

Unlocking Apprenticeship Potential: A Guide for North East Schools and Colleges

Schools and colleges can struggle to navigate the apprenticeship landscape and understand the services available for their students. Research found that only 4% of Y12s, from a sample of 7500 learners in the region, recorded apprenticeships as an intended destination in the North East Combined Authority area.*

So, we've created this simple overview of the regionally funded organisations and FE providers that offer careers programme support. It includes the engaging activities they offer to help promote apprenticeships as a visible and viable progression pathway.

The ASK Programme



Fully funded by the Department for Education, the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges (ASK) programme provides schools and colleges with free resources to transform how students, teachers, and parents think about apprenticeships.

Audience(s): Years 10, 11, Post-16, SEND and Alternate Provision

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Apprenticeship awareness presentations – full year assemblies, class workshops, careers fairs, parent sessions
- 1:1 apprenticeship advice sessions
- Guidance on finding vacancies and registering for updates
- Assistance with applications and using the Find an Apprenticeship website
- Mock interviews and apprenticeship assessment centre experiences with employers
- Teacher CPD support

Contact: Visit the [ASK programme website](#) or get in touch with the ASK team to book your session:
donna.mills@bl-training.co.uk or caron.smith@bl-training.co.uk

DWP



The DWP offer employability sessions to young people and support them in the move from education into the World of Work.

Audience(s): Years 7, 8, 9 10,11, Post-16, SEND and Alternate Provision

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Apprenticeship awareness presentations – full year assemblies, class workshops, careers fairs, parent sessions
- 1:1 apprenticeship advice sessions
- Access to online apprenticeship training and/or resources
- Guidance on finding vacancies and registering for updates
- Assistance with applications and using the Find an Apprenticeship website and UCAS Apprenticeship Hub
- Mock interviews and apprenticeship assessment centre experiences with employers

Contact:

Get in touch with the adviser in your area to book your session.

Northumberland - claire.angus@dwp.gov.uk

North Tyneside - melissa.laverick@dwp.gov.uk

South Tyneside and Sunderland - richard.adams2@dwp.gov.uk

Newcastle and Gateshead - stephen.tough1@dwp.gov.uk

Durham - beth.sinclair@dwp.gov.uk

FutureMe



The FutureMe Programme supports learners to understand and make informed decisions about higher education.

Audience(s): Year 11 and Post-16

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- In-person assembly sessions and interactive workshops
- Live webinars
- Pre-recorded sessions
- HE campus visits

Contact: Email info@futureme.ac.uk to find out more.

National Careers Service (NCS)



The National Careers Service offers independent and impartial careers advice and guidance which includes a detailed understanding of the apprenticeship offer.

Audience(s): Years 8, 9 10,11, Post-16 and SEND

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Delivery of impartial CEIAG on a 1:1 telephone session / webchat / face to face meeting
- Participation in webinars or group sessions
- Support with off-site visits
- Signposting towards specialist resources and support
- Individual guidance appointments, either online or at a local venue

Please note: The offer to 13–19-year-olds is via telephone and webchat. The offer to 18 NEET and 19+ is telephone, webchat, face to face 1:1, groups and virtual groups.

Contact: Visit the [NCS website](#) or call 0800 100 900.

North East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (NEAAN)



NEAAN is a network of North East apprentice employers and both current and past apprentices who share their stories to inspire others.

Audience(s): Years 7, 8, 9 10,11, Post-16, SEND and Alternate Provision

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Apprenticeship awareness presentations – full year assemblies, class workshops, careers fairs, parent sessions
- 1:1 meetings
- Support with off-site visits
- Work experience

Contact: Visit the [NEAAN website](#) or email Hello@NEAAN.org.uk.

North East Combined Authority



Through the North East Ambition programme, the Combined Authority supports North East schools and colleges to enhance their careers programmes and achieve all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks.

Audience(s): Years 7, 8, 9 10,11, Post-16, SEND and Alternate Provision

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- 1:1 meetings with Careers Leaders to support with the planning and delivery of high quality career plans which include technical education pathways
- Access to presentations to help you promote technical education pathways, including apprenticeships to your colleagues, Senior Leadership colleagues and governors
- Access to CPD opportunities and resources to help improve your knowledge and understanding of apprenticeships to share with colleagues, students and parents/carers
- Connect you to employers and providers to increase visibility of apprenticeships across your school or college

Contact: Visit the [North East Ambition website](#) or the [Early Connect webpage](#) or email goodcareers@northeast-ca.gov.uk.

Sunderland College and Northumberland College



The College offers over 40 apprenticeship standards across a wide variety of sectors. Our Apprenticeship Recruitment Officer can promote apprenticeship and offer impartial advice on all apprenticeships – including those we don't deliver.

Audience(s): Any school or academy in the North East, Year 7 upwards

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Advice and guidance on apprenticeships
- How to apply for an Apprenticeship
- Our current employer apprenticeship vacancies

Contact:

Paige Crossley Grozier,
Apprenticeship Recruitment and Engagement Officer
paige.crossleygrozier@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk

Newcastle College



Apprenticeship advice and guidance, including current offer, entry requirements, where to apply and support offered during the process.

Audience(s): Support for Year 9 – Year 13 working with all schools across the region

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Careers Events
- Parents Evenings
- Assemblies
- Presentations in the classroom
- Visits to college.
- Drop-in sessions in school (Large or small groups)

Contact:

education.partnerships@ncl-coll.ac.uk

Gateshead College



We will introduce learners to the National Apprenticeship website, help their understanding of what an apprenticeship is and the benefits of studying one. We will also introduce learners to our award-winning Plan BEE Higher Apprenticeship offer.

Audience(s): Our Apprenticeship Awareness workshops: Year 10 /11. 'Making choices' workshop: Year 9 and below.

Delivery: Face to face preferred. Virtual at request. The college can support with transport, cost-dependent.

Activities on offer:

- Presentation of what is an apprenticeships and their benefits (assembly and workshop format)
- How to find and apply for an apprenticeship (Delivered in workshops and preferably in IT classroom)
- Do's and Don'ts – what makes a good application for an apprenticeship (workshop)
- A week in the life of an apprentice (campus visit). Learn what it's like to be an apprentice at one of our Team Valley campuses

Contact:

Scott Brown, Student Recruitment and Engagement Manager
Scott.brown@gateshead.ac.uk, 0191 4902411

or apprenticeships@gateshead.ac.uk
or StudentRecruitmentEngagement@gateshead.ac.uk

East Durham College



Our school liaison outreach offers apprenticeship myth busting workshops, search and apply sessions and mock assessment centre experience days.

Audience(s): Key Stage 2 upwards

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Assemblies
- Small groups
- Careers events
- Special programmes (land based)
- Apprenticeship events at both Willerby Grove & Houghall
- Immersion events

Contact: Apprenticeships@eastdurham.ac.uk

New College Durham



We deliver a range of activities and events to schools about our Apprenticeship offer to raise awareness of opportunities and support available.

Audience(s): All Durham Schools Year 9 upwards

Delivery: Face to face

Activities on offer:

- Apprenticeship assembly talks – understanding what apprenticeships are, the fundamentals and how to get live updates from our website. How to secure apprenticeships and working with employers
- Apprenticeship workshops – discuss the College offer, apprenticeship quiz and understanding the 'find an apprenticeship website'

Contact:

Fran Tinti, School Engagement Coordinator
Fran.tinti@newdur.ac.uk, 0191 3754187

Derwentside College



Derwentside College provides an excellent opportunity to balance work and study through a wide range of apprenticeship programmes.

Audience(s): Year 10 – Year 13

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Delivery of impartial Advice & Guidance
- Apprenticeship awareness
- Presentations assemblies (group or full year)
- Guidance on finding vacancies
- How to register with gov.uk for updates
- Assistance with applications
- Apprenticeship fairs / meet the employer

Contact:

Careers Team

Claire Young claire.young@derwentside.ac.uk
Mary Stokoe mary.stokoe@derwentside.ac.uk
01207 585900

Learner Recruitment Team

apprenticeships@derwentside.ac.uk 01207 585914

Tyne Coast College



Our school liaison outreach offers apprenticeship myth busting workshops, search and apply sessions and mock assessment centre experience days.

Audience(s): Key Stage 2 upwards

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Search and Apply Workshops (Year 11 and 13)
- Myth Busting Apprenticeship assemblies (KS2 - KS5)
- Search and Apply 1-1 support (Year 11 and 13)
- Mock Assessment Centre (Year 11 and 13)

Contact:

Sandie Best, Recruitment Manager: Careers and School Liaison, sandie.best@tynecoast.ac.uk, 0191 2295208

Bishop Auckland College



Bishop Auckland College Group provide schools with a range of activities to help students understand apprenticeships and the world of work, whilst gaining valuable industry insights and experience in various sectors.

Audience(s): Year 7 – Year 13, SEND and Alternative Provision

Delivery: Face to face / Virtual

Activities on offer:

- Apprenticeship awareness presentations – assemblies, class workshops
- Career Masterclasses in subject sectors
- 1:1 IAG and support with apprenticeship applications
- Mock interview sessions
- Parent/Carer information sessions
- Careers Fairs

Contact:

Rebecca Macdonald, Schools Liaison Officer
rebecca.macdonald@bacoll.ac.uk

Jennifer Phillips, Head of Community and Careers
jennifer.phillips@bacoll.ac.uk

Julie Vincent, Director of Apprenticeships and Employment Services
julie.vincent@bacoll.ac.uk