

# CAREERS IN TOUCH

Autumn 2022

## AMPLIFYING TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Focus on vocational education



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*"Vocational and technical pathways have often been seen as the poor relation compared to academic routeways, yet we know that many occupational sectors are crying out for highly technically proficient applicants to fill the skills gaps in the labour market."*

Mark De Backer  
Deputy Director (Young People)  
Employability and Careers




## Welcome to our Autumn newsletter

This edition focuses on amplifying technical and vocational pathways for young people. With new proposed legal requirements on schools expected to come into force in January 2023, now seems to be an important time in planning and integrating these new requirements into your curriculum and timetable.

Of course, some of this is not new, we've had the legal duty since 2018 for all maintained schools and academies to provide access for all year 8-13 students to technical and vocational pathways – commonly known as 'the Baker clause'.

Many of you will have been following good practice and going far beyond this for some time, but the new provider access legislation specifies that schools must provide at least six encounters for all their students – two in Years 8 and 9, two in Years 10 and 11 (all pupils in these year groups will be expected to access these encounters) and two in Years 12 and 13 (encounters need to be made available to all students in these year groups).



Vocational and technical pathways have often been seen as the poor relation compared to academic routeways, yet we know that many occupational sectors are crying out for highly technically proficient applicants to fill the skills gaps in the labour market.

While changing hearts and minds takes time, this strengthened requirement should enhance young people's understanding of their options including apprenticeships, traineeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. With parents, carers, and teachers as the key influencers in a young person's decision making, it's important we don't place all the emphasis just on young people themselves but consider how we inform and bring with us these key supporters.

No doubt embedding this requirement will take some overcoming of logistical barriers within schools, including time and resources. Networks will be key to developing this approach, including using your local Careers Hub, ASK provider, local training provider network and FE links, so early conversations are vital.

I would expect that the Careers and Enterprise Company and others will publish further guidance and resources as the term develops to support the roll out, but it would be good to hear from our network about examples of further good practice ahead.



# LMI update

## Vocational pathways

By Suzanne Lees-Jones - Labour Market Information and Insight Co-ordinator



### Technical and vocational routes to success

There are many careers accessible now through technical and vocational qualifications, but what are the options for young people and how successful are these routes?

The Skills for Jobs paper refers to analysis by the Centre for Vocational Education Research which found that technical courses could lead to better career outcomes for those who follow them. When comparing those with a degree (level 6), men with a higher technical (level 4) qualification earned on average £5,100 more at age 30, and women with a higher technical (level 5) qualification earned £2,700 more at age 30.

Let's take a look at some of the vocational pathways on offer.



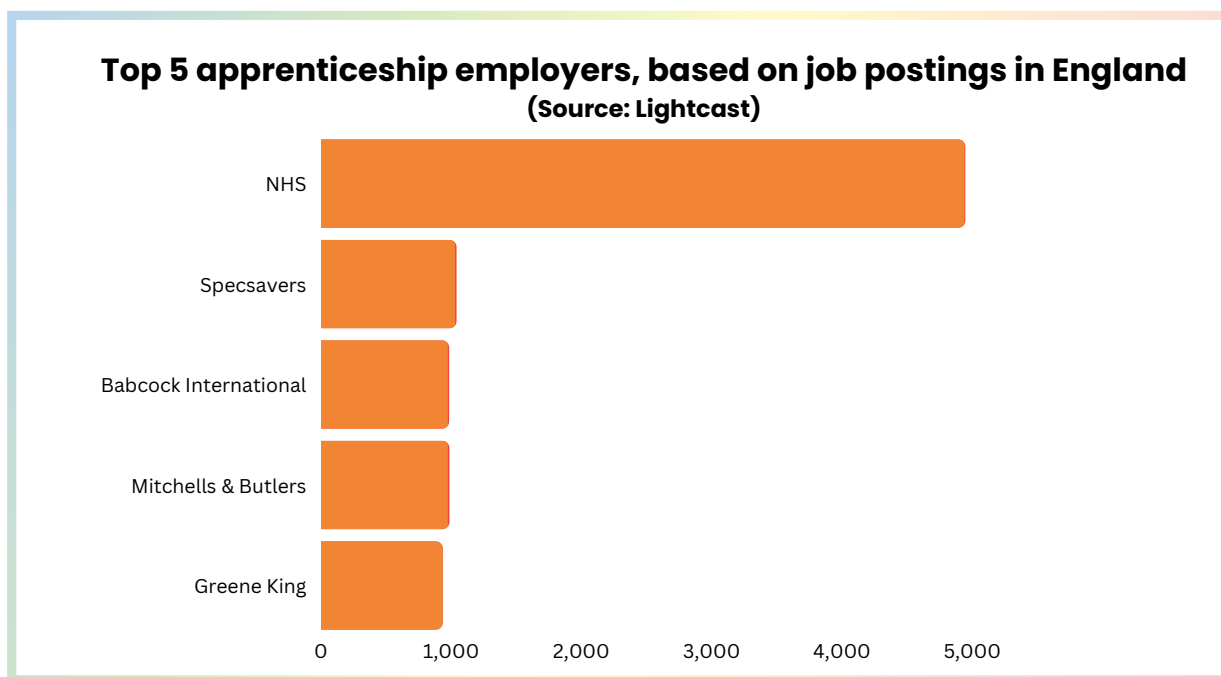
## Apprenticeships

Figures\* for the 2021/21 academic year show there were 321,440 apprenticeship starts in England. The top three apprenticeships were categorised under Health, Public Services and Care, Business, Administration and Law, and Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies.

To start an apprenticeship you'll need to:

- be 16 or over
- live in England
- not be in full-time education

There were 141,781 apprenticeship job postings in England in the last year, with the median salary of £17.9k.



### Skills in demand in apprenticeship job postings

(Source: Lightcast)

- Communication
- Customer service
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Enthusiasm
- Willingness to learn



## T Levels

T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. Equivalent in size to three A levels, a T Level focuses on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships.

T Levels require 80% in the classroom and 20% on a minimum 9-week placement with an employer.

The first T Level courses started in September 2020, with the pass results below:

- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction – 93.7%
- Digital Production, Design and Development – 89.7%
- Education and Childcare – 93.4%

This year saw the first T Levels results day, with 1,300 T Level students graduating from their course. Over 92% achieved a pass or above.

### Careers with a T Level

Here are some of the careers that a T Level can lead to:

- Dental nurse
- Customer service
- Computer games developer
- Healthcare science assistant
- Teaching assistant
- Laboratory technician





## Traineeships

A traineeship is a skills development programme for 16 to 24-year olds that includes a work placement. It can last from six weeks up to one year, although most will last for less than six months.

### What to expect as a trainee

- training to prepare for work, including CV writing and what to expect in the workplace
- support to improve English, maths and digital skills
- a high-quality placement of at least 70 hours from an employer

### Examples of traineeship vacancies

- Business administrator
- Sales assistant
- Hospitality
- Social media
- Optical assistant
- Construction



## Useful websites

- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>
- <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>
- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>
- <https://tlevels.gov.uk>

#### Sources:

- Explore education statistics - Gov.uk
- Lightcast - job postings search from October 2021 to September 2022
- Skills for Jobs - January 2021
- Post-18 Education: Who is taking different routes and how much do they earn? - Centre for Vocational Education Research
- Find a traineeship



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# Prepare for a digital future with digital T Levels



**Our Operations Manager Wendy Phillips, finds out why Ferndown Upper School became the first provider in Dorset to offer digital T Levels from September 2022.**

T Levels are a high-quality, work-focused alternative to A Levels for young people once they've completed their GCSEs. They offer new routes to employment or further learning for young people looking to begin a career in the digital sector.

Over the past four years, Ferndown has heavily invested in its digital technology facilities. With £1.5 million of investment that will provide seven fully equipped digital education spaces, in which computing courses are delivered. This includes the new Digital Education Building set for completion later this year.

Successful digital technology students have skill sets demanded by all sectors in the working world. Aside from the digital sector in its own right (which is amongst the most valuable on the planet), skills and knowledge developed in this area are applicable in all career fields where computers are used.

These diverse pathways provide a range of options depending on a student's aspiration. The skills and knowledge developed with these pathways can lead to a range of high paid jobs.

Ferndown Upper School is working in partnership with some of the top employers within Dorset to deliver its Digital T Level courses. Students benefit from the knowledge of subject specialist teachers, unrivalled facilities and the experience of a high-quality industry placement. Industry partners include NHS Dorset, JP Morgan, Eaton and Dorset Council.




# Linking curriculum learning to careers

**West London Careers Hub Operation Lead, Ladi Mohammed, reflects on a memorable moment related to Gatsby Benchmark 4.**

It is not always obvious to young people how the subjects they study at school can help them to gain good jobs in the future. It is essential that subject teachers help their students to make connections between curriculum topics, future careers and the world of work. If we miss this, students will be left wondering what the point in learning maths is or why bother remembering Pythagoras theorem when nobody they know uses it?

A memorable moment in my professional life was when one of our Enterprise Advisers, who was an engineer, did a presentation to a group of Yr10's on how he uses maths at work. We headed over to the maths department and into a classroom that overlooked the school visitors parking spaces.

Our engineer discussed how he uses maths, and English, to write reports in his everyday working life. He told us about how he managed to be a company director, despite him choosing to be an apprentice a few years back when his parents had wanted him to get a university degree. He said he had been attracted to earning whilst learning, especially as he also has a mild form of Asperger's. He explained that his Asperger's helped him in his chosen profession as he was very good at maths and could see patterns where others so easily couldn't. This also helped with mental arithmetic and quick calculations.





Our engineer spoke about the importance of mathematical operations such as adding and multiplying different substances to get the required constituency for building materials such as bricks, mortar, and pavements.

He then showed us pictures of worldwide famous bridges such as the Tower Bridge in London, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, the Pearl Bridge in Japan and Brooklyn Bridge in New York. Students initially had to guess which country the bridges were in, which made the session interactive, fun and linked to geography. You could hear a pin drop when he then showed us some electronic graphics software that required using Pythagoras theorem and trigonometry to build bridges here in London, including Hammersmith Bridge.

A student in the classroom raised their hand to ask our engineer a question: "So if I learn Pythagoras theory, I can have a Ferrari like the one you just pulled up in?" They looked down at our engineer's car in the car park from the class window. Our engineer didn't miss a beat as he replied: "Yes if you apply yourself."


Having a light bulb moment, the student that asked the question immediately said to their teacher: "Miss, I promise you, I'm going to listen in maths everyday now because if I do, I can have a Ferrari one day too!"

Students are much more likely to engage with subjects like maths, English, science and PSHE if they are given some wider contextual meaning. The link between what they are learning in the classroom and possible routes into the world of work is not only motivating but will help students understand how theoretical concepts can be applied to practical and real-world contexts.

Embedding careers within the curriculum helps students to understand the range of academic as well as vocational opportunities that are linked to that learning. It also helps to raise aspirations and support students with leading happy, productive and fulfilling lives.

I hope that this highlights that ALL teachers are indeed teachers of careers.

Can we support your school? Contact [careersinfo@edt.org](mailto:careersinfo@edt.org) for more info.



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# Free careers service for your school



Education Development Trust is the delivery partner for the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge programme (ASK) across the London region. Funded by the Department for Education, ASK offers free support to educational establishments in England to increase awareness of apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels.

Our ASK team work directly with schools and colleges to assess requirements and deliver a bespoke support package.

The free support can include:

- careers and parents' evenings
- apprenticeship awareness assemblies
- application support workshops
- teacher training and development
- resources and guides

## A highly recommended service



94% of schools/colleges surveyed rated our ASK service as excellent or good



93% of participants rated the service as excellent or good

## Last year we delivered to:

**130,178**  
students

**11,128** parents

**978** teachers

**352** schools  
and colleges

**Contact our ASK team** for more information.

# Our work experience offer

## Full service

- Delivery plan
- Support school liaison, providing work experience resources/documents
- Securing placements
- Carrying out physical health and safety visits where required
- Employer liability insurance checked
- Creating job descriptions
- Sending letters to school
- Sending letters to employer
- Providing feedback
- DBS checks not provided

## Self-sourced

- Delivery plan
- Completing Work Placement Assessments (WPA)
- Sending letters to school
- Sending letters to employer
- Providing feedback

## Bespoke quotes

We offer bespoke quotes for supported placements.



All high risk placements

## Careers events

28 and 29 October 2022

[London Job Show, Westfield](#)

3 November 2022

[London Careers Fair, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium](#)

5 November 2022

[Pilot Careers Live London](#)

7 - 12 November 2022

[Green Careers Week](#)

25 and 26 November 2022

[Skills London 2022](#)

6 - 12 February 2023

[National Apprenticeship Week 2023](#)

6 - 11 March 2023

[National Careers Week](#)



# Tools and resources

In each newsletter, we share a selection of free careers tools and resources that may be useful in your careers programme or practice.

## **Launch Your Career.com**

A variety of STEM-related posters free to schools

## **Careers Guidance for the 21st Century**

A free careers guidance online training programme for careers practitioners covering areas such as the world of work, career education, LMI, future jobs and interactive exercises and quizzes

## **Unconventional and aspirational careers podcasts by Jake Richings**

Helping teachers, leaders and parents support young people

## **Free posters for schools**

A variety of STEM-related posters free to schools

## **Eric**

Creative industries microsite for schools looking at 16 different creative industries

# Contact us

If you would like to discuss anything you see in this edition in more detail, or if we can help support careers guidance in your school, please get in touch.



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