:

[careers.bdo.co.uk/school-leavers](https://careers.bdo.co.uk/school-leavers)

# INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS EXPLAINED



T Levels combine a unique blend of classroom-based learning with 45 days within the workplace, which is called an industry placement. In this article we take a look at how they work and what the new flexibilities announced by the government mean for T Level students.

## What is an industry placement?

T Levels are technical qualifications equivalent in value to three A-levels. They include a 45-day industry placement, giving young people workplace experience in fields including construction, manufacturing, healthcare, early years education and digital technology.

Industry Placements are a key feature of T Levels, offering students invaluable experience in their chosen fields and equipping them with the skills they need for future careers. With student satisfaction rates at 78% and completion rates above 95%, placements are already a highlight of the T Level experience.

## What are the new changes?

In line with industry trends and real-life hybrid working practices most students will now be able to complete

up to 20% of their placement hours remotely, rather than having to do them from a physical workplace, with the allowance increased to 50% for Digital T Levels.

The changes ensure placements are accessible, practical, and better tailored to prepare students for the modern workplace. It will also be possible to carry out simulated placement activity on the provider site, for example in a school or college, where this is overseen by their industry placement employer.

## What will the changes mean?

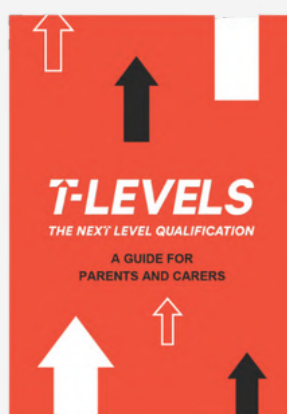
More students will be able to access crucial T Level industry placements thanks to reforms designed to cut red tape and boost the number taking them. This will further expand opportunities, ensuring even more learners gain the skills needed to plug skills gaps.

## DISCOVER T LEVELS

Discover the world of T Levels and learn more about the options available to your child. Access the free guide for parents and carers by clicking below:



Find out more about T Levels here:  
[amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels)



Join a webinar on **16th January 2025 at 3.30pm** to hear from Susan Chambers from the T Level Delivery Division at the Department for Education, to find out everything you need to know about T Levels: [amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars)

# HTQ INSIGHT

## Higher Technical Qualifications



**Meet James, a former T Level student and current HTQ student, who has embraced the technical education opportunities available to him.**

### Which T Level did you do and why did you choose to do it?

I did the Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T Level. The reason I chose a T Level was because it allowed me to get experience of work, alongside studying. I am more of a visual learner, so it really helped me gain that valuable work experience on site as well as in the classroom. I found the course online, did some research into it and realised it was perfect for what I wanted.

### What else did you like about your T Level?

I found the T Level to be a better way of learning. Lots of people wanted to get straight into the workplace once they are 18, and T Levels give you a head start. The practical experience on the extended placement allowed me to develop key technical skills so much faster. This has given me the confidence to transition successfully into the workplace.

### Why did you decide to go into construction?

I enjoyed the more practical subjects at school, such as design technology, so I was looking for a career where I could develop and use skills I enjoy. I always found design and construction interesting, but as I progressed through school I found construction even more fascinating and decided that this was a career path that I would like to follow.

### What are you doing now?

I secured employment where I completed my T Level placement. I'm working four days a week, as well as attending college one day a week to complete my approved Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ), which is a Higher National Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment. I'm in the first year of my HTQ at Blackpool and Fylde College.

### Why did you decide to continue studying while you're working and undertake an HTQ?

My tutors encouraged me to continue my learning journey into a level 4 with the HTQ.

I knew I wanted to develop my skills further, so did some research to find a suitable course and decided doing the HTQ alongside work would be the best option for me. I liked my tutors and knew it was going to be the same people. It's been good to return to college in familiar surroundings. Studying whilst working gives me a great life balance. I would certainly recommend it.

### What are you enjoying about your HTQ?

I am really enjoying the HTQ. I am a visual learner, so the practical nature of the course works well for me. I am enjoying learning new skills then applying them in the workplace. The course allows me to work onsite and as it is only one day a week, I can still work and save money.

### What are your future goals?

After completing my HTQ, I will continue working and am considering continuing to study by going to university part-time to do a degree. I'll still be at the same company, but moving up the ladder. Eventually I'd love to be a site manager or surveyor.

## APPLY NOW

The UCAS deadline for HTQ applications for a September start is 31st January 2025, but HTQs are also available through Clearing.

To find out more about HTQs, visit: [amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs)

# SCIENCE APPRENTICESHIPS UNCOVERED



British Science Week will run from the 7th - 16th March. Get ready by exploring some of the fantastic apprenticeship roles related to science. If your child is interested in science, one of the apprenticeships below may be of interest to them.



You can find these apprenticeship standards and hundreds more here: [instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards](https://instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards)

Apprenticeships are continually created and released through The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE).

Biomedical scientist	The role of a biomedical scientist is to carry out a range of laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Biomedical scientists may work in a hospital, laboratory or research facility.	Level 6
Doctor	Doctors assess, prevent, diagnose, care for and treat patients with illness, disease and injury and maintain physical and mental health. A doctor must adapt and manage uncertain and complex situations.	Level 7
Healthcare science assistant	Healthcare science assistants carry out routine technical and scientific procedures, monitor stock control and prepare equipment. A healthcare science assistant may work in a hospital, doctor surgery, or other healthcare settings.	Level 2
Nuclear technician	The role of a nuclear technician is to provide technical support to engineers and scientists and maintain and operate equipment. Nuclear technicians sample, test, measure, record, and interpret the results of projects.	Level 5
Pharmacy technician	The role of a pharmacy technician is to manage the supply of medicines and devices in the pharmacy. Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists in chemist and hospital dispensaries and provide person-centred health advice to all patients.	Level 3
Physiotherapist	Physiotherapists deliver interventions and programmes to help individuals affected by injury, ageing, illness or disabilities. Physiotherapists also manage and reduce the risk of pain or injury for patients.	Level 6

# INTRO TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)

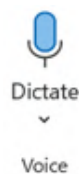


People who learn and think differently can use technology to help work around their challenges. This is called Assistive Technology (AT). AT can help anyone and everyone learn, communicate, or function better. It can be as high-tech as a laptop or mobile phone, or as low-tech as a pencil grip.

**David Curran** is a DT and IT teacher, Head of Careers and Assistive Technology Lead at Moon Hall School, a mainstream dyslexia specialist school. He is passionate about Assistive Technology and the impact on his students has been huge. Here, he outlines just some of the ways your child could use AT to support their apprenticeship search and applications.

## 1 Word – using ‘Dictate’

You can use the Dictate function to speak and what you say will appear in the document. It’s not perfect though, so needs checking if it’s going to be shared with others, for example in a covering letter for an apprenticeship application.

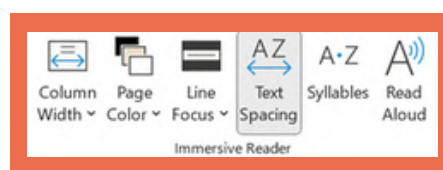


## 2 Word – using ‘Immersive Reader’

In the ‘View’ tab on Windows, you will find the Immersive Reader

function, which allows you to make lots of adaptations to a Word document to make reading it more accessible. If your child has a lot of text to read for an apprenticeship application or when researching the organisation, copying it into Word and using these features could help make it more accessible.

- Make the column of text wider or narrower.
- Change the page colour.
- Focus on one line at a time.
- Space text out different amounts.
- Space words out by syllable.
- Use ‘Read Aloud’ to have texts read aloud.



## 3 Browsers

You can search for apprenticeships using the Dictate feature on either:



Bing or Google

If you right click on a webpage in Microsoft Edge, you will see the Read Aloud function, which will read the whole webpage or a selection.



If your child uses Google, there are many accessibility features your child can use to make researching and applying for apprenticeships more accessible:

[google.com/accessibility/products/features/](https://google.com/accessibility/products/features/)

## 4 Other

In Outlook, you can right click and access the Read aloud function:



If your child needs to join online calls as part of the recruitment process, Teams and Zoom both have accessibility features such as messages being read aloud and automated captions.

If you have any questions about assistive technology, you can contact David on:

[CurranD@moonhall.co.uk](mailto:CurranD@moonhall.co.uk)

# RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT ON *SEND RAPID READS*

## Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Resources

Parents and carers of students with additional needs may have questions about how their child can access apprenticeships. Amazing Apprenticeships have released two new Rapid Reads, which form a series of four with two existing Rapid Reads, designed to answer key questions and help you support your child through their apprenticeship journey.



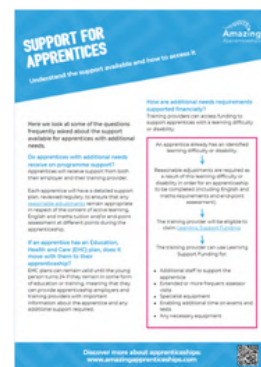
**Finding an inclusive employer**  
Many employers recognise the benefits of a diverse and inclusive workforce and invite applications from all candidates. This guide highlights some of the ways companies demonstrate that they welcome applications from students with a disability, learning difference or health condition.



**Apprenticeship application support**  
Here we look at some of the questions frequently asked by aspiring apprentices and those supporting people with additional needs to apply for apprenticeships.



**Functional skills qualifications**  
If an apprentice doesn't have GCSE English or maths qualifications at the required grade, they will need to achieve Functional Skills qualifications during their apprenticeship in order to complete it.



**Support for apprentices**  
Here we look at some of the questions frequently asked about the support available for apprentices with additional needs.

Download the Functional Skills Rapid Read and many others...

You can download all of our free Rapid Read resources on our website: [amapps.uk/rapid-reads](https://amapps.uk/rapid-reads)

You may also be interested in visiting Amazing Apprenticeships' brand-new SEND zone on their new look website: [amazingapprenticeships.com/send](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/send)



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Access free webinars throughout the year.

**BOOK NOW**



Book your free place and catch up on recordings of all previous webinars here: [amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars)

Date and Time	Title and Description
<p>Thursday 16th January 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Supporting your child to explore T Levels</b> Join this webinar to hear from Susan Chambers from the T Level Delivery Division at the Department for Education, to find out everything you need to know about T Levels.</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd January 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>How to search and apply for apprenticeships</b> A step-by-step guide to the different vacancy platforms for apprenticeships, including Find an Apprenticeship, and tips for supporting your students/child during the application process.</p>
<p>Monday 10th February 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Exploring the range of apprenticeships</b> With more than 700 apprenticeship standards, there is an apprenticeship for almost every job role out there! Join us to hear about some of the known and lesser-known apprenticeship job roles, the different industries and employers offering positions and how you can explore which apprenticeship could be right for you.</p>
<p>Thursday 27th February 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Using Find an Apprenticeship to search and apply</b> The Government's 'Find an Apprenticeship' site is a great starting point for anyone applying for an apprenticeship. With 20,000+ vacancies advertised each year, the platform allows you to search and apply for apprenticeships in England. Join to discover the new features on the site, including an enhanced application portal.</p>
<p>Monday 17th March 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Sharing information about HTQs with your school/college community</b> Find out how to share information with students, parents/carers and colleagues about HTQs to ensure good knowledge and awareness of these fantastic qualifications and support your school's work in meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks, as well as how to support students during the research and application process.</p>
<p>Thursday 20th March 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>How to impress in the apprenticeship application process</b> Hear directly from employers and apprentices sharing their advice on the best ways to impress in the apprenticeship recruitment process.</p>

Date and Time	Title and Description
<p>Thursday 24th April 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Preparing for Apprenticeship Assessment Centres</b> The apprenticeship recruitment landscape is constantly changing, with many employers now utilising different methods to assess candidates, including assessment centres. Join us to hear from employers about how they work, what they're really looking for and their advice on how students can prepare.</p>
<p>Monday 19th May 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Apprenticeships for individuals with additional needs</b> Many students have additional needs and may feel unsure about the support that will be offered by employers and training providers. Join us to hear about the flexibilities that can be offered and the support that apprentices will receive.</p>
<p>Thursday 12th June 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>How to research and apply for HTQs</b> If your child is looking for a post-18 qualification that is flexible, job-focussed and an excellent way to progress to a higher/degree apprenticeship, a full degree or a highly-skilled job, join us to find out more about HTQs.</p>
<p>Thursday 19th June 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>How students can use the summer to start their apprenticeship research</b> It's never too early to start researching apprenticeships and the summer can be a brilliant time to help to get ready. Join us to hear from experts explaining how to help students to get ready for when vacancies open up in the autumn.</p>
<p>Monday 7th July 2025 15:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Finished year 11 or year 13 and want to find an apprenticeship?</b> If you've just finished your course(s) and taken your exams, but aren't sure what you're doing next, or may want to change your mind about what you are planning to do, join us to find out about what to do right now to start finding an apprenticeship. You haven't left it too late!</p>



**THE BIG ASSEMBLY**  
Taking place during National Apprenticeship Week on Tuesday 11th February 2025 - register your place now: [amapps.uk/big-assembly](https://amapps.uk/big-assembly)



SCAN ME!




# STAY UP TO DATE



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- Advice from employers and experts
- Live vacancies
- Visit anytime, anywhere

# DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

If you have a story to share about apprenticeships or technical education - we would love to hear from you.

Please reach out to the Amazing Apprenticeships team below:



[hello@amazingapprenticeships.com](mailto:hello@amazingapprenticeships.com)

