

# IS AN APPRENTICESHIP RIGHT FOR MY CHILD?

## A Parent & Guardian Decision-Support Toolkit

Every young person is different, and there's no single "right" path. Apprenticeships are one of several well-respected post-16 and post-18 options, combining paid work, structured training and recognised qualifications.

This toolkit is designed to help you reflect, ask the right questions, and support your child in making a confident, informed decision - without pressure or judgement.

**Over 353,000** apprenticeships were started  
in England in 2024/25. *(House of Commons Library)*



## Apprenticeships often suit people who:

- Enjoy learning by doing, not just classroom study
- Like structure, routine and clear expectations
- Feel motivated by earning while training
- Can balance work responsibilities with study
- Have an interest in a specific sector or career
- Value gaining real experience alongside qualifications



If this sounds like your child, an apprenticeship could be worth exploring further.

## Understanding the different pathways

Apprenticeship levels (at a glance)

Level	Equivalent to	Good to know
Level 2 - Intermediate	GCSEs	Great starting point post-16
Level 3 - Advanced	A Levels	Most school leavers start here
Level 4/5 - Higher	Foundation Degree	Step up after A Levels
Level 6 - Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Same as university - debt free
Level 7 - Masters	Master's Degree	Postgraduate level

After GCSEs or A Levels	What it can lead to
Apprenticeship (Level 2–3)	Employment > higher apprenticeship or promotion
Apprenticeship (Level 4–6)	Degree-level qualification with no tuition fees
College / Sixth Form	Apprenticeship or university
University	Graduate employment or apprenticeship

# Did you know...

- ✓ Apprentices earn a wage from day one, alongside training
- ✓ No tuition fees for apprentices
- ✓ Paid holidays and employment rights apply
- ✓ Many apprentices increase earnings over time as skills and responsibility grow

For many families, this combination of **income + experience + qualifications** is a key consideration.



## Opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire

Apprenticeships span a wide range of modern careers:

**Digital & Technology**



**Engineering & Manufacturing**



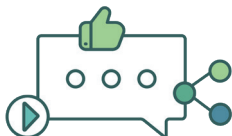
**Health & Social Care**



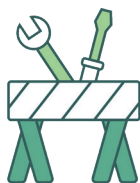
**Agri-food & Environment**



**Creative & Marketing**



**Construction**



**Business & Finance**



**Education & Public Sector**



**88% of apprentices say it improved their career prospects.**

*(House of Commons Library)*



## Myth vs Fact

**Myth:** Apprenticeships are only for non-academic students

**Fact:** Apprenticeships range from Level 2 (GCSE level) right up to degree and higher-degree levels, including professional and technical careers.



**Myth:** Apprenticeship pay is always very low

**Fact:** Pay varies widely. Some apprentices start on lower wages, but many earn significantly more as they progress, with no student debt.

**Myth:** Apprenticeships limit future options

**Fact:** Apprentices can progress to higher apprenticeships, move roles within their sector, or continue into further study later on.



## Want to explore further?

Try this short conversation with your child:

- What kind of environment do you enjoy learning in?
- Do you like the idea of earning while you learn?
- What careers or industries interest you right now?

Even a **10-minute chat** can help clarify whether this pathway feels right to explore.

For more detailed guidance on apprenticeships, applications and progression, see the **Parent & Guardian Guide To Apprenticeships.**

[Click here](#) 

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