

# Careers Newsletter



ALDRIDGE EDUCATION  
**CONNECT**

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## Welcome to the First Aldridge Connect Careers Newsletter!

We're excited to launch our new Aldridge Connect Careers Newsletter, created to keep families informed and inspired as students explore their future pathways.

Through Aldridge Connect, we're placing careers education at the centre of our offer, helping every young person build the skills, confidence and opportunities they need. Whether your child is just starting to explore ideas or already planning ahead, we want you to feel supported at every stage.

Each month, we'll share:

- Opportunities
- Events
- Parent guidance on routes like apprenticeships and university

Preparing for the future can feel exciting and overwhelming, we're here to make it simpler and clearer for everyone.

Thank you for being part of our community. We're delighted to share this first issue and look forward to growing Aldridge Connect together.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

We recently celebrated National Apprenticeship Week, a nationwide celebration highlighting the positive impact apprenticeships have on individuals, employers and the wider economy.

#### WHAT ARE APPRENTICESHIPS?

Apprenticeships are real jobs with training, offering:

- Paid work
- Qualifications (GCSE to Master's level)
- Hands-on experience
- Training across 500+ sectors

They are not just for young people and not limited to trades. Careers include:

- Tech & digital
- Healthcare
- Finance & business
- Engineering
- Environment & sustainability
- ...and many more.

#### Key benefits:

- Earn while you learn (no student debt)
- 20% training time
- Increased employment and progression opportunities

### APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS

Level	Name	Equivalent
2	Foundation /Intermediate	GCSE
3	Advanced	A Level
4-5	Higher	HNC / HND/ first years of a degree
6-7	Degree / Master's	Batchelor's or Master's degree



## HOW LONG DO APPRENTICESHIPS TAKE?

The duration depends on the apprenticeship standard.

From 1 August 2025, some apprenticeships will have a new minimum length of 8 months.

Timeframes are agreed by the:

- Employer
- Apprentice
- Training provider

## NEW FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS (FROM AUGUST 2025)

Designed to support individuals progressing onto higher-level apprenticeships.

### Who are they for?

- Young people aged 16–21
- 15-year-olds (turning 16 between last Friday in June and 31 August)
- 22–24-year-olds with an EHCP

Features:

- Minimum 8-month duration
- Supportive pathway to the next apprenticeship level



## WHEN ARE APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE?

Apprenticeships are advertised all year round.

Peak recruitment periods: January → April

Most common time for roles starting in September.

Large employers (especially for higher and degree apprenticeships):

- Often run annual recruitment cycles
  - Vacancies typically appear September → March
- However, opportunities can appear any time of year, especially in public-sector roles or school-leaver programmes.

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES?

Most employers advertise on the government

Find an Apprenticeship service, but many use multiple platforms.

### Useful Websites

- [Find an Apprenticeship](#)
- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- [Higher & Degree Apprenticeship Listing – January 2026](#)
- [Not Going to Uni](#)

•[Higherin](#)

Many companies also advertise via:

- LinkedIn
- Job sites (e.g., Indeed)
- Their own websites and social media

## LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students can also check local FE colleges, which run their own apprenticeship programmes.

## PARENTS' APPRENTICESHIP ZONE

Parents and guardians can access guidance and support through the Amazing Apprenticeships Parents' Zone, available [here](#).



## HIGHLIGHTING CURRENT VACANCIES FOR NATIONAL COMPANIES

### EDF APPRENTICESHIPS

EDF offers national apprenticeship vacancies across areas such as Nuclear Engineering, Business Administration, Cyber Security and Environmental Management. A leading low-carbon energy provider, EDF supports clear progression and personalised career development. For Further information click [here](#).

### DUNELM APPRENTICESHIPS

Dunelm, the UK's number one homewares retailer, is passionate about helping people feel at home—both their customers and their colleagues. Their Early Careers team offers a range of apprenticeships across areas such as Retail, Supply Chain & Logistics, Buying and more. All apprentices learn and grow in a supportive environment while earning a fully funded qualification. For further information click [here](#).



## TESCO STRONGER STARTS RETAIL APPRENTICESHIP

Kick-start your career with a full-time retail role earning £23,662.08 (pro rata) while completing a Level 2 Retail qualification. After your 12-month apprenticeship (length varies based on contracted hours), you could even progress to Shift Leader.

All you need is drive and commitment — you'll gain hands-on experience, structured learning, and the support to grow.

### What the Role Involves

- 8–9 hour shifts, including weekends, early mornings and evenings
  - Physically active work with lifting
  - Independent working and problem-solving
  - Making a real difference to customers and your team
- Click [here](#).

## LONDON TRANSPORT APPRENTICESHIPS — NOW OPEN!

Exciting news! London Transport apprenticeships are now open, offering hands-on training, real industry experience and a fantastic pathway into one of the UK's most iconic transport networks.

Whether you're interested in engineering, customer service, technology, or keeping London moving behind the scenes, there's a programme to help you kick-start your career.

Be part of London's future Click [here](#) for more information.

## TOP AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to break into the automotive industry? GR8 Job has created a fantastic resource bringing together 13 of the top automotive apprenticeship programmes in the UK all in one easy document.

From engineering to vehicle maintenance, manufacturing to customer service, this guide helps you explore the opportunities that keep the motor industry moving. Click [here](#) to view the document.



## **FREE ONLINE CAREER WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS**

**Hosted by InvestIN — March 2026**

InvestIN is launching a brand-new series of free online career workshops designed to help students prepare for life after school.

Each session focuses on a high-demand career and is led by an industry professional who shares insider knowledge on what it takes to break into some of the world's most competitive fields.

Students will gain:

- Practical career tips
- Real industry insights
- A certificate of completion (great for future applications!)

Workshop Timetable – All Sessions at 6PM (UK Time)

[How to Become a Doctor](#) – 10th March

[How to Become a Lawyer](#) – 10th March

[How to Become an Engineer](#) – 11th March

[How to Become an Entrepreneur](#) – 11th March

[How to Become a Psychologist](#) – 12th March

[How to Become an Investment Banker](#) – 12th March

Click any workshop above to register, or sign up for all sessions [here](#).

## **Erasmus+ Exchange Programme Returning in 2027/28**

Big news for future students!

The government has confirmed that the UK will re-join the Erasmus+ student exchange programme, with participation set to begin again in the 2027/28 academic year.

### **What This Means**

Reassociating with Erasmus+ will bring back exciting opportunities for international study and cultural exchange, with an estimated 100,000 students and staff expected to benefit in the first year.

### **Why It Matters**

The UK left the scheme in 2020 after exiting the EU. Now, its return is being welcomed across the education sector. The Minister for Skills has said the move will:

“Open doors for thousands of students and staff across the country in universities, schools, colleges and adult education.”

Click [here](#) for more information



## **University of Brighton**

### **Student Funding & Finance Support Talks for University**

With Student finance opening on 23rd March 2026, prepare for university with a series of online funding and finance sessions hosted by the University of Brighton. These events help students and families understand how UK student finance works, with staff and current students available to answer questions live.

For Parents & Carers - Click [Here](#)

5 March

5.30–6.30pm

A dedicated session covering:

- How student loans work
- Repayments & interest rates
- Key costs to consider when starting university

For Students - Click [Here](#)

17 March

16 April

5–6pm

Understand everything from tuition fees to maintenance loans, budgeting, and the application process.

These sessions recognise that planning for higher education is often a family decision, and they provide clear, reliable guidance for anyone wanting to feel more confident about university finance.