Dear parents, carers and guardians,

As the Minister for Skills, I am writing to you to give you some important information about your child's options when they leave school or college.

This week is National Apprenticeship Week. Apprenticeships help people learn skills whilst they do paid work, giving them the experience they need to develop great careers in the jobs our economy needs.

Since I became the Minister last year, I have talked to a lot of young people who have chosen to become an apprentice – training for a job whilst earning a salary and gaining valuable qualifications and experience.

All apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and the government. Your child will not have any student loans or tuition fees. They will spend up to 80% of their time in the workplace applying what they learn in their training - and they are paid (the wage they earn depends on the job, and many employers pay well).

There are hundreds of apprenticeships across an enormous range of occupations, in the largest multinational companies or with small local employers.

And there are apprenticeships equivalent to GCSEs or A levels or university degrees – so whatever your child's final qualifications are when they leave school or college, there are opportunities.

To search for apprenticeships in your area click here.

New apprenticeships become available all the time, so keep checking online to see what opportunities have come up.

Apprenticeships give people a chance to learn, earn and achieve – please consider them when you are helping your child explore their next step.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Burghart
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Skills)
Apprenticeships are changing lives

There are thousands of apprenticeships covering a wide range of job roles in more than 170 industries, and new apprenticeships are advertised each week. You can use our website to search for apprenticeships in your local area.

Click here to go to Find an Apprenticeship, the website to search for apprenticeships in your local area.

You can also register to receive email and text alerts about new apprenticeship vacancies that match your search criteria as soon as they are advertised.

Meet Adam: Apprentice at Pennine Labels

Adam recently achieved a distinction for his digital marketing apprenticeship and has gone on to make a real impact with his employers. Adam was keen to build on his passion for photography and was excited to be enrolled on his digital marketing apprenticeship with Pennine Labels. Working for a small company, he has been supported by the management and given lots of responsibility.

Meet Sadaqat: Apprentice at Cushman & Wakefield

Sadaqat works at Cushman & Wakefield and is completing a Chartered Surveyor Degree Apprenticeship. Sadaqat has been provided with a fantastic support network through his employer, giving him the opportunity to learn from colleagues. He loves and enjoys the work he does, having a positive impact, taking ownership and making a difference to diversity in the industry.

Not ready for an apprenticeship?
You could consider a traineeship - this can help you to get work-ready and move straight into an apprenticeship. Traineeships are available for 16-24 year olds and are an opportunity to gain real work experience and acquire new job skills. Visit Find a traineeship online.

Meet Jamie-Leigh: Former trainee and current apprentice

Jamie-Leigh completed a traineeship with The Regenda Group, and is now working as an apprentice in their marketing team. "It is such an amazing opportunity".

Further Information
Our apprenticeships.gov.uk website has more information about apprenticeships and how to apply.

Get the Jump!
Explore all your education and training choices by visiting the Get the Jump website.