

Derbyshire businesses invited to take on an Apprentice

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In the week thousands of Derbyshire young people receive their GCSE results, businesses in the county are being sent a 'golden ticket' to invite them to take on an apprentice whose training is funded by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS).

Research by the NAS shows there are thousands of potential apprentices keen to enter the world of work in a wide variety of roles. Many want to open the door to the office and step inside the world of business. And employers can find the right apprentice online, using the free Apprenticeship Vacancies service to search the candidates looking for an Apprenticeship or by posting details of the opportunity they are offering.

With many companies in Derbyshire needing well qualified, experienced staff to help them run successfully, the large numbers of young people applying for an Apprenticeship to develop business skills is promising news.

Karen Woodward, Regional Director of the National Apprenticeship Service in the East Midlands, said:

"In these difficult times, Derbyshire employers are increasing realising the business benefits of taking on an apprentice and their investment in Apprenticeships is repaid many times over through increased productivity, minimised staff turnover and higher quality work being produced. With the introduction of the Apprenticeship vacancies online service, which is free to use, we're making it even easier for employers to find an apprentice."

Analysis of people registered on *Apprenticeship vacancies*, the online matching service, shows the most popular sector for potential apprentices is Business Administration. This sector includes jobs such as Accountancy, Business and Administration and Customer Service and has seen more than 40% of the 50,000 applications nationally to date.

The pool of candidates on the system highlights the depth in talent of young people. 54% of those registered are 16-18 year olds and all are looking to start working in one of the 180 job roles in which Apprenticeships exist. The most popular sectors for potential apprentices are Business Administration and Law (40%), Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (including job roles as diverse as Rail operations, Gas industry and Metals processing - 30%) and Retail and Commercial Enterprise (including hospitality, hairdressing and property services - 9%).

Apprenticeship vacancies (www.apprenticeships.org.uk), where all these young people are registered, is a quick, easy and reliable 'one-stop shop' where employers can advertise vacancies for free and individuals can search and apply for Apprenticeship places. Since its launch in January 2009, over 100,000 young people have registered on the system.

To help match these talented young people with Apprenticeships, the NAS is currently contacting thousands of employers, sending them a Golden Ticket, highlighting the talents that young people can bring to an organisation and the business benefits they provide to a company. They are also making employers aware that whenever a 16 -18 year old is taken on as an Apprentice, the NAS will fund their training.

Iain Wright, Apprenticeship Minister at the Department for Children, Schools and Families said:

“With this week’s GCSE results, thousands of talented and enthusiastic young people are looking for a good job with training. Apprenticeships provide a direct route from which employers can harness this pool of talent as well as ensuring that skills and experience are retained within their business. We are particularly pleased to see just how many young people are keen to put their talent to use in the business world by applying for Apprenticeships to learn these vital skills.”

“Last month, the Government launched ‘Backing Young Britain’ - a major drive to help young people access training and job opportunities over the coming months. UK business will be the Government’s key partner in creating jobs, Apprenticeships, and a whole host of work experience and training opportunities. That’s why we are supporting employers to recruit more young people by funding the training costs, providing advice to employers and providing the online matching service, Apprenticeship vacancies.”

Simon Waugh, Chief Executive at the National Apprenticeship Service, says:

“The single biggest asset a business has at its disposal is the loyalty and talent of its staff. However, this isn’t something that can be bought or developed overnight. It takes time and commitment from the employer to invest in staff development.”

Employers interested in taking on an apprentice should call the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600 or visiting www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

Ends

Contact:

Andy Gilgrist at House PR on andy@housepr.co.uk or call 07989 562517

National Apprenticeship Service

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) was launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the service drives forward the Government’s ambition for Apprenticeships, aiming to bring about significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.

The NAS has total responsibility for the delivery of Apprenticeships including Employer Services, Learner Services, and Apprenticeship vacancies online. This online system enables individuals to search and apply for apprenticeship vacancies and allows employers, and their training providers, to advertise their vacancies to a wide range of interested applicants.