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Apprenticeships General

New Chief Executive for IfA announced

The new Chief Executive of the Institute for Apprenticeships has [been announced](#). Sir Gerry Berragan will take the reins from Peter Lauener on November 27th, having already been named as a Board member. He was previously a career soldier for 37 years, finishing in August 2015 as adjutant general responsible for all army personnel matters, and from 2008 was the army's Apprentice Ambassador. The Student Loans Company has meanwhile confirmed that Peter Lauener will take over as its interim CEO, following the decision to terminate the contract of its CEO Steve Lamey.

Essentials of Apprenticeships delivery – a free guide for new providers

With many providers and employers looking to become apprenticeship providers, AELP have produced a free guide outlining the essential knowledge that those new to apprenticeship delivery will need to get to grips with. Written in plain English and with links to many other sources of information and support, this guide can also be used by existing providers as a staff development tool, an employer engagement tool and delivery checklist. Download your [free copy here](#).



Inquiry launched into apprenticeships quality

Robert Halfon has launched a new inquiry into the quality of apprenticeships and skills training on behalf of the Commons education select committee. "Social justice and productivity is at the heart of the work of the committee and high quality apprenticeships and skills training should play a key part in helping people climb the ladder of opportunity," he said in a speech at the Skills Show in Birmingham.

The inquiry will look into whether employers, learners and taxpayers are getting sufficient value for the time and money they invest in training, and whether more needs to be done to detect poor-quality provision. It will also examine the barriers faced by the socially disadvantaged when accessing skills training, and consider how government funding can be used to remove them. The committee will look

at all forms of government-funded apprenticeships and skills training. It is inviting written submissions on issues including the quality of current provision, how it varies by sector, level and region, and its impact on learner outcomes. The effectiveness of the quality-monitoring system, in particular the role and capacity of Ofsted, is also in the frame, as is how the ESFA ensures value for money, and the impact of different funding models. The deadline for sector submissions is January 5.

Follow [the link](#) to more detail

Apprenticeships evaluation 2017: learners survey

The findings of the apprenticeships evaluation learners' survey for 2017 have now been published. [Follow the link to the report.](#)

Apprenticeships evaluation 2017: employers survey

The findings of the apprenticeships evaluation employers' survey for 2017 have now been published. [Follow the link to the report.](#)

Apprentice Minimum Wage increase from April 2018

The national minimum wage for apprentices will rise again in April 2018, from £3.50 to £3.70 an hour. This is a 5.7% increase, above UK inflation.

This rate applies to apprentices under 19 and those aged 19 or over who are in their first year. Apprentices must be paid at least the national minimum wage rate if they're an apprentice aged 19 or over and have completed their first year.

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.

Technical Education

Government announces review into L4 and L5 technical education

DfE has announced it will be conducting a review into higher level technical education.

Building on the [Post-16 Skills Plan](#) and the recommendations of the Sainsbury Panel, the review will look across Level 4 & 5 education, focusing on how technical qualifications at this level can better address the needs of learners and employers. This includes ensuring that learners can progress from the government's new T Levels (where it increasingly looks as though T-levels themselves will be focused primarily at Level 3) and other full time education, into the workplace. It will also consider how these qualifications work for those in the workforce looking to upskill or retrain. It follows the recent announcement of the first T level subjects that will be taught from 2020.

The review covers the whole of Level 4 and 5 education, with a particular focus on technical qualifications. Interestingly however the remit of the review does not, according to the [official government announcement](#), touch upon the role of apprenticeships at all.

Stakeholders can engage with the review by emailing Level4-5.Team@education.gov.uk.

T Level Panel membership

T level panels are responsible for developing the outline content for new T levels. The panels are made up of employers, professional bodies and providers. These panels put employers at the heart of the technical reforms, playing a vital role in co-creating technical education programmes.

There are panels across the 6 routes for first delivery in 2020 and 2021:

- Digital
- Education and Childcare
- Construction
- Health and Science
- Legal, Financial and Accounting
- Engineering and Manufacturing

[Follow the link](#) to the full statement and a list of the T Level panel members



ESFA Inform

You can now download the latest edition of Inform, the monthly newsletter about funding systems and data management from the Education & Skills Funding Agency, [from here](#).

The news this month includes:

- Procured Adult Education Budget (AEB)
- New qualification achievement rates (QAR) and minimum standards landing page on GOV.UK
- Individualised learner record (ILR): R03
- Withdrawal of frameworks by Issuing Authority
- Individualised learner record (ILR): R04
- 2016 to 2017 Final Reconciliation Statements
- Improvements to the apprenticeship service
- Merger guidance
- Qualification achievement rates (QAR) 2016 to 2017 – provisional data window



Institutes of technology prospectus

The prospectus outlines the government’s plans for institutes of technology, why we need them and who can get involved in their development. Follow the link to [download the prospectus](#).



Careers strategy: making the most of everyone’s skills and talents

The government have produced a plan for raising the quality of careers provision in England. The careers strategy is part of the government’s plan to make Britain fairer, improve social mobility and offer opportunity to everyone.

Follow the link to [download a copy of the plan](#).



The government has published its industrial strategy white paper with details of a national retraining partnership unveiled.

The document, called [Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain](#) for the future, has just been published on gov.uk, following up on the green paper published in January. It elaborates on what is planned for the “ambitious national retraining scheme”, involving a new partnership.

“To drive up adult learning and retraining, we will introduce an ambitious national retraining scheme in England by the end of this parliament,” it said.

“A high level advisory group – the national retraining partnership – will bring together the government, businesses and workers, through the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress, to set the strategic direction and oversee implementation of the scheme.

“The national retraining scheme will be informed by £40 million announced in the spring budget to test innovative approaches to helping adults up-skill and re-skill. The pilots will help us learn more about how to support and incentivise adults to learn skills that will help them, their local economies and national productivity.”

Starting next year, it adds, the national retraining scheme will “initially target skills shortages in key sectors, ensuring that we can develop much-needed digital and construction skills”.

A total of £30 million will be invested to test the use of artificial intelligence and innovative education technology (edtech) in online digital skills courses, so that students can benefit from this emerging technology.

“We will provide £34 million to expand innovative construction training programmes across the country, including a programme in the West Midlands, focused on supporting the country’s housing needs and building upon existing good practice.”

It is elaborating on [retraining funding](#) announced through the budget, although senior figures including Liberal Democrats leader warned more funding was still needed to make much of the industrial strategy work.

The new document also reflected on performance measures.

“We will update school and college performance measures to ensure that students can make an informed choice between technical or academic education in time for the introduction of the first T levels, recognising them as equally valued routes,” it said.

With regards to the apprenticeships levy it said: “From April 2018, we plan to allow levy-paying employers in England to transfer up to 10 per cent of their funds to another employer, including within their supply chain.”

There was also a section reaffirming the government’s commitment to FE devolution.

“The government has a role to play in ensuring that the connections and capacity exist in local areas and regions to link educational institutions with labour market,” it said. “Devolution of budgets and control within England plays its part, and we will devolve the adult education budget to mayoral areas in 2019.”

Department for Education

Flexible Learning Fund open for applications

DfE have launched a £10m Flexible Learning Fund to support projects that deliver learning to adults in ways that are flexible and easy to access. The Fund is the first of the career learning pilots for which £40m was announced at Spring Budget.

The Fund offers the chance to apply for grant funding to support projects which aims at designing and developing flexible and accessible methods of delivering technical or basic skills to adults. Applicants must be on the ROTO to apply,

Full details of the Fund and process for submitting proposals can be found [here](#).



Justine Greening hosts first ever DfE Skills Summit

The Summit will signal the start of a new partnership with business that will spread opportunity to more communities.

At the first Skills Summit held at the DfE in Whitehall on 30 November, Justine Greening told Britain’s top businesses that enlisting their support in training the next generation of highly skilled British workers is the key to creating a country fit for the future, ready to seize the opportunities of Brexit.

The Skills Summit, supported by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), will bring together leading employers representing over 3.5 million UK employees, to help spearhead a major skills reform programme.

In a speech to an audience that is expected to include companies like Amazon, Google, Capgemini, Rolls Royce, Fujitsu, KPMG, Barclays, Tarmac, EDF and Deloitte, the Education Secretary will urge businesses to work in a new

partnership with government to deliver a skills revolution, and sign up to a [statement of action](#) with government.

Outlining the government’s ambitions on skills to employers, the Education Secretary, Justine Greening is expected to say:

This government is investing in developing our homegrown talent so British business has the skills it needs and so that young people can get the opportunities they want.

We are determined to work in partnership with business to provide them opportunities to match the talent across the country. That is why this government is investing billions in technical education and why today I am calling on employers to bring their innovation, creativity and commitment to technical education reform. Only employers can provide the work placements and apprenticeships that make these reforms a success.”

Read the full story [here](#) and for details of full speech follow [this link](#).



AELP and FE Week have announced that they are working together to recognise the very best in apprenticeship provision through the new Annual apprenticeship Conference Awards 2018.

There will be six main categories, linked to technical routes:

- Engineering & Manufacturing Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Business and Administrative Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Social Care, Childcare and Education Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Construction Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Sales, Marketing and Procurement Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Digital Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Apprenticeship Provider of the Year
- Apprentice Employer of the Year

Each of these categories will have four regional winners – one each for North, South, Midlands, and London & East. These will be announced at AELP’s regional National Apprenticeship Week events in March 2018, with the Regional Winners then being shortlisted for National Awards.

At the AAC awards on Thursday 22nd March at the ICC in Birmingham, the overall national award winners will be announced for each of the above, plus two other national awards:

- Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Apprenticeships (individual)
- Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Apprenticeships (employer or provider)

Details on the nomination process will be available shortly, with nominations closing in early January 2018.

Red Rose Awards 2018



The countdown is on: Lancashire’s business success to be celebrated at Red Rose Awards 2018! Follow the [link](#) for more information.



Lancashire Apprentice Ambassador Network

There has been a lot of activity over the last months with our ambassadors attending numerous events and Ambassadors being nominated and achieving awards. It has been a busy time for nominations and awards but with resounding success for our Ambassadors.

We now have 31 active Apprentice Ambassadors. They have attended careers events, events in schools to speak to pupils and represented Lancashire at the launch of the National AAN at the Skills Show.

Portia Taylor-Black, Frankie Haggerty and Will Holmes were all finalists for the Sub36 Awards on 18th November 2017 at The Winter Gardens in Blackpool. It was a fantastic night and especially more so for Will Holmes who won Apprentice of the Year.



Lancashire is a success at the North West celebration of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017



The Awards, now in their fourteenth year, are run by the National Apprenticeship Service and recognise excellence in two areas: businesses that grow their own talent with apprentices and apprentices who have made a significant contribution to their workplaces. Lancashire had a number of winners in the North West - Liverpool City Region, Cumbria and Lancashire Region. Two of our Apprentice Ambassadors, Frankie Haggerty and Portia Taylor-Black were winners with Frankie winning Intermediate Apprentice of the Year and Portia winning Higher or Degree Apprentice of the year. Jonathon Holding from WEC was highly commended for Advanced Apprentice of the year and Sandra Shaw from Castle Supported Living in Clitheroe, was highly commended for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the year.

In the employer categories three of our Employer Ambassadors were highly commended with Crowberry Energy for the Small Employer of the Year, The Printed Cup Company for Medium Employer of the year and WEC and Silentnight for Large Employer of the year.

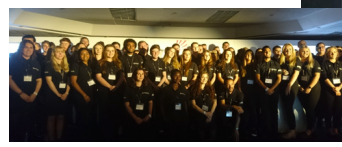
On being recognised as highly commended, Katy Atkinson (HR Manager of The Printed Cup Company) said:

“We are absolutely delighted to have been highly commended in our category; it is such an honour to be recognised as a great employer of apprentices in the North West. We are really proud of our commitment to employing young people through apprenticeships. Investing in apprenticeships should be a priority for businesses looking to develop their internal talent and grow a qualified, flexible workforce.”



The National Young Apprentice Ambassador Network is launched

The National Network was launched during the Skills Show in Birmingham on the 16th November. Sam Connelly and four of our Apprentice Ambassadors, Oliver, Alisha, Portia and Danny attended the Launch. It was a great to have the opportunity to meet with the Apprentice Ambassadors that started the network two years ago. It was interesting to see where other regions were up to with their network. Since then it has developed into local and regional networks and now they will all come under the National Network. There will be a portal where all ambassadors can access resources. You will be given the details for the portal as soon as it is fully set up and running. The website for the NYAAN is <https://yaan.amazingapprenticeships.com/>



Employer Ambassadors

A flyer for promoting the Employer Ambassadors now has now been produced and is being given to interested employers wishing to join the network. There are now 31 employers who have become Ambassadors. Please follow link below to view the flyer.

Over the last month our employers have delivered masterclasses for Themis Burnley College for their social media apprentices, produced a blog on social media to promote the benefits of being an apprentice and attended STEM careers fair.



ASK (Apprenticeships Support and Knowledge for Schools) Project

To date we have engaged with 23 schools in Lancashire, 15 of whom are schools who didn't participate last year, and the early signs are that we will meet all our targets for the quarter to January 2018. We have had invaluable support from the Careers Enterprise Coordinators and from the Young Chamber Manager in getting bookings in "new" schools.

Last week we received the Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Vacancy Listing; this can be found [here](#) and lists higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies available with a variety of employers. Pupils who are interested in particular job roles can click on the employer's link for further information and to apply or submit an expression of interest. This resource has been shared with schools and with our delivery partners for ASK.

November also saw the launch of the "Apprenticeships Live" Broadcasts service (part of the ASK Project) and members who attended the Forum meeting on 22nd November will have seen Stuart Heaton's (LearnLive) presentation about the service. Stuart commented that his audiences are largely schools at the moment, but the broadcasts are also aimed at college students and he encouraged colleges and training providers to register for the service. Upcoming broadcasts can be accessed [here](#).

November was a particularly busy month for the ASK project in Lancashire and two events stand out:-

On 25th November 2017 we attended a Year 10/11 Careers Convention at Tauheedul Islam Boys' School in Blackburn. It was a very busy event with 29 organisations represented, was well attended by parents and there was a really positive atmosphere. The welcome from staff and pupils was wonderful, hospitality was second to none with the boys fetching teas and coffees throughout the morning and juices/water and desserts also available. Lunch was

provided afterwards but sadly we couldn't stay for what was anticipated to be the highlight of the day!

On 10th November, we went to Balshaw's C of E High School in Leyland to deliver the ASK presentation and a follow-up workshop. The event was supported by Sasha Wallbank (apprentice ambassador from Progress Housing Group). Sasha was brave enough to stand up in front of all 190 Year 11 pupils and talk about her apprenticeship experience. She also assisted in the workshop and answered questions from pupils. Feedback from the school following the event was excellent.



Finally, if you haven't yet registered as an Apprenticeship Champion, then please do so by signing up [here](#).



Apprenticeship Live broadcasts

Schools in England can now access the very latest apprenticeship information directly from employers and their apprentices - through a new Apprenticeship Live broadcast initiative.

The broadcasts give students, teachers and governors the chance to speak directly to apprenticeship employers and their apprentices live online. During the broadcasts they will hear about the latest opportunities on offer; the skills employers are looking for and how students can best prepare themselves for working life after school or college.

Thirteen employers have already signed up to deliver [Apprenticeship Live broadcasts](#).

Training Provider News

Joel wins apprentice of the year award

A JTL apprentice who works for Chris Bowker Ltd in Morecambe has won the Apprentice of the Year Award at the Electrical Industry Awards 2017. Joel Collins was delighted to be shortlisted and to hear his name called out at the awards evening as winner of this prestigious award.

Joel started his Apprenticeship with Chris Bowker Ltd on the 17th September 2013 at the age of 16 and was signed on to the level 3 NVQ Electrotechnical Diploma with leading training company JTL.

As part of his Apprenticeship Joel attended Lancaster & Morecambe college where he completed the underpinning knowledge elements of the Diploma over a 2-year period. Joel also completed his ICT Level 2 Functional Skills during this period. He developed his practical skills across a wide range of jobs encompassing leisure, commercial and health care projects, specifically schools and large-scale hospital refurbishments and new builds across the North West. Joel has been a valued member of the team and has progressed from general installation activity through to more complex activity such as fault finding, testing and final commissioning. Joel decided to progress his knowledge of the sector and started an HNC in Electronic & Electrical Engineering in September 2016. He has completed his first year at Blackburn College and returned to college last month.



Joel applied his practical skills outside of the workplace in support of Aid International by travelling to Zambia in the summer of 2015 to assist in the building of a school. His outside interest away from work is drumming. He has played in several bands across the North West, and wider afield including playing at the Royal Albert Hall London and touring across South Africa. Joel recently completed his Apprenticeship ahead of his projected end date at the age of 20 after passing his AM2 on his first attempt. His NVQ Assessor stated that "Joel's drive and determination was recognised early on by his employer Chris Bowker Ltd and JTL. Joel is identified as a future contract manager in this highly successful and growing company where his strong work ethic and diligence on site ensures the job is completed on time, to contract and to the highest standard". JTL's John Cramphorn said: "The award is very well deserved. Joel has been an exceptional apprentice and we're very pleased for him and for Chris Bowker Ltd that he has added this important award to his already impressive list of achievements. He's still a very young man but has shown huge application and skill to get to where he is and a bright future seems assured for him."

JTL is a not-for-profit company delivering apprenticeships in the building services engineering sector. It operates across England and Wales but despite being a national provider, offers local support through a team of over 130 specialist Training Officers, ensuring there is a locally based individual to support all its apprentices and all the employers with which the company works. Around 35,000 young people have completed JTL apprenticeships over the past 26 years or so, and almost one in two of all electricians in England and Wales achieve their qualifications through JTL. JTL currently has more than 6,000 apprentices at various stages of their apprenticeships and works with more than 3,000 employers across the country.

Outstanding Themis Higher Apprentices presented with nationally-acclaimed awards at prestigious ceremony in London

Higher Themis Apprentices Thomas Firth (25, Colne) Chelsea-Marie Parker (24, Earby) and Ewan Stevenson (23, Boarsgreave, Rossendale) were presented with their Higher National Certificate (HNC) awards at the Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme Achievement Ceremony, hosted at Plaisterer's Hall, London.

The awards were presented by The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley and were attended by Master of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, Dr Tony Smart MBE and dignitaries from the Worshipful Companies of Dyers, Wax Chandlers, Upholders, Glaziers, Clockmakers, Wheelwrights, Coachmakers and Air Pilots. Thomas, Chelsea-Marie and Ewan all achieved Distinction certificates, gaining them each a HNC in Furniture Design and Make. Not only did each Themis Apprentice receive their qualifications, they are now all embarking on the next stage of their outstanding careers. Ewan Stevenson will now take his Higher level qualification back to Burgess Beds, Rossendale to a new role as General Manager. Chelsea-Marie Parker is continuing her professional development and keen to pursue a degree level qualification in Product Design, supported by her employer Silentnight, Barnoldswick, where Thomas Firth will be putting his Higher Level qualification to good use in a new role as Junior Manager.

Chelsea-Marie Parker, who has also won a City and Guilds Medal for Excellence and a Lancashire Business Award for her outstanding work said of her achievement:

"All my trainers knew I wanted to achieve my best work and become an industry leader and they were more than keen to help me get there. They also took a lot of interest in my future plans and nominated me for awards for the effort I put into my training."

Curriculum Manager Paul Stackhouse said:

"This honourable occasion was made even more special by the fact that it was down to each individual's hard work and drive that they were awarded with their HNC certificates. We have relished training Apprentices as hard-working and driven as Thomas, Chelsea-Marie and Ewan and supporting them through their progression and look forward to being a part of their #futureboss careers in the furniture making industry. All three Apprentices – now qualified furniture makers – are a credit to Themis and to their employers."



Dates for your diary...

Dates of meetings

[Here are the dates](#) of all Forum meetings including, Board, Executive Group and the 2 sub-groups, Quality Improvement and Employer and Skills

Next Forum meeting,

When: 7th February 2018

Where: Preston's College

Time: 9.00 for a 10am start

Chair: Lisa Bloomfield, Training 2000

Speakers: Paul Holme NWPN

National Apprenticeship Week
2018 - 5th - 9th March 2018

International Women's Day 8th
March 2018

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LWBLEF
WISH YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

I proudly support
Apprenticeships
as an Apprenticeship Champion