7/25

ISSUE 11

CHOICES

The monthly parent & carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education

USING THE SUMMER TO GET READY TO APPLY FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

GET READY FOR RESULTS DAY AND WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

UNDERSTAND THE QUALIFICATIONS REFORM AND CHANGES FOR 25/26

APPRENTICESHIP CAREER PATHWAYS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

THE VOLKSWAGEN GROUP APPRENTICESHIP OFFER

Amazing Apprenticeships

CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

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DO *YOU* HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

If you have a story to share about apprenticeships or technical education - we would love to hear from you.

Please reach out to the Amazing Apprenticeships team below:

hello@amazingapprenticeships.com

APPRENTICESHIPS AT VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

The Volkswagen Group apprenticeship scheme offers apprenticeships with prestigious automotive brands such as Audi, Seat, Skoda, Cupra, Bentley, TPS and Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles.

Which apprenticeship roles are available?

The Volkswagen Group apprenticeship programme offers a range of specialised fields. These specialisms not only cater to diverse skill sets, but also lay the foundation for multifaceted career paths within the automotive industry.

Apprenticeships available:

- Service Technician
- Service Advisor
- Parts Advisor
- Paint Technician
- Panel Technician
- Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician
- Parts Sales Executive

Where you will be trained?

At Volkswagen Group, training is delivered using a combination of virtual classroom remote learning and face-to-face block release weeks at our state-of-the-art training centres in Milton Keynes (Volkswagen Group National Learning Centre) and Doncaster (Inspiro Training Academy). In the workplace, your personal, dedicated mentor will support your continued learning as you apply the skills and knowledge you have gained through the remote sessions and at the training centres.

Where can these apprenticeships take you?

After completing an apprenticeship with the Volkswagen Group, apprentices have gone on to further their career in various roles such as Aftersales Managers, Operations Managers, Trainers, Diagnostic Technicians, Workshop Controllers, Brand Managers and Customer Service Managers.

Name: Marc
Employer: Citygate Automotive Ltd.
Apprenticeship: Level 3 Light Vehicle Maintenance Technician apprenticeship
Completion: May 2025 - with a distinction!

"Having access to training documentation from VW Group has allowed me to always remain ahead of the other technicians around me and be able to understand the work and repairs required for each job."

Find out more about apprenticeships at VW:
vwgroupapprenticeships.co.uk

4 BIG CHANGES TO APPRENTICESHIPS IN 2025

We now have more information about some of the changes the Government have introduced for apprenticeships. We caught up with Anna Morrison CBE, founder of Amazing Apprenticeships to find out what this means for those who are considering apprenticeships.

Foundation apprenticeships

Foundation apprenticeships will be for young people aged 16-21 (or 22-24 meeting certain eligibility criteria). They will typically be 8 months in duration, the apprentice will be paid a salary and they will initially be available in 7 job roles in priority sectors, including Engineering & Manufacturing, Construction, Digital and Health.

Find out more by visiting:
amapps.uk/foundation-apprenticeships

Shorter duration apprenticeships

New rules mean that the minimum duration of apprenticeships has been reduced from 12 months to 8 months. Within the planned duration, the minimum number of Off-The-Job Training (OTJT) hours specified for the apprenticeship must be achieved. This allows for more flexible models of delivery, including part-time.

Find out more by reading the
Apprenticeship funding rules 25/26

Level 7 apprenticeship funding

The Government has now confirmed that from 1st January 2026, level 7 apprenticeships will continue to be government-funded for young people aged 16-21, and up to 25 for care leavers and those with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan at the start of their apprenticeship in England. Older apprentices will no longer receive government funding for level 7 apprenticeships, however the employer may pay individually.

Find out more by reading the
Apprenticeship funding rules 25/26

End point assessment changes

The Government has announced that End Point Assessment plans for all apprenticeship standards will be reviewed. The purpose of this review is to plan for how more assessment could be undertaken throughout the apprenticeship, including how the training provider and employer can contribute to assessing their apprentice's knowledge, skills and behaviours. The review is expected to take 18 months.

Find out more by visiting:
amapps.uk/end-point-assessment

To stay up to date with the latest apprenticeships news and developments, sign up to join our free informative monthly webinars:
amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars

USING THE SUMMER TO GET READY TO APPLY

Helen Everett

Top Careers Leader, Helen Everett, shares her tips on how you can start getting ready to apply for apprenticeships this summer. Whether you're just starting out or already have a career path in mind, Helen's advice will help to set yourself up for success.

1. Understand the levels

If you aren't sure about the different levels of apprenticeship, this Rapid Read will help you understand them and which level might be right for you: amapps.uk/apprenticeship-levels

L2	Foundation
L2	Intermediate
L3	Advanced
L4+	Higher
L6-7	Degree

2. Explore industries that interest you

Think about which sectors excite you and research apprenticeships in those areas. If you're not sure, look at large companies—they often offer a wide range of apprenticeships that could inspire you.

Explore a range of fantastic apprenticeship employers through Meet the Employer: amapps.uk/mte

MEET THE EMPLOYER

3. Sign up for job alerts

Many companies let you sign up for alerts when apprenticeship applications open.

You should also set up an account with the government apprenticeship vacancy platform, Find an apprenticeship. Use this guide to help you: amapps.uk/register-faa

4. Build a shortlist

Make a list of companies and roles that interest you. Consider the size of the company you'd like to work for. Bookmark their careers pages and make a note of application dates.

5. Prepare and practise

- Draft answers to common application questions in a Word document so you can reuse and adapt them.
- Practise for assessments—many apprenticeships include online tests, video interviews, and assessment days. Watch this webinar on preparing for apprenticeship assessment centres: amapps.uk/webinar-assessmentcentres

6. Research companies

The company is initially looking for someone who really wants to work for that company and wants the apprenticeship so make sure you research what their apprenticeship involves and what the company has been doing recently.

"The people who are most successful are those who have done their preparation beforehand."

7. Investigate company values and culture

Think about what matters to you and explore whether companies align with your values. Check their websites for sections on culture, employee stories, and social impact.

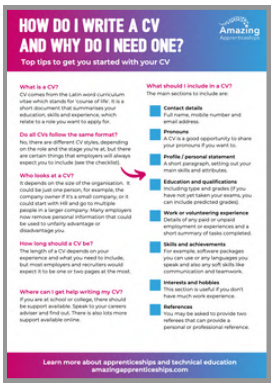
Read what apprentice Tanmai says about this in her application tips: amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/application-tips-with-tanmai

8. Log your achievements as you go

Keep a record of your experiences, skills, and achievements—even the small ones. Include school clubs, competitions, charity events, and workshops. This helps you build your CV and reflect on your strengths.

9. Build your LinkedIn profile and CV early

Use the summer to create or improve your LinkedIn profile. Start building or improving your CV and use this Rapid Read to help: amapps.uk/cv



10. Don't be discouraged – preparation pays off

If you don't get an apprenticeship straight away, don't give up. The students who succeed are often the ones who've taken the time to plan, reflect, and prepare.

To watch the full webinar where Helen shared these tips, and to hear more of her insights, visit amapps.uk/webinar-summer-research

Useful resources

Find out more by using our other resources, including:

amapps.uk/application-guide

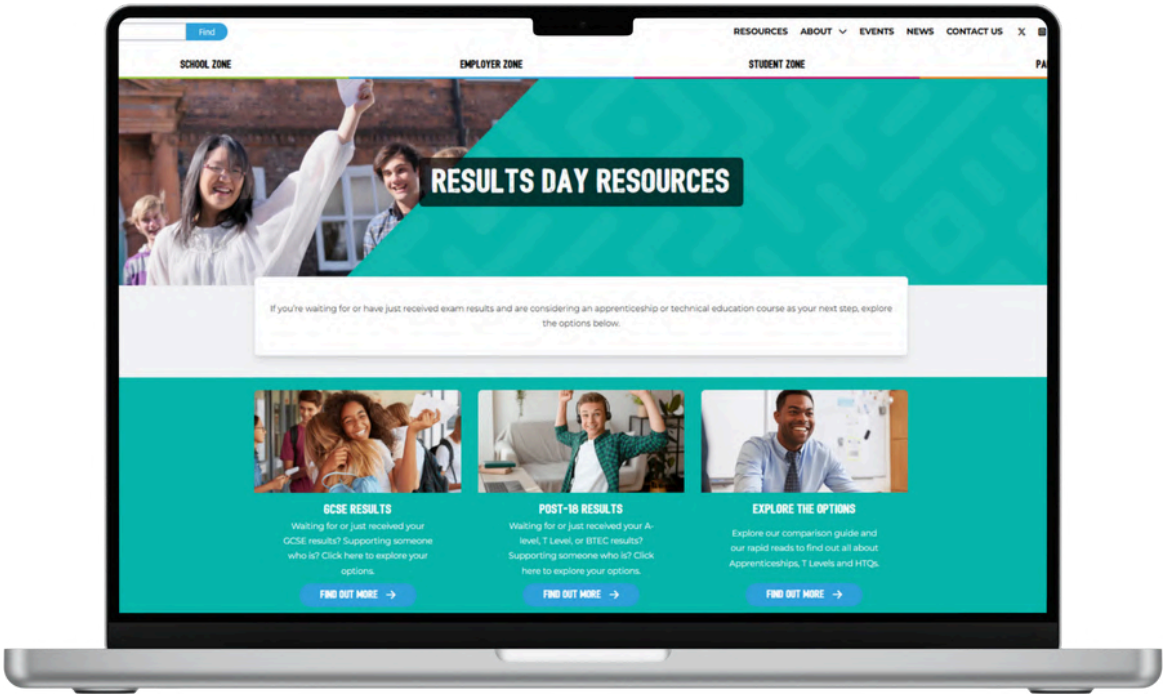
amapps.uk/get-ready-to-apply

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT ON *RESULTS DAY*

Resources to support you on exam results days

Knowing where to look for clear, trustworthy information is one of the most powerful ways parents can support their child before, on and after results day. It reassures your child that there are next steps and alternative routes, even if their original plan has changed.

If your child attends a school or college, find out what they offer in terms of support on results day and if there will be staff available to talk to. In addition, Amazing Apprenticeships have created a special page on their website to share information about technical education options, with information and resources tailored to post-16 and post-18 results days.



Find out more by visiting: amazingapprenticeships.com/results-day

QUALIFICATIONS REFORM

WHAT'S NEXT AFTER GCSES? A GUIDE TO NEWLY REFORMED QUALIFICATIONS

In September 2025, new options like Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) and reformed Technical Qualifications will become available, alongside A-levels and T Levels, offering qualifications that could be a perfect fit for your child.

Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)

Designed to prepare students for higher education, AAQs can be studied after GCSEs and give students the essential knowledge and skills needed for their next steps. They offer varied study options which include subjects not typically covered by A-levels.

Whether your child is interested in science, technology or a caring profession, AAQs could help them explore these areas in depth.

AAQs blend academic and applied learning to cater to different learning styles and are studied alongside A-levels, creating a personalised educational pathway that can suit individual interests and career goals.

Reformed Technical Qualifications

If your child is more hands-on or knows what career they want to pursue, reformed Technical Qualifications offer another pathway, focusing on practical skills that employers need. These qualifications, available at level 2 (GCSE level) or level 3 (the same level as T Levels and A-levels) are ideal for students aiming for specific careers. For 16-19 learners, level 3 reformed Technical Qualifications are available in non-T Level areas. See page 9 for more information about T Levels.

With a growing demand for skilled workers across various industries, these qualifications meet this need head-on and pave the way for career progression. They can open doors to skilled work, higher education, or apprenticeships, and set students on a path to a bright and promising future.

Next Steps for Parents & Carers:

- Chat with your child about their interests and goals.
- Talk to teachers and career advisers at school.
- Contact your local college or sixth form to ask about which qualifications they offer.
- Explore online resources and parent guides, such as the DfE FAQ document, to help you and your child make an informed decision.

T LEVELS: QUICK GUIDE

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

What are T Levels?

T Levels are post-16 technical qualifications taken after GCSEs as an alternative to A-levels, apprenticeships and other post-16 options.

T Levels have been designed by employers to give students the knowledge and skills businesses need and give them a head start in their careers. T Level courses are high quality, with longer teaching hours than most current technical qualifications. One T Level is roughly equivalent in size to 3 A-levels and takes two academic years to complete.

What do they involve?

T Level courses contain the following elements:

- A technical qualification, which includes:
  - A core component covering concepts, theory and skills relevant to an industry area. This gives students a broad understanding of the subject area.
  - One or more occupational specialist components focussing on specific knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to a role. This is a chance for students to delve deeper into their chosen subject.
- An industry placement of approximately 45 days, focussing on developing practical and technical skills, taking place in a real work environment with employers. Providers are responsible for finding industry placements for their students.

Find T Levels information and resources here:
amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels

Which T Levels are available?

There are currently 21 T Level subjects available.

Digital:
- Digital Software Development
- Digital Data Analytics
- Digital Support and Security

Education and Early Years:
- Education and Early Years

Construction and the Built Environment:
- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction

Health and Science:
- Health
- Healthcare Science (last enrolments Sept 25)
- Science

Business and Administration:
- Management and Administration

Legal, Finance and Accounting:
- Accounting
- Finance
- Legal Services

Engineering and Manufacturing:
- Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing

Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care:
- Agriculture, Land Management and Production
- Animal Care and Management

Creative and Design:
- Craft and Design
- Media, Broadcast and Production

Sales, Marketing and Procurement:
- Marketing (from September 2025)

A FOCUS ON HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS

What are higher apprenticeships?

Higher apprenticeships are level 4, 5 and sometimes level 6 and 7 apprenticeships. You may have heard level 6 and 7 apprenticeships called 'degree apprenticeships' as they contain either an undergraduate degree or master's degree as the mandatory qualification. However, there are level 6 and 7 apprenticeships that are known as 'higher apprenticeships' because while you are learning at those levels, there isn't a degree built into the apprenticeship. We are looking more specifically at level 4 and 5 higher apprenticeships in this article.

How long do higher apprenticeships take?

Higher apprenticeships are often seen as a specialised career path and can take between 18 months to 5 years.

Who are higher apprenticeships suited to?

Higher apprenticeships are a great option for those looking to progress from level 3 qualifications, like A-levels, T Levels and advanced apprenticeships. They are also a great way to upskill during your career or change your career.

Are there other level 4 and 5 qualifications?

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are new and existing level 4 and 5 qualifications that have been approved as delivering the skills employers need. They are based on the same occupational standards as apprenticeships but are a classroom-based course and don't require employment, but you can take them part-time alongside a job. Find out more about HTQs here: amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs

Which level 4 and 5 apprenticeships are there?

You can find a full list of apprenticeships here: amapps.uk/a-zstandards or you can visit the Skills England website.

There are currently 108 level 4 apprenticeships approved for delivery
Here are a few examples:

- Animal training instructor
- Brewer
- Construction, design and build technician
- Data Analyst
- Photographer
- Space engineering technician
- Sports coach
- Town planning assistant
- Visual effects artist

There are currently 38 level 5 apprenticeships approved for delivery
Here are a few examples:

- Air traffic controller
- Bespoke cutter and tailor
- Embalmer
- Golf course manager
- Journalist
- Marine pilot
- Outdoor learning specialist
- Vet technician
- Youth justice practitioner

Where can I find higher apprenticeship vacancies?

- Register on Find an apprenticeship: findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- Sign up to receive a monthly vacancy snapshot mailing from Amazing Apprenticeships: amapps.uk/vacancies
- Explore the Higher & Degree Apprenticeships Vacancy listing, a bi-annual publication, released every January and October: amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing

A CAREER TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

Meet Keely, who changed careers via an apprenticeship, moving from working in a care home to becoming a dental nurse. Here we look at her career change journey.

How were you inspired to change your career?

I was working in a care home and took a resident for an appointment at the dentist, where I saw an advertisement for a dental nursing apprenticeship. I had been thinking about leaving the care industry after 6 years as I wanted a new challenge. I spoke to family about the role and they really encouraged me to apply. I did a taster session after the interview which was a tooth extraction, it was so interesting! When I was offered the job I was excited and eager to start.

Why did you decide to do an apprenticeship?

I decided to become an apprentice to reskill and change my career and gain the knowledge to do so. I enjoyed the whole apprenticeship, working alongside learning.

How did your apprenticeship work?

The dental nursing apprenticeship I completed took place over 16 months. I learnt how to perform as a dental nurse whilst learning the science behind it. The Off-The-Job-Training part was delivered through online lessons. The lessons were interactive and the opportunity to ask or answer questions was always there, plus I had all the resources to refer back to.

What was a typical day like?

A typical day in the dental practice starts by coming into work and setting up the surgery, checking stock levels and then running through your day list to see what's in store. Using the day list to plan and organise the day helps it run more smoothly. Days vary depending on the type of clinic you're in. The treatments can differ just like the patients do.

The perfect day for me is a few exams and a few longer treatment appointments such as a filling or an extraction. I especially enjoy doing private fillings as I love to see the process and outcome of the tooth. Our dental practice also offers SureSmile, aesthetics and skin care so it's fun to be involved in those.

What support did you receive during your apprenticeship?

I had a coach who was there to advise, support and help anytime. My tutor Amanda was great, she made action plans which were super easy to follow and helpful to stay on track. Anytime you need a bit of help or even just some encouragement they are there to support you. My employers also supported my apprenticeship by setting aside time for me to do the lessons and coursework. Your work colleagues want you to succeed so they will give you support; I definitely used the dentists' knowledge.

Find out more about dental apprenticeships by visiting the Skills England website.

Find out more about apprenticeships with Aspiration Training.

aspiration TRAINING LTD

FRAMING FUTURES: APPRENTICESHIPS AT SPECSAVERS

Find out more about apprenticeships at Specsavers from Dena, their Head of Apprenticeships. Dena is a former apprentice herself and completed a Level 2 Retail apprenticeship, a Level 3 Customer Service apprenticeship and a Level 3 Team Leading/Supervisor apprenticeship.

Which apprenticeships do Specsavers offer?

New colleagues are recruited into our stores in Optical Assistant, Spectacle Technician and Customer Service apprenticeship roles.

Existing colleagues can upskill in Hearing Aid Dispenser, Dispensing Opticians and Team Leader apprenticeship roles.

How are apprenticeships at Specsavers delivered?

Specsavers are an Ofsted-graded Outstanding Employer Provider and deliver some Off-The-Job Training themselves, along with other delivery partners, depending on the apprenticeship.

The current distinction pass rate is 98%.

What do you look for in apprentice applicants?

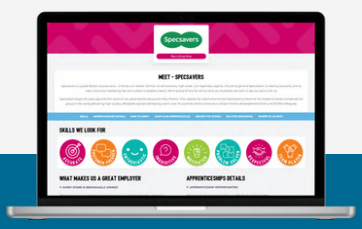
Enthusiasm, curiosity, a passion for learning, the desire to help people and be customer-focused.

A grade 4 or above in maths GCSE for Level 3 Apprenticeships due to the advanced calculations as part of the role.

What are the benefits of a Specsavers apprenticeship?

Job stability throughout the qualification and each store offers its own generous rewards and benefits package.

Amazing career progression opportunities across the globe, including in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.



Find out about apprenticeships at Specsaves on their Meet the Employer profile.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH...

BBC BITESIZE CAREERS

Russell Kane tries his hand as an apprentice zookeeper!

HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

We've teamed up with BBC Bitesize Careers to find answers to the top questions that parents and carers have.

Discussing your child's career options can feel overwhelming. If your child is interested in pursuing an apprenticeship, BBC Bitesize Careers shares three ways you can support them.

1 Help them decide what apprenticeship they want to do

Encourage them to talk to friends, siblings or family members that have done an apprenticeship to find out the pros and cons. Help them to identify and research organisations or companies they like the look of, or if they really don't know where to start, ask them to list their top five skills to fine tune what they're good at.

Together, you can then look for roles that use those skills. There are opportunities in a range of industries including Marketing, Law and even Space Engineering. Learn about some of the options available and watch comedian Russell Kane get his hands dirty as an apprentice zookeeper.

2 Support them with their application

Writing application forms, CVs and cover letters for the first time can be daunting, but with a little help it doesn't need to be. The CV toolkit provides a step-by-step guide on how your child can best showcase their skills.

Organise practice interviews with family and friends, where they can rehearse speaking about their skills and experience with you or in front of the mirror. Check out our "How to prepare for an interview" article for more tips.

3 Keep trying!

If your child doesn't get the first apprenticeship they apply for, it can be disheartening. However, often disappointment can help us to grow, both personally and professionally. Hear from success stories, like Lewis Capaldi, and how they overcame failure, here.

The apprenticeship FAQs is a helpful guide that you can use with your child to find a pathway that suits them.

FOR MORE IDEAS, VISIT THE BBC BITESIZE CAREERS WEBSITE BY SCANNING THE CODE.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS WITH THE BRITISH ARMY?

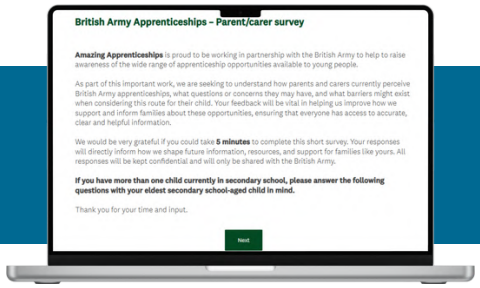
ARMY BE THE BEST

Amazing Apprenticeships is proud to be working in partnership with the British Army to help to raise awareness of the wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available to young people within the British Army.

As part of this important work, we are seeking to understand how parents and carers currently perceive British Army apprenticeships, what questions or concerns they may have, and what barriers might exist when considering this route for their child.
Your feedback will be vital in helping us improve how we support and inform families about these opportunities, ensuring that everyone has access to accurate, clear and helpful information.

We would be very grateful if you could take 10 minutes to complete this short survey. Your responses will directly inform how we shape future information, resources, and support for families like yours. All responses will be kept confidential and will only be shared with the British Army.

Visit amapps.uk/army-survey to take the survey



EXPLORE HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are an exciting development in technical education. HTQs are new and existing level 4 and 5 qualifications that have been approved to deliver the skills employers need because they are high-quality and job-focused.
This series of informative webinars has been designed to help you find out more about HTQs in key sectors and areas of the country. Hear from HTQ providers, employers, students and the HTQ team at the Department for Education by joining as many of this series of webinars as you'd like.

BOOK NOW

Book your free place and catch up on recordings of all previous webinars here: amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-technical-qualifications-webinars/

Date and Time	Title and Description
Tuesday 1st July 2025 13:15-14:00	**HTQs in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough** Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.
Wednesday 2nd July 2025 13:15-14:00	**HTQs in London** Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in London.
Tuesday 8th July 2025 11:45-12:30	**HTQs in Yorkshire and the Humber** Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in Yorkshire and the Humber.
Wednesday 9th July 2025 13:15-14:00	**HTQs in the Clean Energy sector** Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the Clean Energy sector.
Thursday 10th July 2025 15:15-16:00	**HTQs in the Defence sector** Join this webinar to find out all about HTQs in the Defence sector.

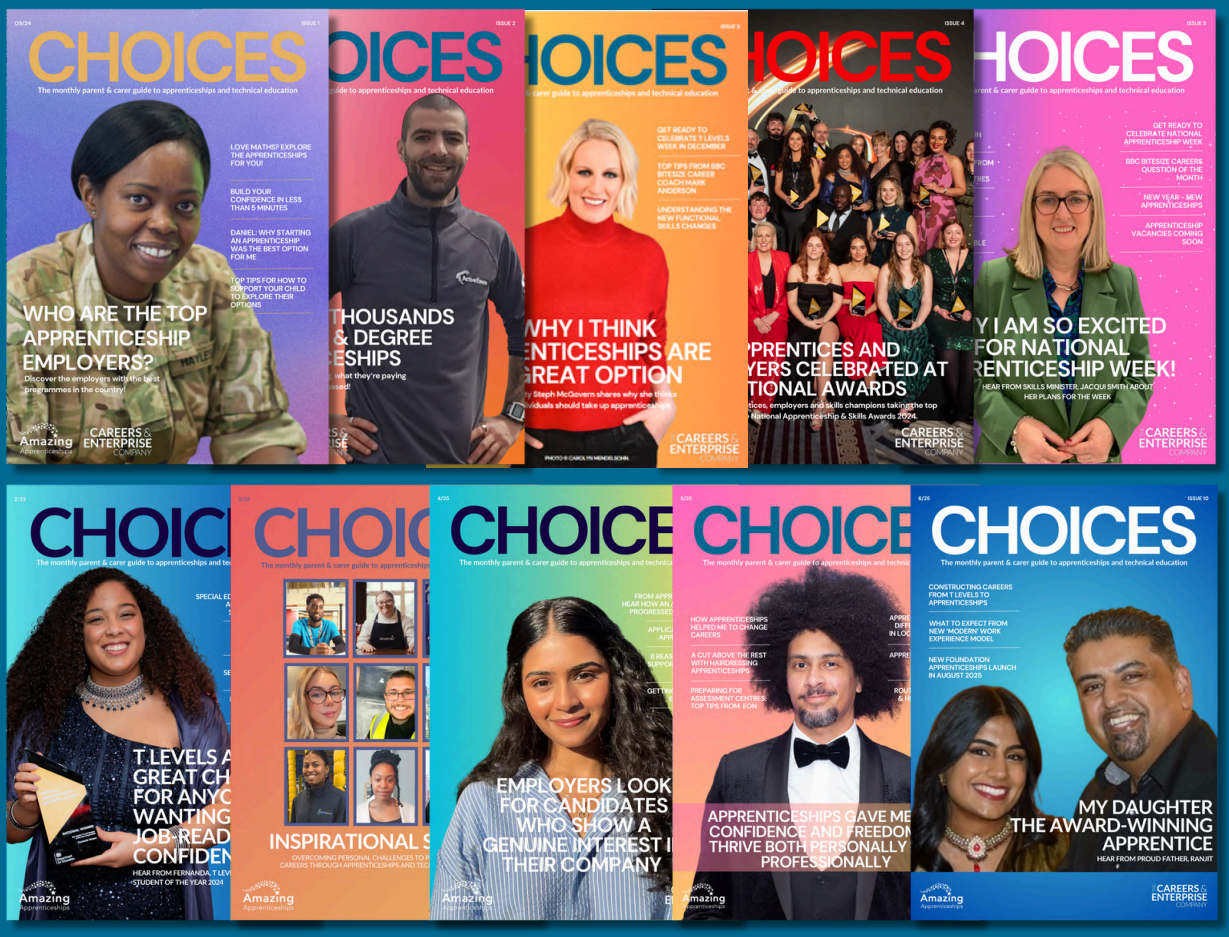
CATCH UP ON PREVIOUS HTQS WEBINARS

All the webinars in this series of 15 are recorded and can be found on the Amazing Apprenticeships' website.
Previous webinars available are:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Business & Finance
- Construction
- Digital and Technology
- East Midlands
- Life Sciences
- North West
- Tees Valley
- West Midlands
- West of England

Find out more about HTQs here: amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs

CATCH UP ON CHOICES



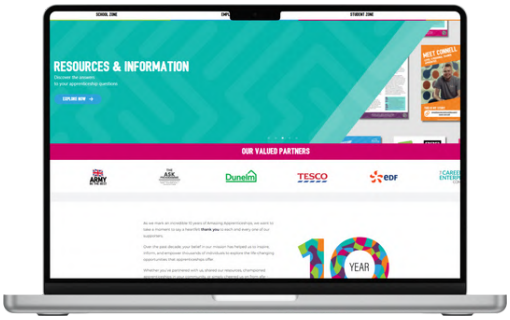
Find all previous editions of Choices here:
amapps.uk/parent-magazine

STAY UP TO DATE

VISIT THE AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS' WEBSITE

amazingapprenticeships.com

- Access a wide range of free resources
- Inspirational stories of real apprentices
- Advice from employers and experts
- Live vacancies



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