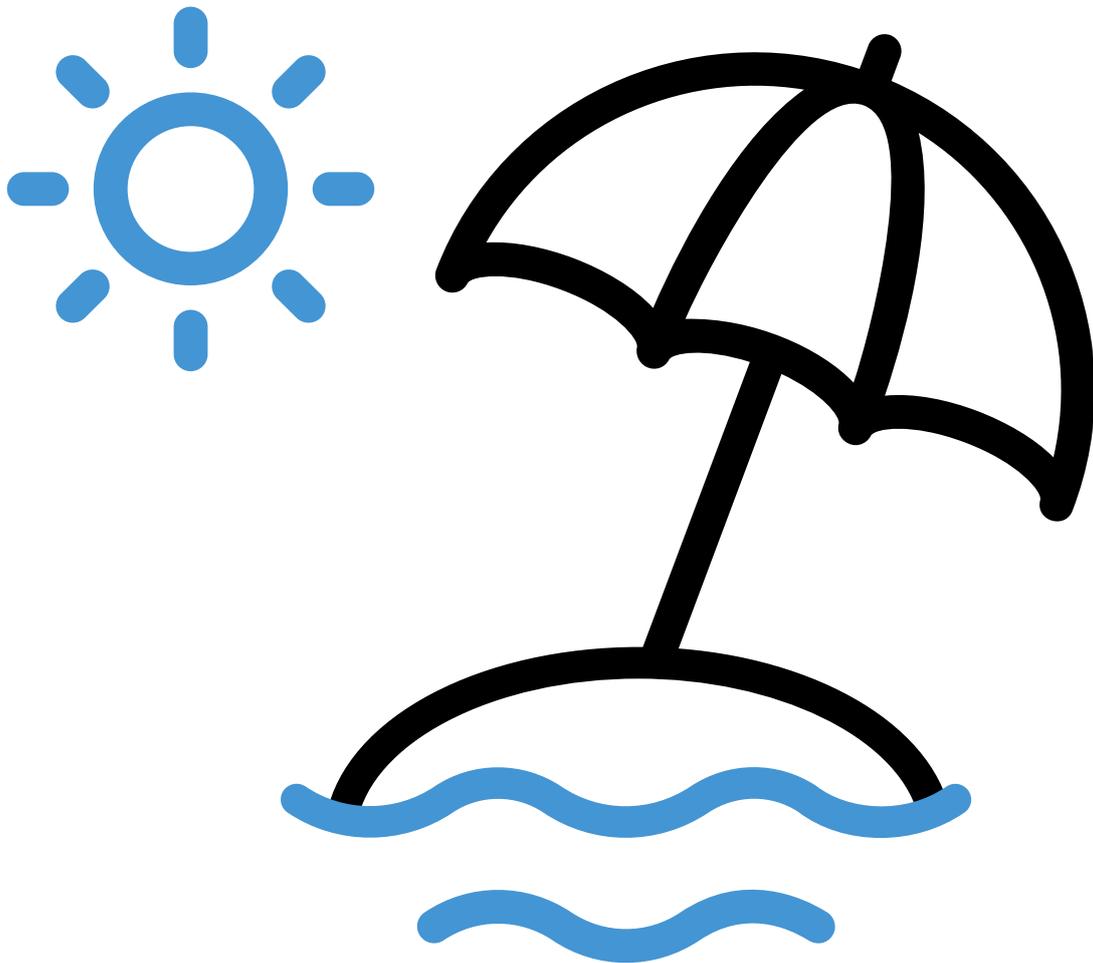


# Parents and Carers' Pack

Helping your child to search and apply for apprenticeships



Edition 47: July 2023



Scan to  
visit the  
website



# Welcome

Greg Boone, Head of the Careers Service for Young People Unit  
Department for Education

---

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the July edition of the Parent and Carers' Pack, which I hope you find informative and useful in supporting your young people.

In this edition we find out how best to support your child in searching for an apprenticeship and who to follow on social media to support them in their journey.

We also hear from Get the Jump on how to support your child on results days.

Wishing you a lovely summer and I look forward to the new academic year!

Greg Boone  
Head of the Careers Service for Young People Unit  
Department for Education



---

## Contents

Click on any of the articles listed below to be taken directly to the page.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <a href="#">Apprentice insight: Life as an apprentice at Newcastle Building Society</a> | 3  |
| <a href="#">Apprenticeships uncovered</a>   | 5  |
| <a href="#">Apprenticeships in the news</a>   | 6  |
| <a href="#">National Manufacturing Day</a>  | 7  |
| <a href="#">T Levels and A-Levels</a>   | 8  |
| <a href="#">Results day support from Get the Jump</a>                                   | 9  |
| <a href="#">Finding an apprenticeship</a>   | 10 |
| <a href="#">Who to follow on social media</a>   | 11 |
| <a href="#">Engineering apprenticeships with the Met Police</a>                         | 12 |
| <a href="#">Dates for your diary</a>  | 12 |

# Apprentice insight: Life as an apprentice at Newcastle Building Society

Meet Jess, a Level 6 Information Security Coordinator degree apprentice



## Can you tell us a bit about your career journey so far?

I am very grateful to be able to progress up the career ladder through apprenticeships. My Level 3 apprenticeship allowed me to gain industry-specific knowledge and experience while undertaking a recognised qualification and learning from professionals. This has opened the door for me to enrol on the Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship in Digital and Technology Solutions at Newcastle Building Society.

## Did you always know you wanted to work in Information Technology (IT)?

When I was growing up, my dream was to work with planes, either as a pilot or an engineer. I found myself looking for things to keep me busy during the lockdowns, and I started to learn how to code. I then became really interested in IT. So a new hobby allowed me to reconsider my future career goals.

## Did you always want to do an apprenticeship?

I always presumed my journey into the working world would be: I complete my GCSEs, go on to do my A Levels and take a gap year, before moving on to university and finally starting a job. The pandemic changed those plans. The travel adventures I planned had to be put on hold. I didn't want to waste time waiting for the world to open up again, so I began looking at other options, which led me to apprenticeships.

## How did you find your Level 3 apprenticeship?

I looked online for Software Development apprenticeships in my local area. I really liked the sound of one at Newcastle Building Society and thought it would be a great opportunity. I applied by submitting my CV and a cover letter through the company website. The next stage

of the recruitment process was for me to complete a technical skills test. I passed this element and was invited to attend an Assessment Centre, which included an interview.

## What is your role at Newcastle Building Society?

I started in the Web Services Team as a Software Developer apprentice. My role was to design, build and maintain the front-end online banking systems. During the apprenticeship, I developed an interest in cybersecurity. There was then an opportunity for me to move to a cybersecurity role.

My new role is to provide central support to maintain an effective Information Security Management System. I also have to keep up to date with industry trends and incidents to ensure the infrastructure of the business is protected. I work alongside colleagues in different departments within the organisation, including: Infrastructure, DevOps, Legal, Software Development and Finance.



## How was your apprenticeship delivered?

My Level 3 apprenticeship was delivered remotely with Baltic Apprenticeships. To make sure I completed all of my apprenticeship tasks and met my deadlines, I set reminders in my calendar and blocked out time. My manager was supportive, which was great, especially when approaching my exams and I needed additional time to focus on completing my projects.

## What have been your apprenticeship highlights?

I have had some amazing opportunities because I took the apprenticeship route. I was very fortunate to be Highly Commended in the BT Advanced Apprentice of the Year at the North East Regional National Apprenticeship Awards. I also won the Innovating and Improving award at the Newcastle Building Society Early Talent Awards. Plus, I volunteer at a local primary school running an afterschool coding club on behalf of Newcastle Building Society.

# Apprentice insight: Life as an apprentice at Newcastle Building Society

Meet Jess, a Level 6 Information Security Coordinator degree apprentice



## How has your apprenticeship allowed you to progress?

After completing my Level 3 Software Development Technician apprenticeship, I spoke to the Early Talent Manager about my career aspirations and my ultimate goal to be a subject matter expert within cybersecurity. The Newcastle Building Society were advertising for a Level 6 Digital and Technology Solutions apprentice, which was brilliant for me. With the support of the business, I applied for the position. Following a successful interview, I have been enrolled on the Level 6 Digital and Technology apprenticeship.

## What advice would you share with others?

Apprenticeships are a great way to learn and gain experience whilst getting paid! It will give you the ability to stand out to future employers as not only do you have

recognised qualifications, you also have experience within the industry where you're applying your knowledge.

## Remember:

- Don't give up after a setback
- Practise interview questions
- Be yourself
- Don't be scared to take the leap!

## What does being an Apprenticeship Ambassador involve?

I wanted to be an ambassador to raise awareness that apprenticeships aren't just in the trades sector, in addition to inspiring young people and adults with the opportunities out there.

One of my highlights of being an ambassador was announcing the winner of apprentice of the year at the Tees Valley BME awards in Middlesbrough on behalf of the North East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network. I'd totally recommend becoming an ambassador as it's a fantastic community to be a part of!

To find out more about apprenticeships at Newcastle Building Society, visit:

<https://www.newcastle.co.uk/careers/early-talent>



Scan to visit the website



**"I am very grateful to be able to progress up the career ladder through apprenticeships. My Level 3 apprenticeship allowed me to gain industry-specific knowledge and experience...and opened the door for me to enrol on the Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship in Digital and Technology Solutions."**



To search for apprenticeship opportunities visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>



Scan to visit the website

# Apprenticeships uncovered

Keep up to date with apprenticeship opportunities

Apprenticeships are continually created and released through The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. The list below focuses on the [Care Services route](#) and includes some apprenticeships you may not have considered before. You can find out more on The Institute website: [www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards](http://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards)

Scan to visit the website



|  |   |  |         |
|--|---|--|---------|
| Adult care worker                                |    | Help adults with care and support needs to achieve their personal goals and live as independently and safely as possible, enabling them to have control and choice in their lives.   | Level 2 |
| Children, young people and families practitioner |    | Work with children, young people and families, including carers, to achieve positive and sustainable change in their lives, by recognising and assessing the complex needs that often present.   | Level 4 |
| Church minister                                  |  | Offer leadership to one or more local churches, as they seek to serve God and the wider community, as well as support and supervise other practitioners in leading worship, preaching, pastoral care, facilitating faith development and community action. | Level 6 |
| Play therapist                                   |  | Work to improve children's mental health, emotional well-being, learning capabilities and social relationships. The aim is to enable their full potential by using therapeutic play and a wide range of media and resources.                               | Level 7 |
| Playworker                                       |  | Care for and support children in taking responsibility for themselves and their own playing, whilst creating a stimulating and adventurous space for children to learn and explore in their own way, following their own intent, ideas and inventions.     | Level 2 |
| Social worker                                    |  | Work in partnership with adults, children, carers and families in a range of different settings to support and promote positive change in people's lives in order to improve their wellbeing and independence, and to reduce risk and harm.                | Level 6 |
| Youth support worker                             |  | Work in a supporting role with young people aged 11-25 (predominantly in the age range of 11-19) to promote their personal, social and educational development, by delivering youth support work in local and area projects.                               | Level 3 |

# Apprenticeships in the news

Find out what has been in the news from the world of apprenticeships.

The new 2023 **Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers** and the **Top 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers** rankings were launched on **29th June**, celebrating England's outstanding apprenticeship employers, recognising their commitment to creating new apprenticeships, the diversity of their apprentices, and the number of apprentices who successfully achieve their apprenticeships.



Looking at the list with your child may lead them to thinking about an apprenticeship with an employer they hadn't considered before.

Find out more by visiting: <https://www.topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/>



Scan to visit the website

Over 50 City law firms have joined forces to double the number of solicitor apprenticeships available by September 2024, as part of the City Century Solicitor Apprenticeship initiative. **City Century** identifies, recruits, educates, and develops the very best talent, connecting them to firms in the city of London.



The solicitor apprenticeship is a six-year programme open to students who do not wish to pursue the traditional university route into law. It combines working with studying towards a law degree and the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE), enabling apprentices to earn whilst they learn.



Scan to visit the website

Find out more about solicitor apprenticeships here: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/solicitor-v1-0>



Scan to visit the website

And more about City Century here: <https://citycentury.co.uk/>

A reminder that the dates for National Apprenticeship Week 2024 have been released...the most exciting week of the apprenticeships calendar will be: **5th – 11th February 2024**. Look out for what will be happening in your school, college and local area!



# National Manufacturing Day 2023

Get ready to see inside the world of manufacturing

MAKE UK (The Manufacturers' Organisation) is running **National Manufacturing Day 2023**, an opportunity for members of the public to see manufacturers showcasing the range of highly skilled and well-paid jobs they have on offer by visiting factories and sites in a UK wide Open House on **Thursday 28th September 2023**.

## NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY 2023



Local communities will have the chance to see the potential careers, jobs and apprenticeships on offer within the diverse manufacturing sector and National Manufacturing Day will be a celebration of all manufacturing sub sectors including automotive, food and drink, aerospace, defence, chemical and pharma.



### manufacturing *noun*

The business or industry of making goods by hand or by machine in large quantities in factories, etc. that are intended to be sold to customers.

### Just some of the apprenticeships available in manufacturing include:

|   |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURER LEVEL 2</b><br> | <b>FOOD AND DRINK PROCESS OPERATOR LEVEL 2</b><br>      | <b>FURNITURE MANUFACTURER LEVEL 2</b><br>  | <b>KNITTED PRODUCT MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN LEVEL 3</b><br> | <b>SIGNAGE TECHNICIAN LEVEL 3</b><br>     |
| <b>METAL FABRICATOR LEVEL 3</b><br>      | <b>ENGINEERING MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN LEVEL 4</b><br> | <b>FOOD AND DRINK ENGINEER LEVEL 5</b><br> | <b>MANUFACTURING MANAGER LEVEL 6</b><br>                    | <b>SPACE SYSTEMS ENGINEER LEVEL 6</b><br> |

Find out more about these apprenticeships and many more manufacturing apprenticeships on the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education website:  
<https://tinyurl.com/3jd2bn5c>



Scan to visit the website

Ahead of National Manufacturing Day on 28th September, visit <https://www.nationalmanufacturingday.org/find-an-event> to find an event near you, using their interactive map.



Scan to visit the website



# T Levels and A-Levels

## What are the differences?

T Levels were introduced in 2020 and offer an exciting alternative to A Levels. Here, we look at T Levels and A-Levels and the similarities and differences between them.

| T LEVELS   | A-LEVELS  |
|--|---|
| Take one T Level (equivalent to 3 A-Levels)  | Take three or four A-Levels   |
| Focus on one subject and an occupational specialism within that subject  | Take multiple subjects  |
| Take at a school / college   |   |
| Take after GCSEs   |   |
| Take two years to complete   |   |
| Assessed with coursework and exams   |   |
| Have an overall grade – pass, merit, distinction or distinction*, plus a separate A-E grade for the core component                         | Graded assessment A*-E  |
| Variable entry requirements but normally at least 5 GCSEs, maybe at certain grades for relatable subjects, or T Level transition programme | Variable entry requirements but normally at least 5 GCSEs at grade 4-9 in relatable subjects, sometimes specific grades |
| More practical / vocational  | More theoretical  |
| 80% classroom / 20% workplace  | 100% classroom based  |
| Require academic rigour and hard work  |   |
| Good for students who know the industry they want to enter   | Good for students who don't have a specific trade or job in mind  |
| Include a 45-day industry work placement   | Could include work experience (at the discretion of the school / college)   |
| Create a route into a specific industry or job   | Don't necessarily create a route into a specific industry or job  |
| Awarded UCAS points  |   |
| Can lead to university, apprenticeships or employment  |   |
| Over 100 universities accept T Levels for entry  | All universities accept A-Levels  |

Find out more about T Levels, A-Levels and lots of other options here:  
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>



**Scan to visit  
the website**

# Supporting your child when they get their exam results

Information and free expert support and advice to help your child take their next step.



Many students will soon be receiving their exam and qualification results.

We recognise this can be a stressful time for young people. It can be confusing to find the right information on where to go and what to do next.

**Whatever their results, your child has options.**

The [‘Get the Jump’ Skills for Life content](#) hub on the National Careers Service website can help take the stress out of young people’s next move. The hub brings together all the education and training choices available to young people after their GCSEs and when they leave school or training at 18, including technical education routes like T Levels, apprenticeships and HTQs (Higher Technical Qualifications).

The Get the Jump content hub provides everything your child needs to know about the choices available to them, turning what can feel like a giant leap into smaller, more manageable next steps. You and your child can access the hub here:

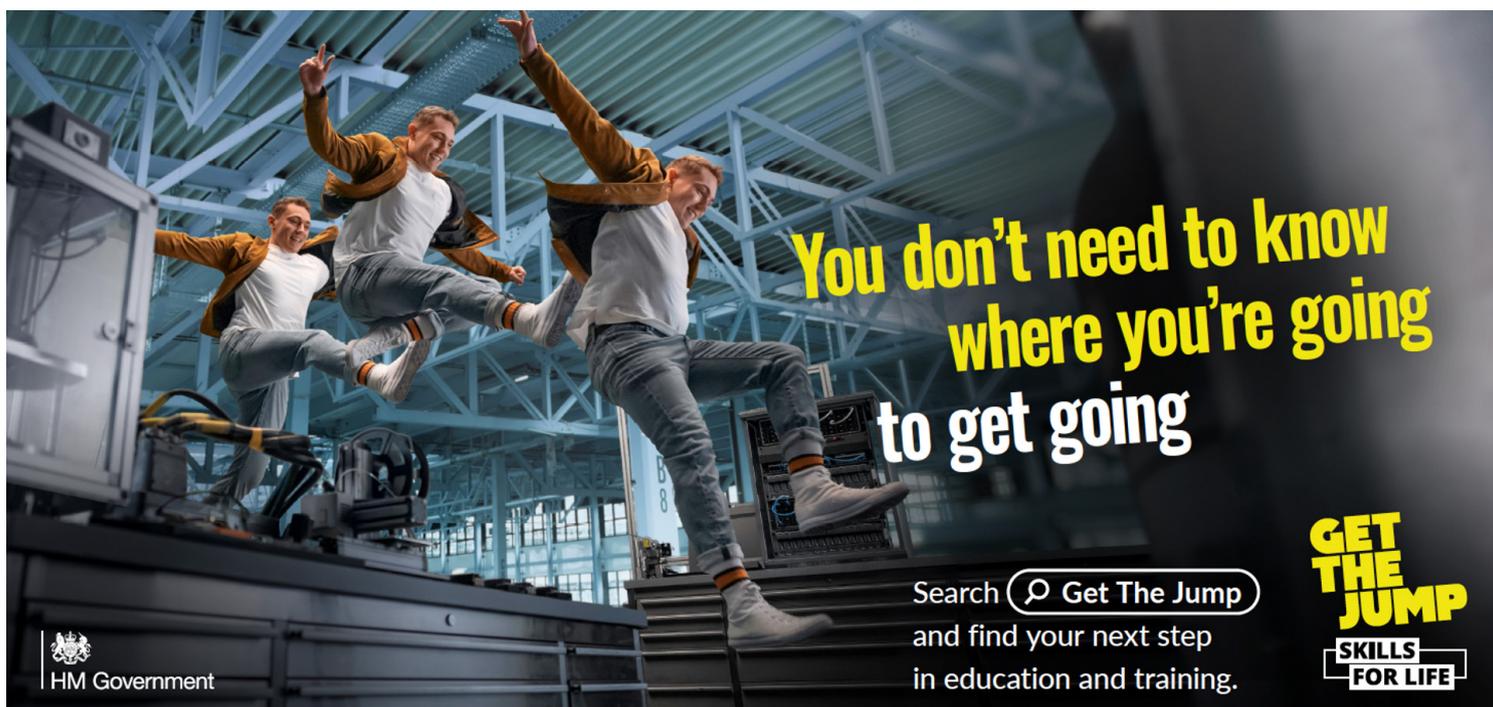
[www.gov.uk/get-the-jump](http://www.gov.uk/get-the-jump)



Scan to visit the website



During the exam results period the hub will feature information on resits, clearing and appeals. Your child can also chat to an expert careers adviser for free, accessing impartial support to help choose the option that’s right for them.



**You don't need to know where you're going to get going**

Search  and find your next step in education and training.



# Finding an apprenticeship

## How to help your child to search for apprenticeships

There are lots of different ways that your child can be searching and finding apprenticeship opportunities, with vacancies posted as early as September for a start date the following year. Help your child to begin their search using our top tips below.

**Find an apprenticeship** is the government central database advertising live apprenticeship vacancies across the country, with thousands of vacancies available in a variety of roles, sectors and levels.

This is a great place for your child to start their search for apprenticeships.  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>



Scan to visit  
the website

**Find an apprenticeship**  
Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England

Search

**Keywords (optional)**  
Can include job title, employer or reference number

All

**Your location**  
Enter postcode, town or city or use current location

Within  
5 miles

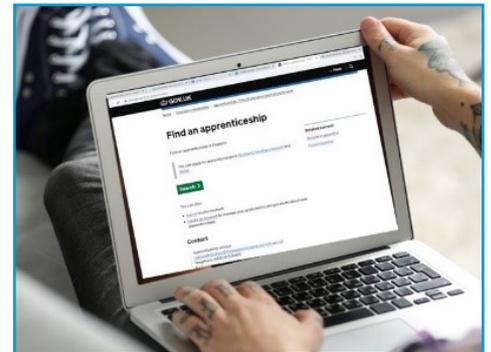
**Apprenticeship level**  
All levels

**Only show**  
 Disability Confident

Search

### Top tips for using Find an apprenticeship:

- ✓ Help your child to create an account so that they are ready to search and apply.
- ✓ Help them to set up alerts for when new and interesting vacancies come up in your area.
- ✓ Help them to think widely about how to search for vacancies:
  - **Distance**  
Can they travel or commute a bit further? Can they relocate? What is a realistic distance to set for their search?
  - **Role**  
Try to help them to choose broad job titles or roles so that more appear in their search.
  - **Level**  
Encourage them to search for roles at different levels. There are some brilliant opportunities at level 2 and level 3 that they may rule out by limiting their search to just higher levels.



### Where else to look

#### Company website

If your child has a particular employer in mind, visit their website and see if they can sign up for recruitment alerts or if they send out a newsletter.

#### Social media

Make sure your child follows employer careers pages on social media as they will probably use this as a way to promote their vacancies.

#### Friends and family

Lots of apprentices hear about opportunities through friends and family members. Be sure to tell your networks that your child is looking for an apprenticeship and you never know what might come through!

#### School / college

Ask your child's school or college if they can share any vacancy information they receive with you, if they don't already.

# Who to follow on social media

Accounts to follow to help your child on their apprenticeship journey

Here are just a few of the social media accounts you and your child could follow to help them find out more about apprenticeships and be the first to hear about things that could help them on their journey.



**Apprenticeships**  
@Apprenticeships

**THE GOVERNMENT APPRENTICESHIPS ACCOUNTS:**

Twitter - @apprenticeships  
Instagram - @gov.apprenticeships  
LinkedIn - Apprenticeships

**TRY SEARCHING FOR THESE HASHTAGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- #APPRENTICESHIPS
- #APPRENTICESHIPVACANCIES
- #APPRENTICESHIP
- #APPRENTICEJOBS
- #CAREERS
- #APPRENTICESHIPRECRUITMENT
- #APPRENTICES
- #APPRENTICESHIPEMPLOYMENT



**Amazing Apprenticeships**  
@AmazingAppsUK

**AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS**

Twitter - @AmazingAppsUK  
Instagram - @AmazingAppsUK  
Facebook - Amazing Apprenticeships  
LinkedIn - Amazing Apprenticeships



**National Careers Service**  
@NationalCareers

**NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE**

Twitter - @NationalCareers  
Instagram - national\_careers\_service  
Facebook - National Careers Service  
LinkedIn - National Careers Service




**Multicultural Apprenticeship Alliance**  
@MulticulturalAA

**MULTICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIP ALLIANCE**

Twitter - @MulticulturalAA  
Instagram - multiculturalaa  
Facebook - Multicultural Apprenticeship Alliance  
LinkedIn - Multicultural Apprenticeship Alliance

# Engineering apprenticeships with the Met Police

Find out everything you need to know

Catch up on an exclusive webinar with the Met Police's Operational Support Unit (OSU) to learn how Engineering apprentices can kickstart their career and work on surveillance solutions that help to keep people safe.

The Operational Support Unit (OSU) is a dedicated team of around fifty specialist engineers and technical advisors. Together, they provide vital technical solutions, equipment and expertise for front-line policing for the Met, including working with surveillance products, camera technology; IP networks; communications; development and rapid prototyping, fabrication and machining using Computer Aided Design; CCTV, video and audio.

Join or catch up on this one-hour webinar to find out more about the role and what it's like to be an apprentice with the OSU.



## Key facts about the apprenticeship opportunities with the Met Police:

- Achieve a Level 3 engineering apprenticeship
- 3-4 vacancies are available
- Starting salary of £22,370 + location allowance of £1,639, going up to £27,686 by Year 4 + location allowance

Catch up on the webinar here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/met/>



Scan to visit the website

## Free webinars throughout the year for teachers and parents

As part of the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges programme (ASK), Amazing Apprenticeships are offering teachers and parents/carers a schedule of free webinars throughout the year, to find out more about apprenticeships and how to support your child.

These are a series of informative webinars that will provide an abundance of tips, advice, and information from expert speakers all around the topic of apprenticeships. Each webinar lasts for 30 minutes and will take place on Zoom. Participants are required to sign up before the session and will receive an email confirmation and a reminder an hour before it begins. The webinars will be recorded and shared with all registrants after the session.

Book your free place now or catch up on recordings of previous webinars here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars/>

Scan to visit the website



Watch this space for the September 2023 – July 2024 webinars

**THE  
ASK  
PROGRAMME**

APPRENTICESHIPS  
TRAINEESHIPS  
T LEVELS