

THOUSANDS of employers and colleges around the UK will be holding events during National Apprenticeship Week, which starts on Monday, to show off the achievements of their apprentices - and take on new ones.

Here is Sunemployment's pick of the best. For times, dates and details of these events and more, visit apprenticeships.org.uk.

OUR PICK OF THE BEST EVENTS

KENDAL

A week-long showcase at Kendal College will demonstrate the practical skills required for a variety of careers.

CHESHIRE

Apprentices from luxury car firm Bentley will be visiting schools throughout the week to give an insight into their roles.

COVENTRY

City College are holding weekly fairs of that, books and current apprentices will be on hand to give advice. From 10am-4pm.

LONDON

The Public Relations Consultants Association and Pearson Group are hosting an event to lead new PR business.

LONDON

SEC Recruitment and Hawk Training are holding a meet and greet with a difference - on the London Eye.

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APPRENTICE SPECIAL

JOB SPOT

POWER giant EDF is looking for 70 apprentices for their nuclear programme to train as engineers. See edfenergy.com/careers/apprenticeships.



SHE won the second series of The Apprentice in 2006 - but Michelle Dewberry started out at age 17 as an apprentice in a success firm. Here, the entrepreneur, left, gives her apprenticeship tip. She says: "Miss gave me vital skills, qualifications and confidence. But choose carefully - after all the training, is this really a job you want to do and will be suited to? If unsure what you want to do, pick a subject which gives you

"My position gave me vital skills, qualifications and confidence"

transferable skills, such as customer service or business administration. Research the provider. How many apprentices go on to full-time jobs? If you have a company in mind that doesn't offer an apprenticeship, write in and ask if there is any possibility. During your apprenticeship, take all the training, on offer, network and make contacts. If there are no full-time jobs once you finish, contact customers and suppliers you have been working with to see if they have openings. Be self-motivated. If something could be improved, improve it. Deliver over and above what is expected. Finally, don't be afraid to ask questions to help you learn."

PUB and restaurant chains offer thousands of apprenticeships. Whitbread need 200 at Premier Inn, Beefeater, Brewers Fayre, Table Table and Taybarns Restaurant outlets. See whitbread.co.uk. JD Wetherspoon want 1,000 - see jdwetherspoon.co.uk. McDonald's are seeking 2,500. See mcdonalds.co.uk/people. Red Hot World Buffet need 200 (jobs@redhotworldbuffet.com), and the Spirit Pub chain want 1,000 (spiritpubcompanycareers.com).

CHECKOUT SCHEMES

SUPERMARKETS take on more apprentices than any other industry - and it can be a superb start to a career. Morrisons, the biggest recruiter of apprentices in the UK, plan to recruit 7,000 trainees this year - 200 for meat and bakery duties, the rest in retail and customer service. There are full and part-time opportunities. Details at jobcentre.asda.com. ASDA need 5,000 apprentices in areas ranging from bakery and fresh produce to George clothing and customer service. See asda.jobs. The Co-operative Group want 800 apprentices across their business, from pharmacy to farming. See co-operative.jobs. Waitrose are seeking 200 apprentices later this year. Details will be posted on jobs.com.

JOB SPOT CRUSADE PRAISED

SKILLS Minister John Hayes has praised Sunemployment's 'crusade' campaign as 'fantastic'. Here he tells us why the Government is backing apprenticeships to get more into work. He says: "Thanks to record investment and the commitment of British firms, 440,000 learners started an apprenticeship in 2011 - an increase of 30 per cent on the previous year. In the last month, companies have taken on new construction, chef development and pharmacy apprentices. With The Sun's backing, we've embarked on a mission to restore balance to our economy, give hope to our young people and get British business back on the front foot."

WE'VE FOUND 34,000 APPRENTICESHIPS ON OFFER

Learn a trade ...and get paid

WANT to climb the career ladder, earn while you learn and not be weighed down with university fees? Then try an apprenticeship.

The number of people taking one has rocketed by almost 30 per cent since 2009 as more and more workers realise it's the smart way to train. More than 442,300 people began an apprenticeship last year - and it's not just for youngsters. They are open to anyone aged 16 and over, with scores of people in their 50s and 70s retraining. Workers earn a minimum of £200 an hour home pay. And as training is 'on the job', many employers believe the experience is worth more than a college-based course. Simon Waugh, chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, told Sunemployment: "From meeting with apprentices, I have heard first hand how they have benefited from their training with increased employment opportunities. I have also met a number of employers who have traditionally recruited graduates and now wish to take on apprentices too. This is great news and gives people

greater choices about routes into employment." Next week is National Apprenticeship Week. Starting from Monday, there are hundreds of events around the UK showcasing what apprenticeships have to offer. "Already more than 100,000 employees in more than 100,000 workplaces have positions. And there are over 1,000 kinds of jobs to train in, including nursing, graphic design, horticulture and electric vehicle engineering. Almost three quarters of people starting apprenticeships complete their training and go on to find jobs. Demand is so great that firms are being urged to create extra places. Research by training provider City & Guilds has calculated that apprenticeships will be worth £4.7 billion to the UK economy by 2020 as firms take on a million more apprentices. Simon Waugh added: "There has never been a better time to offer or take an apprenticeship." To celebrate, this week Sunemployment has found almost 34,000 positions available from top firms. Check out the jobs on the page today and at thesun.co.uk/jobs. WANT to apply for an apprenticeship? Visit apprenticeships.org.uk where there are more than 2,000 openings every day. Employers who want to know more about employing trainees should call the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600 or visit apprenticeships.org.uk.



THRILL... Cheryl wearing firm's brooch

JOB SPOT

UNILEVER need 15 apprentices for manufacturing, engineering and research & development roles. Apply at unilever.co.uk/careers/apprenticeships.

JOB SPOT FISSION FOR JOBS

OOzeleer with a career at BAE Systems - the defence firm is hiring 262 apprentices this year. Applicants need five GCSEs at Grades A to E including maths, English and science but pay and benefits are some of the best in the business. Michal Knight, 17, is the first female apprentice welder at BAE's submarine yard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, since the Eighties. She said: "Welding is seen as a man's job but if people realise girls can do it as well, why wouldn't they take it up?" See baesystems.com/apprentices.

JOB SPOT

TECHNOLOGY firm IBM wants 20 apprentices to train as technical solutions specialists. To apply go to ibm.com/employment/uk/apprenticeship.



TRAINING'S A GEM

KAYLEIGH HARRIS is training as a sales boss at a jewellery firm popular with celebs including Victoria Beckham after joining as an apprentice when she dropped out of university. Kayleigh, 20, left of Chessington, Surrey, said: "I set out to be a social worker but I didn't feel the course was the best fit for my skills. I registered with The London Academy Of Apprenticeships and was contacted by Hawk Training, who ran it, and invited to an assessment day. They helped me prepare for an interview and recommended me at Kleshna. After an apprenticeship in business and administration, I was hired as a trainee sales assistant. I have been with Kleshna for more than a year and progressed to training as the sales manager. "The highlight of my apprenticeship was seeing the Sparkly Poppy Brooches we created for the British Legion worn on the X Factor (by Cheryl Cole), Strictly Come Dancing and Loose Women."

JOB SPOT

DEPARTMENT store Boots is recruiting 90 apprentices and bosses want to hear from the over-60s. Job forms in store or post a CV with a covering letter.

JOB SPOT

CARE group Housing 21 are searching for 1,000 apprentices to work in roles across the UK caring for the elderly. Apply at housing21.co.uk or by calling 0370 192 4345.

BE ARMED FOR LIFE

ATTENTION! There are more than 12,000 fantastic apprenticeships available in the Armed Forces this year. As well as serving your country, you get to travel and learn skills which will benefit you in civilian life. The RAF need 1,483 recruits, in areas including aeronautical engineering, IT and catering. Flight Lieutenant Rick Sauger MBE said: "Perhaps you're interested in becoming an IT specialist - after a 30-month advanced apprenticeship you may find yourself using cutting-edge technology to maintain RAF radar and communication set-ups. You may even be helping develop the next generation of electronic warfare systems. See raf.mod.uk or call 0845 606 5555. The Navy are hiring 2,904 apprentices in five main sectors - engineering, health, public services and care, business administration & law, retail and commercial enterprise and information and communication technology. Visit royalnavy.mod.uk/careers. The Army are recruiting 8,000, with 43 different apprenticeship programmes in areas like telecoms, aeronautical engineering and animal care. To apply, go to army.mod.uk/careers or call 0845 600 6000.

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