



Apprenticeships - Pass It On

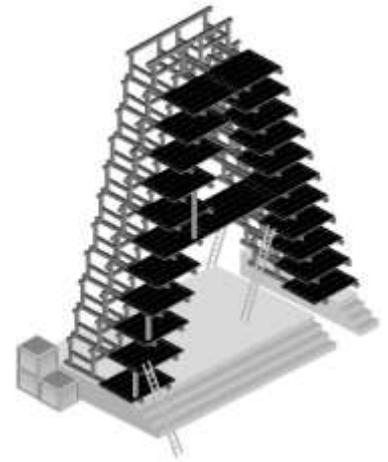
Brought to you by The National Apprenticeship Service Intermediary Team

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Introduction

Welcome to the December edition of the Intermediaries team newsletter. The aim is to keep you updated on the National Apprenticeship Service activities, resources and publications, apprenticeship opportunities and forthcoming events.

It is an opportunity to showcase the work your organisation is doing to promote and engage your members/employers with apprenticeships.



National Apprenticeship Week 2018 – Theme Announced

National Apprenticeship Week 2018 will take place from 5 to 9 March 2018. The theme for the Week was announced at the Skills Show and is 'Apprenticeships Work'. Please follow @Apprenticeships on Twitter; National Apprenticeship Service on LinkedIn and visit GOV.UK for more information on the theme and how you can support the Week.

Key Facts About Apprenticeships

- 87% of employers said they were satisfied with the programme, 76% say that productivity has improved and 75% reported that apprenticeships improved the quality of their product or service.
- Apprenticeships are more likely to be undertaken in small (0 to 49 employees) and large-sized employers (250+ employees), with 44% of apprenticeship participation within small employers and 41% of apprenticeship participation in large employers, in 2014 to 2015.
- We are using the employer [Diversity Champions Network](#) to champion gender representation in apprenticeships amongst employers in industries where improvement is needed - including ensuring more women are able to access STEM apprenticeships.

Under the Spotlight

In each edition we are offering a fantastic opportunity to showcase the work you are doing with your members to promote apprenticeships. This month Alan Hatfield from the **Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)** is 'Under the Spotlight'.



Q - What is your role within your organisation?

I am executive director of strategy & development at ACCA with responsibilities ranging from overall strategy to talent, brand, policy and qualifications. I am also the strategic lead for apprenticeships.

Q - How long have you been involved in apprenticeships?

ACCA launched our Accounting Technician Apprenticeship (Level 4) in March 2017 under the government's Trailblazer scheme. We have been working on its introduction in stages since 2013. Following the successful launch of Level 4, we are excited we have had the standard, assessment plan and funding band approved for our Professional Accountant Apprenticeship (Level 7). This is the first funded pathway to chartered certified accountant status. It is also the only accountancy pathway with the added options of a BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting and an MSc in Professional Accountancy.

Q - What motivates you to promote apprenticeships?

ACCA was founded in 1904 with the goal of opening up opportunities to access the profession. Diversity and opportunity are part of ACCA's DNA and apprenticeships offer yet another pathway for hard-working and talented individuals regardless of background or circumstance.

Apprenticeships are also playing an increasingly important role in the talent pipeline for the UK economy. The accountancy profession is worth an estimated £52bn to UK GDP and the demand for accountants' professional skills and expertise continues to outstrip supply.

With the launch of ACCA's Professional Accountant Apprenticeship, we are raising the quality of apprenticeships as well as giving small businesses the opportunity to compete with larger firms, by offering them high quality funded training through apprenticeships.

Q - How do you encourage more employers/members to engage with apprenticeships?

Providing education and support around apprenticeships plays a key part of ACCA's ongoing engagement with members, employers and learning providers. The growth of apprenticeships is partly a response to a growing need from employers so it is important that they are made aware of the opportunities. Yet they also need to understand their own responsibilities to apprentices in supporting their learning and development. We have produced an apprenticeship supplement which can be downloaded [here](#), outlining our thoughts on the recent changes to apprenticeship policy, the standards and the impact of the levy on businesses to date.

We hosted a live webinar with training provider BPP on Thursday 23 November. This is an opportunity for smaller employers to learn more about our new Professional Accountant Apprenticeship. Contact us by emailing apprenticeships@accaglobal.com or visit accaglobal.com/apprenticeships for more information on our apprenticeships.

Q - In relation to apprenticeships what is your organisation's biggest achievement?

Receiving approval to be a Level 4 Apprentice Assessment Organisation under the English Trailblazer standard was a major achievement and recognition of ACCA's work in the field. We were one of the first professional accountancy bodies in the UK to receive this status and be able to provide a direct route to qualification.

Q – How has working with the NAS Intermediary engagement team benefited your organisation?

The NAS Intermediary engagement team ensures that ACCA has the knowledge and expertise needed to make sure that we understand the needs of young people and employers. Our engagement also means we gain the views of those from other professions and industries.

Q – What are your plans for apprenticeships over the next year?

ACCA seeks to ensure we are the number one choice for apprenticeships in the UK. This involves continuing to work on our end-to-end pathway to ensure we support apprentices in their career paths and employers in realising the full value of apprenticeships to attract talent. This can help with staff retention and, with ACCA Pathways, drive the acquisition of highly skilled accountants, up to chartered certified status. Notably, ACCA apprenticeships provide an opportunity for employers to gain access to a diverse pool of local and national talent.

Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network

The [Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network](#), chaired by Helen Grant MP, champions apprenticeships and diversity amongst employers and encourages more people from underrepresented groups, including those with disabilities, women and members of the black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, to consider apprenticeships.

The network is looking to grow the number of its member. If you are interested in joining, find out more on [GOV.UK](#).

National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 – National Finalists Announced

We have announced the finalists in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017. These finalists will find out if they have triumphed to become national winners at a ceremony in London on Thursday, 18 January.

Find out about national finalists by visiting [GOV.UK](#).

Apprenticeships – Finding End-Point Assessment Organisations

When employers are searching for an apprenticeship standard within '[Find apprenticeship training](#)' end-point assessment organisations and their contact details are now displayed at the bottom of the web page.

Where an end-point assessment organisation is listed, employers can contact them about the service they offer and the costs involved. This new feature has been added in response to employer feedback saying they wanted it to be easier to find the relevant end-point assessment organisation. You can read more about [recruiting an apprentice](#) on GOV.UK.

Oyster card for apprentice

Apprentices aged 18, or over, living in a London borough and in the first year of an approved apprenticeship may be eligible for an Apprentice Oyster photocard – offering up to 30% off adult-rate Travelcards and Bus & Tram Pass season tickets. More information can be found on the [Transport for London](#) website.

Intermediary Events and Resources

During 2017 we have seen some great examples of events and other engagement activities you have undertaken to provide your members with apprenticeship information and resources. This has ranged from webinars to creating employer guides and award ceremonies.

We are updating our events calendar for 2018 and resource information. We would like to capture the work you are planning to promote apprenticeships. If you have any events planned for 2018 or have created any resources please send the details including a website link to Karen.chudleigh@education.gov.uk as and when they are agreed.

Employer Guide

[Employer guide to apprenticeships](#) has recently been updated. This guide gives employers the information and benefits of recruiting apprentices to their business.

Dates for Diary

5-9 March 2018 - National Apprenticeship Week 2018.

Next Issue – will be in February 2018.

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