

MRC Sixth Form

Apprenticeships: Guidance and Support

An apprenticeship is a real job where you learn, employee gain experience, and get paid. You are an with a contract of employment and holiday leave. By the end of an apprenticeship, you will have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.

Apprenticeships have some advantages over more traditional academic pathways. For instance, rather than taking out student loans **for your apprenticeship, you will be paid.**

This pay can vary depending on the industry you enter. Once you finish your first year as an apprentice, you are entitled to at least the national minimum wage. However, many industries pay more and offer competitive salaries.

Apprenticeships come in a range of different sectors: agriculture, the environment, animal care, business and administration, care services, catering, hospitality, construction, creative design, digital, education, childcare, engineering, manufacturing, hair & beauty, health and science, legal, accounting, finance, protective services, sales, marketing, transport and logistics are just a few. In addition, many industries such as aviation, the police and the armed forces run their own apprenticeships.

Places to look for apprenticeships:

This is a small selection of places to find apprenticeships online. Many apprenticeships are offered via the websites of major employers such as those below.

[Find an apprenticeship](#)

Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England. This government website allows you to search for apprenticeships based on level and location.

[BPP](#)

Developed in partnership with employers and respected professionals, BPP offer apprenticeship programmes across a broad range of subject areas. They are designed for learners at all levels, covering a wide range of roles and sectors and many are aligned to a recognised professional qualification or degree.

[GSK](#)

A range of apprenticeships in the healthcare industry, offered by GlaxoSmithKline, a global healthcare company.

[BAE](#)

There are more than 50 apprenticeships on offer at BAE systems. BAE also offers virtual open days and events to support you in looking for apprenticeships. BAE systems provides some of the world's most advanced defence, aerospace, and security solutions.

Further Information

[NHS](#)

The NHS is a huge employer and provides a complete range of apprenticeships from level 2 up to degree standard. On their website, you can see stories from apprentices who have completed their training and they offer advice on applying, which could be useful to other apprentices too. Their handy guide to healthcare apprenticeships is available [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the Which? guide to Higher and Degree Apprenticeships.

Click [here](#) for an example of an apprenticeship agreement.

[UCAS](#) offer a page with a huge amount of information and useful links: it is a good starting point for those interested in apprenticeships.

[NotGoingToUni](#) is a great site for information about apprenticeships and lists seminars and virtual events run by major providers such as BA, Network Rail and the armed forces.

Once you have applied for an apprenticeship

You can use the sites above to find apprenticeships to apply for. Before you start, your training provider and your employer will contact you. The following questions will probably come up in these conversations, so make sure you're prepared:

Questions they will ask you:	Questions you should ask them:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• do you understand that you will be employed as a member of staff?• have you signed and returned your apprenticeship agreement? (see link above for example)• do you understand how you will be assessed?• do you understand what is meant by the term 'professionalism'?• do you have any questions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• what are the working hours?• what is the dress code?• what you need to bring – for example, ID, notepad, pens.• your travel options – parking, train stations, buses.• who to ask for on the first day when you arrive• how your time is divided between work and training and how you find out your schedule.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How long does an apprenticeship take?

It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience.

How is an apprenticeship funded?

The costs of the training are covered by contributions made by your employer and the government. You may need to cover day-to-day costs such as travel and your food.

What are the entry requirements for an apprenticeship?

Depending on the level, some apprenticeships may:

- require previous qualifications such as an English or Maths GCSE
- require evidence of further education such as A Levels
- give extra training in the English or Maths skills needed so you're at the right level.

Are there different levels of apprenticeships?

Yes, when you finish your apprenticeship, you will achieve the equivalent educational level as follows:

	Level	Equivalent Educational Level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A Level or BTEC
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree or above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or Master's Degree

How will I be assessed on an apprenticeship?

You will go through something called end-point assessments. These are conducted by an external body to ensure fairness. They can involve:

- a practical assessment
- an interview
- a project
- written and/or multiple-choice tests
- a presentation.

At MRC Sixth Form, we recognise that the amount of information given to students can be overwhelming and going through application processes can cause anxiety and stress. If you, or your parents, want to discuss apprenticeships and whether they would be a good fit, or you want advice on the application process, please arrange a meeting with [Mrs Shadbolt](#) or [Mr Valente](#). If you have any questions, please [contact](#) the Sixth Form team.