

## **Apprenticeships – Sixth Form**

An apprenticeship is a genuine job where you earn a salary while gaining recognised qualifications and real workplace experience. Apprentices split their time between working with an employer and completing structured training or study, typically equivalent to at least one day per week. Apprenticeships provide a high-quality alternative to university and are available across a wide range of industries and career levels.

At JCoSS, apprenticeships form a key part of our careers programme and contribute to **Gatsby Benchmark 2 (Labour Market Information), Benchmark 4 (Linking curriculum learning to careers), Benchmark 7 (Encounters with further and higher education and apprenticeship providers) and Benchmark 8 (Personal guidance)**. Students receive impartial guidance to ensure they understand both academic and technical pathways equally.

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### **What You Gain from an Apprenticeship**

- A paid job from day one
  - Real workplace experience
  - Industry-recognised qualifications
  - No university tuition fees (for degree apprenticeships)
  - Development of employability and professional skills
  - Strong progression into long-term careers
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### **Apprenticeship Pay**

Apprentices are paid at least the government apprenticeship minimum wage. After the first year, apprentices aged 19+ must be paid at least the age-related National Minimum Wage. Many employers pay significantly more, especially for higher and degree apprenticeships.

Current rates can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

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## Levels of Apprenticeships

Level	Equivalent To	Typical Entry	Length	Best For
<b>Level 2 (Intermediate)</b>	GCSE level	GCSEs including English & Maths	12-18 months	Students entering work-based learning after GCSEs
<b>Level 3 (Advanced)</b>	A Level equivalent	GCSEs or Level 2	Around 2 years	Students wanting a strong technical route
<b>Level 4-5 (Higher)</b>	Foundation degree / HND	Level 3 qualifications	Up to 5 years	Students progressing into higher technical roles
<b>Level 6-7 (Degree)</b>	Bachelor's or Master's degree	A Levels or equivalent	3-6 years	Students wanting a full degree while earning

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### How JCoSS Supports Apprenticeship Pathways

- Encounters with apprenticeship providers and employers (Baker Clause compliant)
- Apprenticeship workshops and assemblies
- Support using **Unifrog** to research and apply
- Personal careers guidance interviews
- Links with employers and training providers
- Labour market insight into apprenticeship sectors

This ensures students make **informed, ambitious and realistic post-18 decisions**.

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### Using Unifrog for Apprenticeships

Students use Unifrog to:

- Search apprenticeship opportunities
- Compare apprenticeships vs university pathways
- Track applications and guidance meetings
- Explore labour market information and career progression
- Record skills and experiences

<https://www.unifrog.org>

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## **Finding Apprenticeship Vacancies**

Students can:

- Use the official government apprenticeship search tool
  - Register for vacancy alerts
  - Apply directly to employers
  - Explore opportunities through colleges and training providers
  - Research degree apprenticeships via UCAS
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## **Useful Apprenticeship Websites**

**Find an Apprenticeship (Government)** – Official apprenticeship vacancies and applications

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

**Amazing Apprenticeships** – Student and parent guidance, employer insights and resources

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com>

**Rate My Apprenticeship** – Employer reviews, rankings and live vacancies

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk>

**UCAS – Apprenticeships** – Degree apprenticeship information and application guidance

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>

**Get My First Job** – Apprenticeship vacancies and employer connections

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

**Prospects – Degree Apprenticeships** – Detailed guidance on higher and degree apprenticeships

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships>

**ASK Apprenticeships (DfE funded)** – National apprenticeship information and support

<https://askapprenticeships.org>