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Advanced Learner Loans Prospectus 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017

The SFA have published an updated version of the Advanced Learner Loans (Loans) [Prospectus 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017: Designating Qualifications](#). It sets out a simplified and more regular process to designate technical and professional qualifications that are eligible for Loans. The updated prospectus provides the following information:

- a) The qualification eligibility for the 2016 to 2017 funding year.
- b) The process for updating the Loans Qualifications Catalogue for both the 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 funding years.

Advanced Learner Loans

The SFA will expand the eligibility criteria for [Advanced Learner Loans](#) (formerly 24+ Advanced Learning Loans) in the 2016 to 2017 academic year.

The Loans will be available to those learners aged 19 or over and for study at Level 3 to Level 6.

This will not affect the entitlement to full funding for the first full Level 3 qualification for those aged 19 to 23. The expanded remit is available for applications from May 2016 for courses starting on or after 1 August.

The SFA working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Student Loans Company to update the resources. Once available, you will be able to use these to tell learners about the expanded remit.

If you would like to update your own resources, the Advanced Learner Loan logo and the guidelines for its use are available on our Branding page.

Advanced Learner Loans: Application Guidance for a Loan Facility

Colleges and other training organisations that do not have Advanced Learner Loans facility can apply for £75,000 to £500,000 of facility for the 2016 to 2017 academic year.

Application guidance and the criteria the SFA will use to assess applications is available on the Advanced Learner Loans page on GOV.UK.

They will not assess any applications that does not meet the criteria.

To apply, please complete an [application](#) and send it to [Advanced Learner Loans](#) by Monday, 14 March.

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Advanced Learner Loans: Subcontracting

The SFA will remove Advanced Learner Loans Subcontracting from the start of the 2017 to 2018 funding year. This follows a review of subcontracted loans delivery and learner and sector feedback. This will protect the interests of learners who use loans for their training, and public funds.

The SFA have consulted with stakeholders including the Student Loans Company and informed the Association of Employment and Learning Providers and Association of Colleges in advance of this announcement. They have allowed an 18-month period to enable lead contractors and current loans subcontractors to transition to the new arrangements. This will minimise any disruption for current learners, whose loans-funded training is subcontracted.

To provide feedback about how this affects your delivery model for subcontracted loans, please email [Advanced Learner Loans](#).

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Apprenticeship Grant for Employers 2016

[The Apprenticeship Grant for Employers](#) (AGE) 16 to 24 programme will continue for apprenticeships that start in 2016. The SFA intend to issue contracts for the period from 1 January until the end of the programme, currently July 2017. This 19-month contract will cover two separate phases:

- a) From 1 January to the end of the 2015 to 2016 financial year.
- b) From 1 April onwards. All claims up to 31 March must comply with the existing eligibility criteria.

The AGE documents have been revised and can be found on GOV.UK to reflect the changes.

Apprenticeship Delivery Board: Membership and Terms of Reference

The government has set up an [Apprenticeship Delivery Board](#) to support its ambition of achieving three million apprentices starting high-quality apprenticeships by 2020.

The Board will report directly to Skills Minister Nick Boles MP and work with the National Apprenticeship Service. It will advise on expanding apprenticeships nationally, and aim to increase the number of apprenticeship places that employers offer in both the public and private sector. David Mellor, Chair of the [Apprenticeship Ambassador Network](#) and Nadhim Zahawi MP, the Prime Minister's adviser on apprenticeships, will jointly chair the Apprenticeship Delivery Board.

National Apprenticeship Service: Apprenticeships – Our 2020 Vision (video)

In its new video, Apprenticeships – Our 2020 Vision, the National Apprenticeship Service outlines its plans to get more people to recognise the value of the vocational training route.

Its aims will help achieve the government's plans to create [three million apprenticeship](#) starts in the next four years.

“Our vision for the future is to encourage individuals to get involved in this high-quality path to a successful career, by providing training in a professional or technical route, from work placements, traineeships and apprenticeships right up to degree level, with opportunities suitable for every young person and every employer,” the NAS says in the film.

<https://youtu.be/3CvxSxEx6eg>

Government pledges £25 million for apprenticeships

The Skills Funding Agency has set aside an extra £25 million for colleges and training organisations to provide apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds.

The funding, that has just been announced, will mean more young people will be able to access high-quality vocational education after they turn 16.

It is the next step in the government's plans to create three million apprenticeship starts by 2020, and brings the total that ministers have committed to post-16 training to more than £100 million in the 2015-16 funding year.

In December, almost £68 million growth was awarded for apprenticeships for those aged 19 and over, as well as £11 million for other traineeships for over-19s.

Apprenticeship Reform

Draft legislation of apprenticeship levy published

The government has published the details of its much-anticipated [apprenticeships levy](#).

The draft legislation outlines how the levy will work and be applied, with explanatory notes providing clarity on its main points.

Coming into effect from 6 April 2017, the levy will be charged at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's paybill.

Less than 2 per cent will pay

It will be paid only on annual paybills of £3 million and above – this represents less than 2 per cent of employers. All sectors will be subject to the tax.

The payments will be collected through Pay as You Earn (PAYE), alongside income tax and National Insurance. 'Paybill' will be based on total employee earnings subject to Class 1 secondary NICs.

Each employer will receive an allowance of £15,000 to offset against their levy payment.

Set-up costs

The policy paper said: "The levy will help to support quality training, and employers who are committed to training will be able to get more out than they pay in levy.

"For employers paying the levy, the measure is expected to have some impact on administration costs and the impact will vary by employer, depending on the size of their paybill. The policy intention is that they will calculate and pay the levy on a monthly basis."

It is expected that the cost to HMRC for setting up the levy will reach £7 million.

Inquiry under way to scrutinise apprenticeship plans

The Sub-Committee on Education, Skills and the Economy has launched an inquiry into apprenticeships, looking at how the government's plans to [boost apprenticeships](#) will work.

The inquiry will consider how ministers plan to achieve its vision of three million apprentices by 2020 and how the proposals will help fill the UK's skills gap.

It will explore the planned Institute of Apprenticeships and how higher-level apprenticeships can be achieved. The implications of the controversial [apprenticeship levy](#) will also be a focus.

Policy change to recognise apprenticeships

Neil Carmichael MP, chair of the Education Select Committee, said: "Our education policy needs to change truly to recognise the value of technical and professional education to young people, to society and to the nation's economy.

"Young people need to be equipped with the skills to succeed and apprenticeships have a vital role in achieving this objective.

"In this inquiry we will examine a variety of issues relating to apprenticeships, not least how we

boost the take-up of apprenticeships amongst 16–19 year olds and what is being done to ensure young people are aware of the opportunities available.

“Good quality apprenticeships offer a route to boosting our international competitiveness and there are sure to be lessons to learn from other countries’ approaches to apprenticeships and technical qualifications.”

Targets under scrutiny

Iain Wright MP, chair of the Business Innovation and Skills Select Committee, added: “Improving the quality of apprenticeships and driving up the numbers of young people earning technical qualifications has an important role to play in closing the skills gap and improving the nation’s productivity.

“The government has an ambitious target of hitting three million apprenticeship starts and as a Committee we want to examine how they are going to hit that target.”

The Sub-Committee is calling for submissions addressing some or all of the following points:

- The target of three million apprentices by 2020, how the government proposes to achieve this and how this may affect the ‘skills gap’
- The proposal for an apprenticeships levy and how this may be implemented
- The institutional architecture of current provision and how this may be affected by the proposed Institute for Apprenticeships
- Take-up of apprenticeships amongst 16–19 year olds and steps that can be taken to make more young people aware of available opportunities
- The process of applying for apprenticeships
- Routes for progression to higher qualifications for current apprentices
- The quality of, and minimum standards for, apprenticeships, and how standards can be enforced
- Lessons from other countries’ approaches to apprenticeships.

Written submissions can be made by midday on Friday 18 March [here](#)

Trailblazer’s

New cap introduced for Apprenticeship Standards

SFA Update has announced the introduction of an additional maximum funding cap on the core government contributions for each apprenticeship standard, to be set at a maximum of £13,000.

From 1 August, this increases the number of funding caps from five to six. For standards that have been allocated to one of the existing five funding caps by 31 July 2016, the cap allocated will continue into the 2016 to 2017 funding year.

Please refer to the [Apprenticeship Standards Funding Rules](#) 2016 to 2017 for more details, or email [Trailblazer Funding Enquiries](#).

Provider Readiness Groups

Through the [Future Apprenticeships Staff Support Programme](#), AELP working with AoC has established a number of Provider Readiness Groups (PRGs) for new apprenticeship standards, in order to facilitate partnership working between employers and providers.

The PRGs ensure that providers have a shared understanding of the outcomes required by the standard and that these outcomes can be delivered cost effectively. They will help providers clearly understand the intended so that although delivery methods may vary greatly, the outcomes will be consistent. Each PRG is required to complete a report designed to guide and support all providers as they prepare to deliver the new standards, which will be published on the Future Apprenticeships portal (due to be launched at the end of March).

By being a member of a PRG, providers will get an early insight into both the new standards and the assessment plans. Below is a list of the current PRGs that are in place, there is still time to become members of these, you can register your interest by emailing future_apprenticeships@aoc.co.uk stating clearly your organisation and the standard[s] you're interested in.

Finance

Financial Customer Advisor
Financial Senior Customer Advisor

Hospitality

Hospitality team member
Commie Chef

Digital

Software Developer
Network Engineer

Energy and Utilities

Gas Engineering

Housing

Senior housing/property manager
Housing/property management
Housing/property management assistant

Business Administration

Business Administrator

Automotive

Mechatronic Maintenance Technician
Control/Technical Support Engineer
Electrical/Electronic Technical Support Engineer
Manufacturing Engineer
Toolmaker & Tool and Die maintenance technician

Automotive Retail

Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician

Retail

Retailer

Customer Service

Customer Service Practitioner

Leadership and Management

Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship

Surveying

Surveying technician
Chartered Surveyor

Adult Care

Adult care worker

Dental Health

Dental Nurse

Early Years

Early Years Educator

Life Science

Lab Technician

Insurance

Insurance Professional
Insurance Practitioner

Health Care

Healthcare Support Worker
Assistant Practitioner in Health

Apprenticeship Trailblazer Events

A number of Trailblazer groups/sectors are running events to promote Apprenticeship standards that are ready to deliver (or nearly ready) to employers and providers, with the aim of generating starts in 15/16. Further details and booking arrangements can be accessed by following the links in the table below.

Golf Greenkeeping	1 March	Northampton	Providers	David F.Golding david@the-gtc.co.uk
Electrotechnical	8 March	London	Employers and providers	TBC
Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pump	15 March	London	Employers and providers	ior@ior.org.uk
Leadership & Management	16 March	Manchester	Employers and providers	Alison Cox Alison.Cox@peninsula-enterprise.co.uk
Aero/Auto/Advanced manufacturing	17 March	Derby	Employers and providers	trailblazers@nfec.org.uk

Butchery	22 March	London	Employers and providers	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/butchery-standard-launch-event-tickets-21070697022
Energy & Utilities	23 March	Sollihull	Employers and providers	http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/update-on-trailblazer-apprenticeships-in-the-energy-and-utilities-sector-tickets-21309869393
Nuclear	23 March	Manchester	Employers and providers	Alex Bowness alex.bowness@nsan.co.uk 01900 898120

Engineering Employers and Providers of Engineering Training and Education -2016 Trailblazer Employer and Provider Briefing Seminars

GTA England and NFEC, who are members of two of the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Trailblazer Groups, are pleased to invite you to either the employer briefing session in the morning or the provider briefing session in the afternoon being run in the North, Midlands and South (for details, please see the Programmes below), which will disseminate the latest information on Trailblazer Apprenticeship developments on as broad an engineering front as possible.

There will be opportunities for questions and discussions on key areas relating to the new requirements from the Apprenticeship Standards and the implications for delivery – now based on over a year of experience.

The topics and main speakers will be the same in each of the 3 locations. Any differences will exist to reflect where possible, the experiences of Industry and Providers in the respective regions.

We are grateful to BAE Systems, Toyota Manufacturing UK and Rolls Royce for kindly sponsoring these events which are free of charge. You can attend any venue of these events irrespective of the location of your organisation.

North: Tuesday 5th April
Midlands: Thursday 17th March
South: Wednesday 20th April

Employer Arrival from 8am
Briefing Session 8.30 am - 11.40 am
Provider Arrival from 12pm
Briefing Session 12.30 pm - 4.00 pm

To enquire of NFEC on the content of a seminar, [please click here](#)
To enquire of GTA England on the content of a seminar, [please click here](#)
[Click here](#) for the EMPLOYER briefing session AIMS and PROGRAMME
[Click here](#) for the PROVIDER briefing session PROGRAMME

Please for any enquires; contact the above links for further details.



Traineeship delivery restrictions lifted

The Skills Funding Agency has recently announced lifting of the restrictions on providers requiring a Ofsted Grade1 or Grade 2 in order to deliver Traineeships. New ruling effective 1st February means more providers are now able to deliver traineeships ahead of the 2016 to 2017 funding year.

Further details can be found in the Funding Rules 2015 to 2016 Version 2 Addendum 3. All other 2015 to 2016 funding rules continue to apply.



Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning Surveys

The Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning surveys will close on 1 April. To achieve a representative sample and gain a valid score, please encourage your learners complete the relevant survey:

- a) Learners funded under the Adult Skills Budget, Advanced Learner Loans, and those aged 16 to 18 funded by the Education Funding Agency, must complete the Learner Satisfaction survey.
- b) Learners funded under the Community Learning budget must complete the Community Learning survey.

For further information, please refer to the Information for Providers page on GOV.UK or email the Service Desk.

List of notices of concern and serious breach of contract published for first time

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has published a list of live notices of concern and serious breach of contract for the first time.

The information contained in a table unveiled on the agency's website features 62 providers in total.

That number includes 47 general FE colleges, nine local authorities, five independent learning providers and a single specialist designated institution ([download full list from here](#)).

This is the first time a list has been published and the SFA will be publishing updated data on the first working day of every month.

A note on the table added: "When a notice is lifted, or a schedule of a notice is lifted, it will not be included in the next published list."

Provisional Qualification Achievement Rates and Minimum Standards Dashboards 2014 to 2015

The SFA have publish provisional 2014 to 2015 qualification achievement rates (QARs) and minimum standards (MS) to the Hub and the provider gateway.

The QARs cover apprenticeships and education and training.
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Department
for Education

Follow the link below to access the Education Funding Agency e-bulletins
<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/executiveagencies/efa/efabulletins>

Post-16 funding video 2016 to 2017

The EFA have produced [a new video to update post-16 institutions](#) about the timeline and process for post-16 allocations in 2016 to 2017.

To subscribe to the e-bulletin please use 'My Contact Information' in the [EFA Information Exchange](#) if you are:

- a customer at a post-16 institution
- an academy headteacher
- from an academy trust and an accounting officer, chief financial officer, member, trustee, or chair of trustees

All other subscribers should give us their [details online](#)

New legislation to allow access to providers and colleges into schools

Last month, Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Education, announced plans for legislation to ensure that Apprenticeship employers and providers to gain access into schools to give careers advice to pupils.

Following considerable sector pressure, Ministers have now recognise that some schools are unwilling to recommend Apprenticeships or other technical and professional routes to any but the lowest achieving pupils in order to promote their own sixth forms – effectively creating a two-tier system of careers advice. Calling this “outdated snobbery”, the Secretary of State added, “As part of our commitment to extend opportunity to all young people, we want to level the playing field – making sure they are aware of all the options open to them and are able to make the right choice for them.

For many young people going to university will be the right choice, and we are committed to continuing to expand access to higher education, but for other young people the technical education provided by apprenticeships will suit them better.”

A summary of local network issues February 2016. (Comments by CEO, Stewart Segal)

16-18 Growth Requests

The SFA announcement that they are unable to award any growth funding for 16-18 apprenticeships is a major concern for providers who have been working closely with employers to generate and grow delivery to meet the Government's 3m apprenticeship target. The long delay and subsequent announcement by the SFA has resulted in disappointment and concerns around managing employers and learners' expectations, and cash flow issues.

Comment

The Skills Funding Agency has announced that it is providing an additional £25m for providers to deliver more 16-18 Apprenticeships this year and nearly £69m for further 19 Apprenticeships - but that it is currently unable to award any additional funding for 16 to 18 Traineeships.

The decision not to fund additional growth for 16-19 results from budget pressures experienced by DfE. It seems very strange that the government is funding 19+ growth but not 16-19 because there are 2 separate budgets. The DfE and SFA are saying that they hope that they will be able to respond to growth requests at the next growth point i.e. March 2016 because this is in the new financial year. The government's financial year runs from April so we hope this will open up the funding for growth. However much of the damage has been done to growing volumes and to provider's cash flow and we have made that clear to the Government.

The SFA has also just reduced the funding rate for the Advanced Apprenticeship IT framework from 1 April because the actual duration of the delivery is less than the funding model. The SFA are also looking at several other frameworks. We will continue to object to these in year changes to funding.

Trailblazers - Transition from Frameworks to Standards

A growing issue for local networks is the pace of roll out of the new standards and lack of available information to support the transition and end assessment. Key concerns include lack of clarity concerning funding and the likely impact of potential delays to the start of delivery.

Comment

We have always said that we did not want a fast roll out of new standards. Providers will need time to change their programmes so we are pleased that the deadline for changing to new standards has been extended beyond 2017.

Many of the Trailblazer groups are struggling to put together effective assessment strategies and this is the biggest challenge. AELP is working with AoC to put together Provider Readiness Groups which are looking at specific Trailblazer standards. Anyone wanting to get involved in this process should contact AELP.

There is a lot of information available on standards and assessment strategies and so we are putting together a specific section on the AELP website to make this easier for members to access.

(For more information please refer to Apprenticeship Standards Funding Rules 2016 to 2017 or email Trailblazer Funding Enquiries. AELP is currently working with the ETF in delivering a series

of workshops and webinars to help support providers making the transition- see below for more details)

Apprenticeship Recruitment

Low numbers and a lack of suitable applicants for apprenticeships remains the biggest ongoing issue for local networks. Providers also report a low number of employers looking to take on an apprentice.

Comment

There will be new careers advice legislation to get providers into schools. The new requirements on schools would mean that schools have to give other providers access to all students as part of independent careers advice. The new legislation will mean schools will be required by law to collaborate with training providers to ensure young people are aware of all the routes to higher skills and the workplace.

We have heard that some employers are waiting to see what happens under the Levy and therefore not recruiting apprentices. The starts numbers are holding up and there was a huge demand for growth at the first growth point. The lack of candidates in some areas and sectors is still an issue that does not make sense when there is still a high number of NEETs.

Other key issues highlighted include, Area Reviews with specific concerns over skills infrastructure, sub-contracting post-review and reviews creating a destabilising effect on staff morale. Also reported is ESIF commissioning across LEP areas is fragmented and behind schedule impacting on ESF provision.

Comment

AELP is a member of the national steering group on Area Reviews and will continue to work with local networks to ensure ITPs can give input to the local area reviews.

We have an internal resource doing a survey of current representation at LEP level. The review of local devolution arrangements will be available in the Spring.

Blended Learning Survey

A short diagnostic survey will be distributed by AELP shortly. The aim of the survey is to help you review your approach to blended learning and provide a range of support options to help you progress your current level of activity. Please can you encourage as many staff and employers as possible to complete the questionnaire and return to AELP.

To register on the next 'free' UFIs Blended Learning Essential course please visit: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/blended-learning-embedding-practice>

AELP's Annual Report 2014/15 is now available to view on the website homepage



LESE Partnership

A lot of preparatory work to set up the partnership has been undertaken over the past few months to put us in a strong position to respond to ESIF bidding opportunities.

- Management groups set up
- Due Diligence 1 and Due Diligence 2 NEET sent out and responses collated
- External partnership work undertaken

ESF NEET. To support individuals who are NEET in Lancashire

As reported at the Forum meeting in February 16, the LESE Partnership, with Preston's College as Lead Accountable Body (LAB) has submitted a tender for the delivery of NEET in Lancashire.

Since the release of the tender on 6th January, the bid writing team have met numerous times with the LAB to pull the bid submission together. The LESEP/LAB Partnership Board met on the 1st February to review the bid and provide their advice to the bid writing team. The completed tender was submitted successfully on the 5th February and we now await the outcome which is expected on the 6th May (with a delivery start date of 24th May)

In this interim period between the tender submission and the 6th May we will be meeting with partners to discuss delivery models and individual allocations and putting into place the implementation plan.

Lancashire Young Apprentice Ambassador Network (LYAAN)

Current Apprentices and ex Apprentices from around the North West attended a Launch Conference on 25th February 2016 in Manchester to pledge their support for the Apprentice Ambassador Network. 10 Apprentices from Lancashire attended the event to hear about the network and pledge their support



Lancashire Apprentices attend the NW Conference

The network has been established to champion and promote Apprenticeships across the North West primarily to young people; but also includes teachers, parents and employers. The network consists of exemplar apprentices and past apprentices acting as a voice of young people



Lancashire Apprentices receiving their pledge certificate

Please spread the word about the Lancashire Young Apprentice Ambassador Network as we need to encourage more young Apprentices to get on board. We are planning a LYAAN launch event in April and would love to have more young Apprentices pledge their support at the event.

Why be an ambassador?

1	You want to share your apprenticeship story with other young people to help them make informed choices about their future.
2	You want to share your apprenticeship story with other young people to help them make informed choices about their future.
3	You believe that your apprenticeship has been right for you and you want to tell people about it.
4	You know that University isn't right for everyone and you want to help young people know all the options.
5	You struggled to find out about apprenticeships and you don't want other young people to struggle.
6	You can promote your employer and get new young talent interested in joining your company.
7	You will improve and build new skills.
8	You will meet apprentices like yourself.
9	Be part of a network of young ambassadors across Lancashire and the North West.
10	It will look great on your CV!

The ambassador's role:

1	Championing and promoting Apprenticeships with young people, teachers and parents.
2	Championing and promoting by attending events, careers fairs, delivering presentations, being involved with lessons and activities etc.
3	Sharing experience of Apprenticeships and best practice with young people and to produce a short case study of your own 'Apprenticeship Story'.
4	Acting as role model for apprentices and championing Apprenticeships with employers, encouraging them to offer high quality Apprenticeship opportunities to young people.
5	Advocating Apprenticeships internally within your own organisation; supporting the development of Apprenticeship opportunities.
6	Acting as the voice of young people – a sounding board for consultations on the future direction of Apprenticeships etc.
7	Committing to engaging with at least 2 or 3 activities per year. Commitment to attend 4 LYAAN meetings per year. This could be via Skype or conference calls.

Sub Groups

Quality Improvement Sub Group

FE Choices: Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning Surveys

The Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning surveys will close on 1 April. To achieve a representative sample and gain a valid score, please encourage your learners complete the relevant survey:

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- b) Learners funded under the Community Learning budget must complete the Community Learning survey.



The Skills Hub and NCS have been looking at the Sector Skills Studies they commissioned last year and pulling them into useful labour market information that can be disseminate to teachers, tutors and staff responsible for careers advice and guidance.

A number of dates for workshops have been arranged to be held across Lancashire. Whilst targeted at schools, the workshops will be useful for staff in Colleges and training providers who have a careers advice / guidance element to their role.

Bookings can be made by clicking on the relevant workshop and registering via Eventbrite.

Updating your Lancashire Labour Market Information - Knowledge for you and your young people

Join us for a FREE CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The National Careers Service Careers Inspiration Team, in partnership with the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, is pleased to invite you to a workshop providing the following:

- Lancashire Labour Market Information - an update and information pack on the key growth sectors in Lancashire and how this relates to young person's opportunities.
- Apprenticeship Information – Update on NEW Apprenticeships available, including degree level apprenticeships.
- Opportunity to view the facilities at the local Higher Education Centre.
- Demand to attend these workshops is expected to be high, so PLEASE REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BELOW.

BLACKPOOL - 8th MARCH 2016 - 4.30-6.30PM - [BOOK NOW](#)

BURNLEY - 9th MARCH 2016 - 4.30-6.30PM - [BOOK NOW](#)

BLACKBURN - 10th MARCH 2016 - 4.30-6.30PM - [BOOK NOW](#)

LANCASTER - 14th MARCH 2016 - 4.30-6.30PM - [BOOK NOW](#)

PRESTON - 16th MARCH 2016 - 4.30-6.30PM - [BOOK NOW](#)

ORMSKIRK - 17th MARCH 2016 - 4.30-6.30PM - [BOOK NOW](#)



WorldSkills competition open

Learners, apprentices and employees from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales can register online between 1 March and 7 April to secure a place in one of the heats for the largest international skills competition in the world.

WorldSkills aims to raise the recognition of skilled professionals worldwide. Competitors and teams who achieve the highest will be invited to compete in the final at The Skills Show in November.

WorldSkills UK Experts wanted

WorldSkills UK is looking to appoint experts to train Squad UK and Team UK for the next international competition, which takes place in Abu Dhabi next year.

The organisation said competitions played a vital role in raising standards, esteem and levels of expertise in further education, apprenticeships and skills. They enable participants to develop outstanding skills in a range of industries across the built environment, cultural and creative arts, professional services, engineering, IT and business administration.

You can find more information at www.findafuture.org.uk



Wilshaw to leave Ofsted

Sir Michael Wilshaw will be leaving his role as Chief Inspector of Ofsted when his contract comes to an end in December.

Sir Michael, 69, will serve the rest of his five-year term, leaving in December, and is said to have "a lot he wants to say" before he does so. The post will be advertised later this month with a shortlist of candidates being submitted to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan for her approval.

DATES

for your diary

Next Forum meeting,
When: Wednesday 9th March 16
Where: Preston's College
Time: 9.30 for a 10am start
Chair: Lisa Bloomfield
Speakers: Ian Ryan - Employer and Delivery Services Manager - SFA

National Apprenticeship Week 2016
 Next year's National Apprenticeship Week will run from Monday 14th March to Friday 18th March 2016.

www.lancsforum.co.uk

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