

Getting an Apprenticeship

- **Create an account** with 'Find an Apprenticeship' at www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship.
- **Search throughout Year 11.** Most employers advertise a few months before the start date. Vacancies with a start after your 'school leaving date' are more likely to be advertised from Easter onwards. The very biggest employers may advertise just before or just after Christmas.
- **Register with Training Providers and Colleges.** Let them help you look for a vacancy. Details of the training provider or college linked to each apprenticeship can be found in the job advertisements on www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship. If you see a vacancy which you can't apply for yet, make sure you directly contact the training provider or college.
- **Contact employers.** If you or your family knows a local employer who might be interested in taking on an apprentice, you might be the person they wish to employ. Speculatively contacting local businesses is a way to find an apprenticeship, but be warned, it takes a lot of effort for potentially little return.
- Larger companies advertise their apprenticeship schemes on their company website too. If you aspire to work for one of them, then you should go to the 'Careers' page of the company website.
- **Research the job role, skills and abilities.** You need to tell the employer that you have the skills and abilities they are looking for. These websites are recommended for finding out about the skills and abilities needed for each job;
nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk (Job Profiles), www.startprofile.com (registration needed)
- **Find out more about apprenticeships** at www.getingofar.gov.uk.
- **Cast your net wider.** There are several other websites which advertise apprenticeship vacancies and, in some cases, act as an intermediary between you and the employers:

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

www.findapprenticeships.co.uk

Further things to think about

- Apprenticeships are employer led. It is the employer who makes the decision whether to take on an apprentice. The employer chooses the Training Provider or College to work with.
- Training Providers and Colleges provide the formal learning and qualification you work towards as an apprentice. The formal learning may happen on day or block release at the Training Provider's or College's premises. Or you may get specific time allocated in the workplace.
- It might be tempting to rely on one Training Provider or College to find an apprenticeship for you. **Do not do this.** Remember that the employer chooses the Training Provider or College.
- An apprenticeship is specific job training. Therefore you need to want to do it. It is a career choice and you need to find out as much about the job role and the company as possible. Is the job right for you?
- All employers are unique and offer different career pathways. Ensure you ask about the future progression opportunities once you have completed your initial apprenticeship. In the future, can you progress to an Advanced, Higher or Degree Apprenticeship?
- Traineeships are pre-apprenticeship courses which provide valuable work experience, employability support and further Maths and English teaching (if required). Colleges and Training Providers offer Traineeships



www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

www.careermap.co.uk

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk