

## Press Release

### Young people widening their options with Apprenticeships

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**As thousands of young people across the South West wait for their GCSE results, many are increasingly turning to Apprenticeships to launch their careers as engineers, dental technicians, beauty therapists and even as quality assurance testers in the games industry.**

Of the 100,000 young people registered with *Apprenticeship vacancies*, the online system that matches people with prospective employers, 54 per cent are aged 16-18. Managed by the National Apprenticeship Service, opportunities are available ranging from IT and Travel and Tourism to Animal Care and Sporting Excellence.

*Apprenticeship vacancies* is a quick, easy and reliable 'one stop shop' where young people can search and apply for Apprenticeship places. All places advertised on the system are real jobs that come with training and since its launch in January 2009, over 100,000 young people have registered on the system.

Young people (those aged 16-18) who find an Apprenticeship will have their training paid for by the Government. They can sign up to *Apprenticeship vacancies* by following five simple steps:

1. Go to the Apprenticeships home page [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
2. Click the 'Search for vacancies' link in the 'Apprenticeship vacancies' box on the home page.
3. Click the 'Register now' link under 'New User?' and fill in your details. Create a username and password.
4. A confirmation email will be sent to you. Click on the link in the email to activate your account. This link opens a window to your 'My Home' page. 'My Home' page is your own secure space.
5. Search for Apprenticeships that match your interests. Once you've found the Apprenticeship you want, use the simple, secure and reusable application form.

John Chudley, South West Regional Director at the National Apprenticeship Service, says:

*"It is encouraging to see such a healthy appetite for Apprenticeships among young people. Apprenticeships are the perfect springboard for them to launch their careers – they get to earn while they learn, gain nationally recognised qualifications and can apply what they learn in a practical setting. This gives them a big edge in the job market."*

Bristol-based Sam Hillberg secured his Apprenticeship in hairdressing through *Apprenticeship vacancies*. He says:

To find out more about Apprenticeships, visit [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk) or call 08000 150 600

*“My training provider, Reflections Training Academy, informed me about Apprenticeship vacancies and the process could not have been any more straightforward. I registered my details online, and was soon able to view a list of vacancies in the hairdressing sector in the Bristol area. After just a few weeks, I secured an interview and trial day with Me:Me Hair & Beauty in Clifton, and began my Apprenticeship soon after.*

*“My Apprenticeship has given me a head start in my career and I would recommend Apprenticeship vacancies to anyone who is interested in applying for an Apprenticeship.”*

For further information, visit the National Apprenticeship Service website at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

**Ends**

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**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. The service has ultimate accountability for the national delivery of targets and co-ordination of the funding for Apprenticeship places, acting to overcome barriers to growth and assuming responsibility for promoting Apprenticeships and their value to employers, learners and the country as a whole.