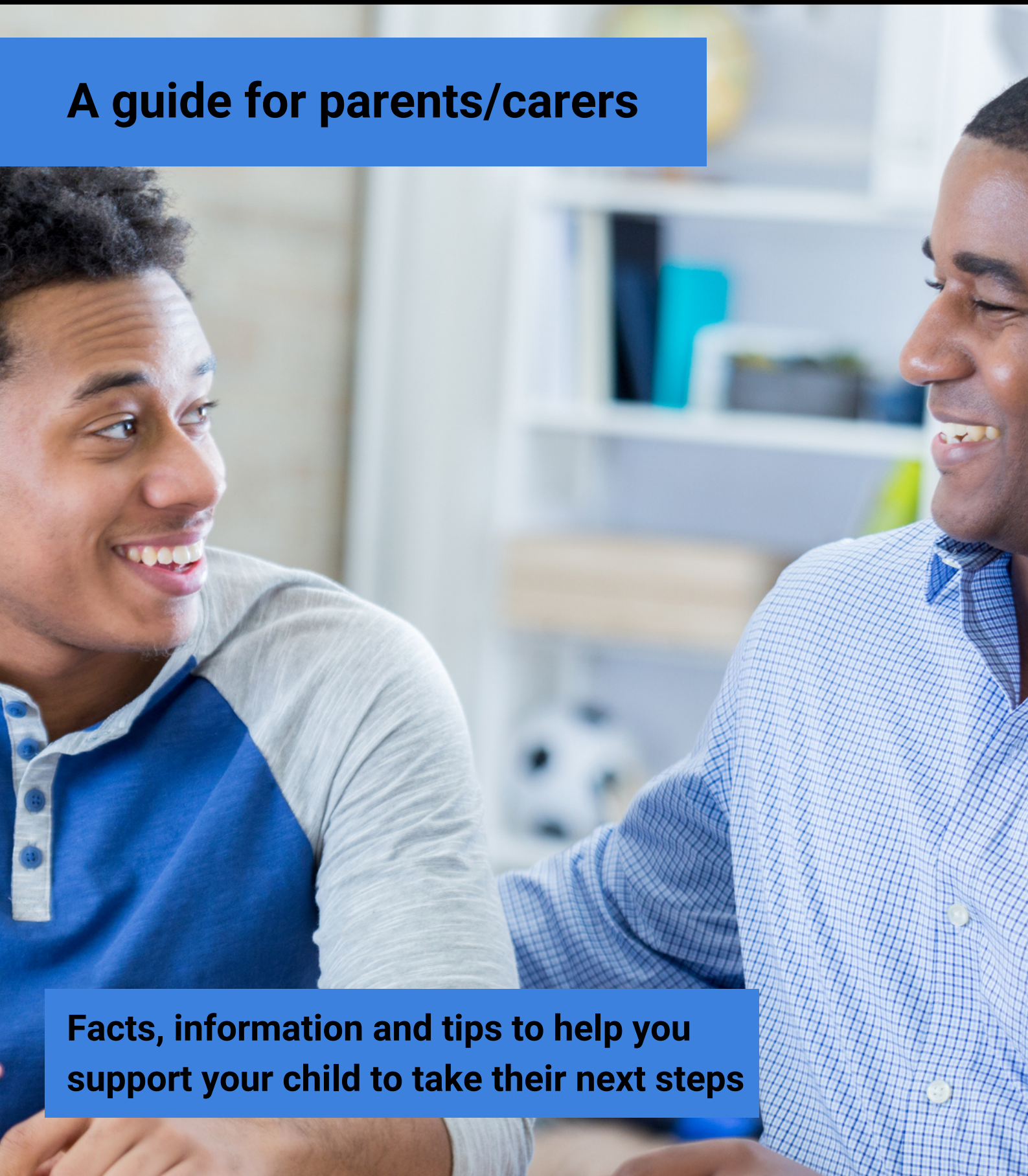


Apprenticeships & Technical Education in West Yorkshire

A guide for parents/carers

**Facts, information and tips to help you
support your child to take their next steps**





Supporting your child

Where to start

Build your knowledge

In this guide, you will find lots of useful information to help you understand the technical education options available to your child when they finish school or college, as well as useful links to websites where you can go to find out more and explore helpful hints and tips.

Below, we share 5 top tips for parents and carers who are supporting their child to explore apprenticeships and technical education options.

5 tips for parents and carers

- 1** **Be open-minded.** Technical education has changed a great deal and there are a range of opportunities that your child may now like to explore. Try to put aside any preconceptions and be open to finding out about all the options.
- 2** **Use available support.** There are lots of tools at your disposal to research what is out there for your child - their school/college, company websites, careers websites, social media, podcasts, webinars...there is so much to support you!
- 3** **Don't expect your child to know what they want to do.** We know that many young people don't know yet what they want to do or may not have discovered the range of careers available.
- 4** **Think about how your child learns.** You know your child and what makes them tick. Consider how they might learn best and whether a technical or academic course might be best for them.
- 5** **Hear from other young people.** Try to arrange to visit or attend open days at schools and colleges that run courses your child is interested in and talk to current students to get up-to-date information and opinions.

Apprenticeships overview

Understanding apprenticeships

What are apprenticeships?

An apprenticeship is a real job with a real employer where your child will work, earn a salary and gain valuable and practical experience whilst studying.

As an apprentice, your child will:

- be employed.
- work alongside experienced colleagues.
- spend roughly 6 hours per week undertaking off-the-job learning.
- complete assessments during and at the end of their apprenticeship.

What apprenticeships are available?

There are over 600 different apprenticeships across a range of levels and sectors, from engineering to digital, IT health, creative, design, science, education, sport & fitness, business, hospitality and many more!

What are the different apprenticeship levels?

Apprenticeships are available from Level 2 (which is equivalent to GCSEs) right up to Level 7 (which is equivalent to a Master's degree), so your child can even achieve a degree through an apprenticeship! Which level your child should do will depend on the role and sector.

Who can do an apprenticeship?

Anyone over the age of 16 who is living in England and not already in education. There is no upper age limit for an apprenticeship and they are a great way to upskill during your career or to help you change career.

How long do apprenticeships take?

Apprenticeships are a minimum of 1 year, with most taking typically between 1-6 years to complete, depending on the level.

Do apprentices pay for their training?

No, apprentices do not pay towards their training, all costs are covered by the employer and/or the Government.

How does the learning element work?

Off-the-job learning is facilitated by a training provider, which could be a college, independent training provider or university. They ensure that an apprentice does all the necessary learning to complete their apprenticeship, which could be done in person or online. There are lots of different ways the learning is provided; sometimes one day a week, sometimes as less frequent longer blocks.

Why is an apprenticeship a good choice?

If your child is keen to start working and earning their own money, but also wants to gain qualifications and experience at the same time, an apprenticeship is a great choice. An apprentice learns from their colleagues in a real workplace whilst earning a salary, and being paid to learn!

T Levels overview

Understanding T Levels

What are T Levels?

T Levels are a two-year qualification that your child can do as an alternative to A-levels or other post-16 courses once they have finished their GCSEs.

As a T Level student, your child will:

- study one subject.
- spend 80% of their time in a learning environment (e.g. a classroom) and 20% in an industry placement with an employer.

What T Levels are available?

T Levels are available in more than 20 subjects, ranging from construction, legal services, healthcare science, engineering and more. You can find out more about the different subjects here:

www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/subjects

Who can do a T Level?

T Levels are for 16-19 year olds who have completed their GCSEs. Schools and colleges set their own entry requirements and students who haven't achieved grade 4 maths and English at GCSE will work towards them alongside their T Level.

What if my child isn't ready to do a T Level yet?

If your child isn't ready to do a T Level yet, the one year T Level Transition Programme can help support them to prepare.

What are the benefits of completing a T Level?

T Levels were designed with leading businesses, so they give students all the workplace skills they need to succeed, plus the industry placement gives them real experience and knowledge of the industry they want to work in.

How do you find and apply for T Levels?

Visit the T Levels website to find your nearest school or college who are delivering T Levels.

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find>

Find out more about apprenticeships and T Levels

You can find lots of useful resources and information about apprenticeships and T Levels at:

www.amazingapprenticeships.com



Visit the website





HTQs and IoTs overview

Understanding HTQs and Institutes of Technology

What are HTQs?

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are level 4 and 5 qualifications (equivalent to the first/second year of a university degree) that are an alternative to apprenticeships and degrees. They are aimed at students over 18 who want to study a subject to prepare them for skilled jobs.

As a HTQ student, your child will:

- study at a college, university, independent training provider or Institute of Technology for 1-2 years.
- study full or part-time with practical workshops and elements built into the course to help them to develop practical skills for the workplace.

How do HTQs link to technical education?

HTQs have been designed with employers to ensure students develop the knowledge and skills that employers want, through the courses and practical workshops.

How much do HTQs cost?

Tuition fees vary depending on the course, but HTQs are likely to cost from around £7,000 - £9,250 a year for a 1 or 2 year course. Your child may be eligible for support through student finance or a scholarship, grant or bursary.

What course subjects are available?

HTQs are a new qualification so at the moment only digital HTQs are being taught in a variety of subjects leading to roles such as network engineer, software developer and data analyst. New HTQs in construction and health and science will be available from September 2023.

What are Institutes of Technology?

Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are collaborations between further education providers (such as colleges), universities and employers. They specialise in delivering higher technical education courses (mainly at levels 4 & 5) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sectors.

They offer a wide range of technical courses across sectors such as digital, manufacturing, engineering and construction.

Find out more about Institutes of Technology and find one near you here: www.institutesoftechnology.org.uk

ATE in West Yorkshire

Opportunities available locally
in West Yorkshire

Opportunities in West Yorkshire

There are a range of apprenticeship opportunities in West Yorkshire, in sectors such as:



Find out more about apprenticeships in West Yorkshire

See what apprenticeships are available in West Yorkshire by
visiting the Future Goals website: www.futuregoals.co.uk



FUTUREGOALS

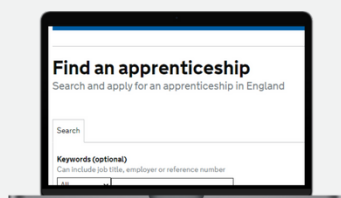
Visit the website

Finding apprenticeships

How to find local vacancies

Searching for vacancies

Apprenticeships will be advertised in different places, depending on the systems and platforms that the employer chooses to use. The most typical places that you will find apprenticeship job vacancies are:



Find an apprenticeship

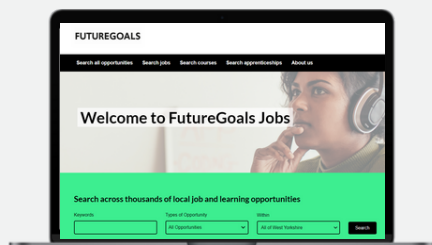
Find an apprenticeship is the government website where thousands of apprenticeships are advertised. It is free to set up an account and your child can use the system to search and apply for apprenticeships. It only shows live jobs, so they can also set up alerts to be notified when new vacancies are added.

Visit: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



Employer websites

Some employers will use their own website to advertise their vacancies and will often have a dedicated page set up for their apprenticeship programmes. Your child may be required to set up an account through their website to manage their application, but others may provide instructions on how to submit the application. It's important your child does their research.



FutureGoals Jobs

FutureGoals Jobs aims to help people in West Yorkshire easily find job vacancies, apprenticeships, and other training opportunities in their area.

<https://futuregoalsjobs.co.uk/>





Applying for apprenticeships

Supporting your child to apply

Understanding the application process

Applying for an apprenticeships position may feel more familiar to parents and carers, because most people have experienced first-hand applying for a job, or at least understand the process if they've never gone through it themselves. Because apprenticeships are real jobs, the application process is similar to applying for any other job.

Important things to note are:

-  The timing of application processes will vary between different employers. Some could start recruiting as early as a year before they want the apprentice to start, others will have a shorter recruitment window, so it's important your child does their research, sets up alerts, and keeps on top of deadlines.
-  Applying for an apprenticeship will normally be just like applying for any other job, with different application and interview processes used by different employers.
-  There may be steps in the process that are unfamiliar to you, such as assessment centres and online testing, so it is important to understand what these involve.
-  To help your child with applying, Amazing Apprenticeships have created a free step-by-step guide to applying for an apprenticeship, packed with hints and tips for the whole application process.



Visit the website

You can download the guide here:
<https://tinyurl.com/yn922nuz>



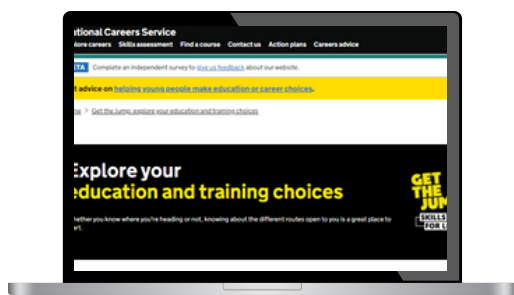
Further support

Resources and information available



Where to get further support

There is lots of support available to help you and your child make an informed decision about their next steps.



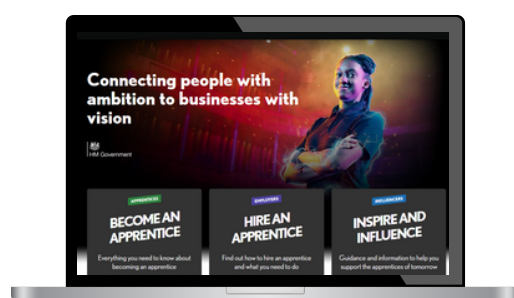
Visit the National Careers Service website
<https://tinyurl.com/bdejawcx>

National Careers Service



Speak to the careers adviser at
your child's school / college

School/college



Visit the Government website
www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Apprenticeships website



Visit the UCAS website
ucas.com/apprenticeships

UCAS

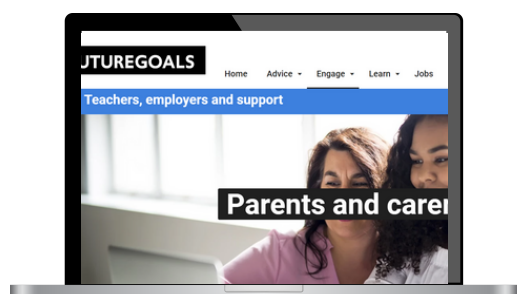
Further support

Resources and information available



Resources for parents and carers

There are lots of resources and support available to help you in supporting your child to make an informed decision about their next steps.



Visit the Parents and Carers area
www.futuregoals.co.uk

Future Goals

The Future Goals website has a parent and carer of their website with a range of online and downloadable resources, which will help you to support your child in learning about the local job market, developing key skills, and preparing for their futures.



Visit Amazing Apprenticeships
www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Amazing Apprenticeships

Amazing Apprenticeships have created a wide range of resources to support parents and carers, including:

- guides and factsheets
- 'Rapid Reads' on a variety of topics
- webinars
- The Parent Perspective podcast
- films

and much more!