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WELCOME

Welcome to our February issue of the Sunderland Digital Careers newsletter.

This year's National Apprenticeship Week took place between 6th-11th February. Each year, lots of businesses use this to celebrate apprentices and showcase what they have to offer.

This month we cover what an apprenticeship is, and even give you some hints and tips if it is something you would like to explore when you leave school.

We also have a career highlight of a mechanical engineer, where an apprenticeship can be a pathway into a job like this.

Finally, we introduce you to Tech Talent Engine, a fantastic tool to explore what different jobs and pathways into the sector can be. You can maybe give the skills quiz a try!

If you have any questions about the newsletter, please get in touch:

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WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeships are vocational educational routes where you train and develop your skills in real paid jobs while studying part-time at a college or university. Apprenticeships can present great alternatives to the traditional full-time study routes.

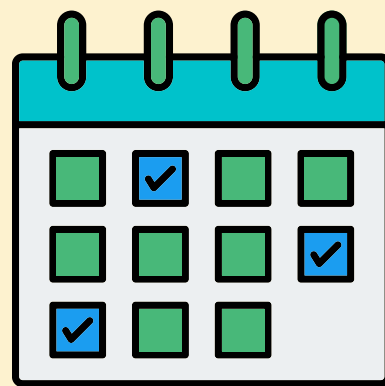
There are different types of apprenticeships:

Level 2 – Equivalent to GCSE level

Level 3 – Equivalent to A level

Level 4/5 – Equivalent to national diploma & foundation degree

Degree apprenticeships – Equivalent to full degree



TERM CALENDAR

Below are some exciting dates coming up in the next couple of months.

Resources and events are being planned for this and will be sent to your school, so watch this space!

**Monday 6th –
Saturday 11th March**
National Careers Week

Wednesday 8th March
International Women's Day
Panel

**Friday 10th – Sunday 19th
March**
British Science Week

Friday 21st April
Sunderland Digital Careers
Career Fair with Sunderland
College

APPRENTICESHIP BENEFITS

- Get paid to train for your chosen career!
- Develop the hands-on skills employers find valuable
- Learn the industry skills needed directly from employers
- Learn the theoretical knowledge with part time study
- You're on a career path from day 1!

TOP HINTS & TIPS

Don't be afraid to ask questions

Asking questions is a great way to gain insight and knowledge about any subject. Don't be afraid to ask organisations questions about their apprenticeship programmes to help inform your decisions!

Do your research

Spend time researching apprenticeships as well as the industry and the specific business that you would like to work for.



Pursue something you're passionate about

As with any qualification, apprenticeships require hard work and it's always easier to work hard on something you enjoy!



CAREER HIGHLIGHT: MECHANICAL ENGINEER

This month, we will be highlighting the career of a mechanical engineer, a profession with purposes that impact our everyday lives.

Mechanical engineering plays a huge role in manufacturing technologies such as cars, aeroplanes and refrigerators.

Day to day, mechanical engineers undertake a wide variety of tasks, depending on the project they may be working on. This can include:

- Research and development of products
- Design and implementation of equipment modifications
- Management of people
- Training of operators
- Management of projects

There is no set route into engineering or becoming a mechanical engineer. One route is through A-Levels, such as physics and maths and degrees in engineering.

Another could be pursuing apprenticeships (from Level 2) to build up your knowledge and skills whilst gaining experience, and a salary!



TechTalent Engine

The digital sector in the North East is growing, and there are some very exciting education and job opportunities out there - ready and waiting to be filled by you!

Tech Talent Engine is designed to bring together employers from all sectors, education providers and people who are looking for tech and digital roles.

You can take their skills quiz and find out which family you belong to in the tech world, and then quickly be shown opportunities that are tailored to you.

These job families are:

- Creative digital
- Data & Insights
- Digital communication
- Technology solutions
- IT operations
- User research & relationships

To take the quiz and create a profile, you do need to be 14 and over, however you can browse the website at any age.

Tech Talent Engine is a fantastic tool to unlock your future in the digital sector. Visit <https://techtalentengine.co.uk/> to find out more!

SOCIAL MEDIA

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For more information on digital/tech careers and additional information on anything featured in this month's newsletter, please contact: jessica.sawyers@sunderlandsoftwarecity.com