

Careers Newsletter for Families

South East
Midlands
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

SEMLEP
South East Midlands
Local Enterprise Partnership

Inspire.
Prepare.
Succeed.

April 2024

For many of your young people external exams are fast approaching and some of them might still be considering their next steps. In this edition we highlight some current technical and vocational pathways available to young people, and their families, in the region. Apprenticeships, T-Levels and traineeships are part of the government agenda to address the skills gap identified by employers and businesses. For young people looking for work experience there are some in-person and virtual opportunities highlighted in this newsletter, along with advice on how you can support them in seeking opportunities.

You can find more information on the South East Midlands Careers Hub on our [website](#)

Universal Destinations & Experiences is exploring bringing a potential new theme park and resort experience to the UK.

They have spent the last several months undertaking feasibility and due diligence work as well as discussing the project with local and national stakeholders. It will still be some time before any decisions are made on whether or not to proceed with the project, however they are keen to share their proposal with local communities.

Further details can be found [here](#) including details of their second public event taking place at Bedford College, Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) building, Cauldwell Street, MK42 9AH on Tuesday 16/04 from 16.30 – 20.00 and the opportunity to offer feedback via a questionnaire

Does your employer support volunteering days?

You can get involved with the work of the South East Midlands Careers Hub in several ways:

- Give an Hour – to support one-off events like careers fairs or mock interview days.
- Become an Enterprise Adviser and commit to an on-going relationship with a school to support them with the strategic development of their careers programme.
- Ask your employer to offer work experience, work shadowing or employer visits for local young people
- More details [here](#)

Employers on our Doorstep

Dr Martens has been a key Northamptonshire business since the 1960s. Each year the factory in Wollaston recruits apprentices to be part of what is now a major international fashion brand. The current application window is now open for the [Footwear Production Apprenticeship](#)

Successful applicants to the apprenticeship programme will learn the DM's Production process from start to finish. On successful completion of the 15-month apprenticeship you'll be qualified to work as a footwear operative within the factory. DMs ask that you're friendly with great communication skills, eager to learn, have a passion for making things and above all, for Dr Martens.

Apprenticeships

Across the region there are some fantastic apprenticeship vacancies. Search according to postcode, and set your preferred distance, at www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk Some recent highlights include these local opportunities:

Level 3 Diploma Veterinary Nursing [New Lodge Veterinary Centre, Oundle](#)

Level 2 Pharmacy Assistant [Mahesh Bhatt Limited, Bedford](#)

Level 6 (BEng) Civil Engineering [Bellway Homes Ltd](#)

Level 3 Business Administration [Moxy Hotel, Milton Keynes](#)

Level 3 Multi-channel Marketer [Global Exposure Ltd, Milton Keynes](#)

Supporting your child to find a work experience placement

Finding a work experience placement can be a valuable opportunity for young people to explore their interests and gain insight into potential career paths. Here's some guidance for families to assist their child in securing such an experience:

Networking: Use your own network and reach out to friends, family, and colleagues who might have connections in the industry your child is interested in. Networking can often open doors to opportunities that may not be advertised publicly.

Online Platforms: Explore online platforms dedicated to connecting students with work experience opportunities, such as Springpod, Plotr, or Indeed.

School Resources: Contact your child's school career advisor or work experience coordinator. Many schools have established relationships with local businesses and may be able to facilitate placements or provide guidance on how to secure one.

Direct Approach: Encourage your child to directly contact companies they are interested in. They can send a polite email or make a phone call expressing their interest in gaining work experience and inquiring about any available opportunities.

Volunteering: Sometimes, volunteering for a short period can lead to valuable work experience opportunities. Encourage your child to look into volunteering roles within their chosen industry.

Parent and carer resources for young people going to university.

If you are supporting a young person with university choices or applications then you, as a parent or guardian, have a huge influence on them. Students have huge decisions ahead of them when thinking about university - and they are likely to need your help with exploring them. These may include: Do they want to go to university? Which university do they want to attend? Which subject do they want to study? Then, those answers may lead to more questions: What is involved in their university application? How do they write a personal statement? How does student finance work? Where will they live? What support is available at university?

[Unitaster Days](#) can help with the answers:

- [Search university events for students and/or parents to experience university](#) such as open days and taster days listed by universities UK-wide.
- Watch impartial [on demand webinars](#) – introducing a huge range of university subjects. Covering what to expect, careers, applications and more. From Accounting to Zoology - and 100s of subjects in between!
- Listen to the parent podcast, providing listeners with cutting edge and up-to-date information and conversations to provide excellent support to those considering university. Without the jargon and from the lived experience of everyone involved in the process.
- Download the [Parents' Guide to University brochure](#). Which includes the key higher education facts for parents and guardians – and features editorial from over 40 expert practitioners.
- Prepare the person you are supporting with what happens next by [reading advice blogs](#), with the content provided by university experts.

T levels *The next level* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBGVopFzq5M>

T Levels are a new type of vocational qualification in England designed for 16-19-year-olds. They are two-year courses that combine classroom learning with on-the-job experience, and they are intended to provide young people with the skills and knowledge they need to progress into skilled employment or higher education.

Each T Level is equivalent to three A Levels, and they are designed to meet the needs of specific industries. The courses include a mix of classroom-based learning, practical training, and a substantial industry placement with an employer. Students spend 80% of the course in college and 20% in work.

The local offer can be found here:

<https://www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk/school-leavers/t-levels>
<https://bedfordcollegelgroup.ac.uk/study/school-leavers/tlevels/>
<https://mkcollege.ac.uk/school-leavers/t-levels/>