



**APPRENTICESHIP**

**INFORMATION**

**GUIDE**

**Jo Gideon MP**

**A FREE information  
booklet from your local  
Member of Parliament**



Going to University or going straight into work isn't right for everyone when they finish education. That's why I've created this guide, to demonstrate the value of taking up a local apprenticeship opportunity in Stoke-on-Trent Central.

Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to combine furthering skills and training on the job. I hope that this short guide will help you to decide whether an apprenticeship is right for you. Remember, your school or college will be able to give you further information and guide you through the application process.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [jo.gideon.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.gideon.mp@parliament.uk)

**Jo Gideon MP**  
**Stoke-on-Trent Central**



# WHAT IS AN APPRENTICE?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. As an apprentice, you'll be earning a wage, working alongside and learning from experienced staff, gaining job-specific skills, and getting time to train and study in relation to your role.

As an apprentice, 20% of your time is set aside for learning, usually at a college, university or training provider. To apply for one, you need to be over 16, and should not be in full-time education when the apprenticeship commences.

There are different levels of apprenticeship. Your school or college can advise you on which kind of apprenticeship is right for you.

|                     | Level         | Equivalent educational level  |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Intermediate</b> | 2             | GCSE                          |
| <b>Advanced</b>     | 3             | A Level                       |
| <b>Higher</b>       | 4, 5, 6 and 7 | Foundation degree and above   |
| <b>Degree</b>       | 6 and 7       | Bachelor's or master's degree |



## HEAR FROM OTHER LOCAL APPRENTICES



### **David King – Apprentice Flat Maker at Portmeirion Level 2 Lean Manufacturing Apprenticeship**

I chose an apprenticeship after my work experience at Portmeirion as it was a way of learning a new skill and earning a wage and it seemed a happy workplace. I have learnt all the skills to be a flat maker and my proudest moment was when I earned my first bonus. In the future I would like to be a skills trainer training new people like me in the business.



### **William Sixsmith - Final Year Apprentice at Premier Foods**

I'm William Sixsmith a final year apprentice at Mr. Kipling in Stoke. I started my journey with Premier Foods 3 years ago. In that time, I have gained and honed a multitude of skills and gained valuable hands-on experience.

I'm currently studying a level 3 Mechatronics course which supplements my practical learning perfectly, especially with the growing presence of automation within Premier Foods. I'm grateful for the great opportunity Premier Foods has given me and I look forward to my future development and time with Premier Foods.

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# SIX APPRENTICESHIP

## MYTHS BUSTED

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### **Apprenticeships are for people who want to do ‘manual’ jobs**

Yes, the apprenticeship sector offers manual opportunities like construction and engineering, but almost every sector now offers apprenticeships, including marketing and IT.

2

### **Apprenticeships are low paid**

Apprenticeships receive a minimum of £4.30 per hour, but companies can choose to pay more. You also receive a qualification at the end, and most apprentices move on to full time roles afterwards.

3

### **Apprenticeships are only for school leavers**

No, apprenticeships can be started at any age. You might be looking for a career change, trying to upskill or even be looking to secure a new role after taking some time out.

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### **Apprenticeships don't lead to a full-time job**

Whilst it's not guaranteed, many companies will employ apprentices once their learning period is over. In fact, over 90% of apprentices remain in employment or go on to further learning.

5

### **20% of the job training means a day per week at college**

Not necessarily. Other forms of learning count too, like shadowing colleagues and attending online training.

6

### **Apprentices don't add value to a business**

Apprentices add lots of value, from sharing the workload to boosting productivity. Often, being an apprentice will fill a skills gap that the business needs.

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## FIND OUT MORE

To find out more, your school or college will be able to give you further guidance.

You can also find and apply for apprenticeships at [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

Or, for further careers advice visit [gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers](https://www.gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers)

For apprenticeships in Wales, you can find out more at [gov.wales/apprenticeships-genius-decision](https://www.gov.wales/apprenticeships-genius-decision)

## WHAT IF I'M NOT READY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP YET?

If you feel that you're not ready for an apprenticeship, a traineeship is a course designed to prepare you for one. Find out more at [gov.uk/find-traineeship](https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)

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I hope that you found this guide useful, but if you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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