

Employment & Apprenticeships

Blue Coat Careers Advice



Whilst many of our student progress into further and higher education, a growing number of students apply for apprenticeships and school leaver schemes with local and national employers.

Please book an appointment with a member of the Careers Team for one-to-one advice and guidance on available opportunities. The website links on this page also provide lots of information on apprenticeship and school leaver schemes.

Why Labour Market Information Matters

Local Labour Market Information (LMI) is at the heart of every effective careers decision you will make. It is very difficult to realise your occupational aspirations and progress your career without an awareness and understanding of the labour market trends.

The Careers Team have up-to-date and accurate information about local labour markets, that they use to inform the advice they give to both students, parents and colleagues about;

- What opportunities are out there
- What the future trends are likely to be in different sectors
- What qualifications and skills are needed to access specific career pathways
- What preparation is needed to be ready to compete for jobs in some sectors
- For more Information on Labour Market Information (LMI) please see the links opposite



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can be an exciting alternative to higher education or employment. Apprenticeships give you valuable occupational and workplace experience and the opportunity to gain recognised qualifications, technical certification and key employability skills.

As an apprentice you will:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- study towards a related qualification

The length of time taken to complete an apprenticeship will depend on the level of the qualification, but most apprenticeships are achieved in 1-5 years.

Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels as follows:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Apprentices' opportunities for career progression are increasing with the expansion of Higher Apprenticeships. Equivalent to degrees, more of these specialised and highly skilled apprenticeships are being offered each year, giving you the chance to continue your professional development and fully realise your potential. See section below on School Leaver Schemes.

Apprenticeships can lead to:

- National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at Level 2, 3, 4 or 5
- Functional Skills qualifications, e.g., in Mathematics, English or ICT
- A technical certificate, such as a BTEC or City & Guilds Progression Award
- Knowledge-based qualifications, such as a Higher National Certificate (HNC), a Higher National Diploma (HND) or degrees.

How to apply for an apprenticeship

You can register for an account and search for the majority of apprenticeships on the following site:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Local Council Websites will also post apprenticeship opportunities throughout the academic year, so keep a look out on the website links listed below:

WM Jobs: Apprentice and job opportunities within the West Midlands