



Apprenticeships - Pass It On

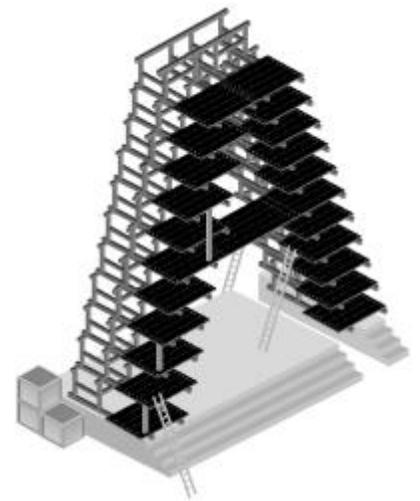
Brought to you by The National Apprenticeship Service Intermediary Team

ISSUE 2: October 2017

Introduction

Welcome to the October 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.



The UK's first ever degree apprentices

One of the first cohort of Degree apprentices in the UK graduated from Aston University on Monday 17 July. Eleven Degree apprentices from Capgemini were awarded Bachelors of Science (BSc's) in Digital and Technology Solutions, following 3 years of working at Capgemini combined with study.

64% of apprentices from Capgemini achieved a 1st class honours degree and all others received 2nd class honours degrees. Read more about their success on GOV.UK.

The [Higher and degree apprenticeships](#) guide- provides information on the opportunities, progression and benefits of doing a higher or degree apprenticeship.

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 Mick O'Flynn from Contract Flooring Association is 'Under the Spotlight'.



Q - What is your role within your organisation?

I am a Training Manager working for the Contract Flooring Association (CFA) based in Nottingham and I also manage the Flooring Industry Training Associations training centre in Loughborough

Q - How long have you been involved in apprenticeships?

I'm proud to say that I started my career as an apprentice Carpenter and Joiner in 1978, I then moved into Building Surveying and became professionally qualified, after which I moved into Training Management 24 years ago and I have been involved with apprenticeships ever since.

Q - What motivates you to promote apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to start a career. They provide the structural foundations of essential knowledge and skills required to become competent, earn a good living and progress with career development. I have personally benefitted from an apprenticeship which gave me a great springboard to discover what the construction industry had to offer and then progress through training and qualifications into other related roles. I have personally seen many apprentices rise through the ranks to gain high profile job roles or run their own successful businesses.

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

The CFA constantly promote apprenticeships and related funding through our monthly newsletters, annual training guide, website (cfa.org) and articles in the highly respected Contract Flooring Journal which has a monthly circulation of 7000 readers.

We also run an annual Flooring Apprentice of the Year competition which is open to all apprentices in the UK and sponsored by many well-known companies. The winner receives tools and materials worth around £4000 which really helps to raise the profile of apprenticeships

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

The CFAs Strapline is "Quality by Association" and true to this belief our members are very passionate about high quality apprenticeships. As such, a group of CFA members got together last year and submitted a successful expression of interest to develop the floor layer trailblazer apprenticeship. Therefore, during 2017 the employer group have been working on the floor layer standard and with the support of the Institute of Apprenticeships (IfA) we were pleased to submit the final version for approval in August.

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

[Trailblazer apprenticeship](#) will be a massive focus over the next 12 months. Our aim is to obtain approval for the standard and then work with the provider network, CITB and the IfA to develop and promote an assessment plan that will engage the sector in successfully delivering the new trailblazer standard. This will help us to generate a large growth in interest from both employers and potential apprentices, their parents and careers advisers, who will be able to clearly see the benefits of a career in flooring where fully qualified workers can earn between £30,000 and £50,000 in the current economy (salaries will vary depending on location / employer)

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

Bev Moxon our NAS Account Manager has really helped the CFA to understand the range of government support available to organisations like ours and where best to focus our attention on promoting or signposting apprenticeship enquiries. This makes sure that our members can benefit from excellent advice on recruitment, provision, the levy and funding, which helps to drive growth in the numbers of apprenticeship starts.

Apprenticeship service feedback from non-levy payers

From April 2019, we aim to bring all employers onto the apprenticeship service to manage their apprenticeship programme. Over the next 18 months, this part of the service will be designed and developed. During this time, we will be in contact with on-levy paying employers to make sure the service meets their needs.

In the meantime, non-levy paying employers can continue to use [Find apprenticeship training](#) to search for suitable apprenticeships and see details of approved providers who can deliver the training. Employers can also work with their training providers to post apprenticeship vacancies online and find the right candidates using [Recruit an apprentice](#).

If you are a non-levy paying employer that would be willing to help us to test the new features of the service (likely to take no more than an hour of their time), please get in touch by emailing DigitalApprenticeshipService@sfa.bis.gov.uk

Using the apprenticeship service as a levy paying employer

We have updated the [how to register and use the apprenticeship service as an employer](#) page on GOV.UK. This now includes information on:

- Who you need to talk to before you set up an account
- What you need to think about if setting up multiple connected organisations
- What to do after you've set-up your account
- How your funding will be received and the deadlines you need to be aware of
- Changing apprentice details once you have added a cohort
- And, managing payments to your training provider by using stop, pause and resume.

Help and support for all employers

Call the National Contact Centre helpline on 08000 150 600, please complete the [enquiry form](#) or email: helpdesk@manageapprenticeships.service.gov.uk also follow @ESFAdigital on Twitter for the latest apprenticeship service updates

National Apprenticeship Awards 2017: regional finalists announced

Employers and individuals competing for awards in ten categories in the regional stage of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017, have been announced – having beaten off competition from almost 800 entries.

The 2017 awards, run by the National Apprenticeship Service and now in their 14th year, recognise employers and apprentices from across England. The awards recognise excellent businesses that grow their own talent with apprenticeships and apprentices, who have made a significant contribution to their workplaces. The ceremonies will take place between 2 and 17 October 2017

Find out more by visiting GOV.UK. Follow [@Apprenticeships](#) on Twitter to keep up to date with news on the awards

Thinking of becoming an end-point assessor for apprenticeships?

The Education & Training Foundation are hosting 3 events to help kick-start your preparations and professional development:

- Wednesday, 13 December 2017 (Birmingham)
- Tuesday, 30 January 2018 (London)

These events will help you understand what makes a good [end-point assessor](#) and will feature sessions that develop your skills and build your knowledge of end-point assessment methods and practices. You will also have the chance to meet Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations and understand their requirements.

To find out more and book a place, visit the [Education & Training Foundation website](#).

Latest batch of apprenticeship withdrawals

We are [asking for feedback](#) on withdrawing the fifth batch of frameworks in a survey, open from Wednesday 13 September to Wednesday 18 October.

A full list of frameworks included in this proposal is available on [GOV.UK](#). We will review the feedback and announce the final list for withdrawal next year.

We will also announce the outcome of the fourth batch of apprenticeship framework withdrawals, that we consulted on earlier this year, at the same time as we communicate the outcome of the fifth batch. The frameworks we plan to withdraw from both batches will be withdrawn to new starts no earlier than 1 January 2019.

Dates for Diary

16-18 November 2017

[The Skills Show](#) – Birmingham NEC - The nation's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event.

Next Issue:

The next edition of the newsletter will be issued in December 2017.

If you would like to find out more our free, flexible partners' offer available for intermediaries, feature in 'Under the Spotlight', give feedback, provide suggestions for content, add a colleague or be removed from the distribution list please email intermediary.team@education.gov.uk.

Find out how you can benefit from an apprenticeship, visit GOV.UK and search apprenticeships

This is a regular bulletin from the National Apprenticeship Service about our activities, services, resources and publications, apprenticeship opportunities and forthcoming events.

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