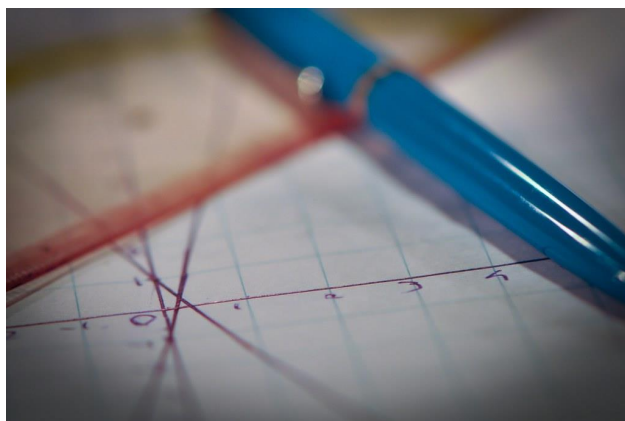




National news

AELP report on the need for GCSEs in Maths and English in apprenticeships



The Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) recently reported that only one in four apprenticeships are open to learners without GCSE English and Maths. The AELP is calling for functional skills qualifications in Maths and English to be removed as an exit requirement for apprenticeships.

[Read more.](#)

Siemens boss warns of green energy skills shortage



The UK and Ireland boss of Siemens Energy, one of the UK's largest manufacturers of wind turbines, has claimed that up to 500,000 more workers are needed to meet net zero targets in the coming years. Darren Davidson, said the green skills gap was one of the biggest challenges facing the sector as it goes through a period of "unprecedented growth". The BBC reported that his opinion was that focusing too much on wind and solar at the expense of other technologies could undermine plans and that "There's never been a better time to be in the energy sector. There are so many different technologies and types of jobs."

[Read more](#)

UCAS announces Tariff points rollout for apprenticeships



Apprenticeships will be allocated UCAS Tariff Points from 2025, for those applying for 2026 entry onwards. The move comes as a way to make students aware of all the pathways available into higher education.

[Read more](#)

National Careers Service adds Smart Home Installer option



The National Careers Service has added a new job profile for the role of 'smart home installer'. Matt Nimmons, Managing Director of CEDIA EMEA, said: "This is a great win for us as it firmly identifies the career opportunity for those seeking to join the workforce in our industry. It showcases viable career paths in a field that continues to expand and evolve."

[Read more](#)

What do graduates do? 2024/25



Prospects Luminate has produced the latest What do graduates do? report, which looks at the employment outcomes of those who graduated in 2021/22. Findings include:

- 59% were in full-time work 15 months after graduating, while 10.8% were in part-time employment.
- The top three areas of work were health professional, business, HR and finance professionals and clerical, secretarial and numerical clerks.

- Competition for graduate jobs has reached a record high with the average employer receiving 140 applications per graduate job.

[Read more](#)

Courses key to government growth mission will stay



The DfE has announced that qualifications key to the government's growth mission will remain until replacements become more established in key subjects. This followed a rapid review into vocational qualifications that were due to be defunded by the last government. A press release stated, "This will ensure learners will continue to have a broad range of options available to help them get a foot on the career ladder."

Key courses that will stay include those in important sectors such as agriculture, environmental and animal care, engineering, manufacturing, health and social care, legal, finance and accounting, business and administration, and creative and design.

[Read more](#)

Career positivity linked with happiness, but targeted support needed for those facing barriers



The Career Development Institute (CDI), the professional body for career development in the UK, has launched the results of research commissioned as part of its wider Valuing Careers campaign aimed at deepening awareness of the value career development provides for individuals, the economy and society.

The CDI's recommendations to address the gaps in career support identified by the research are detailed in the [report](#) and include:

- Implementing a Career Guidance Guarantee for young people and adults, as advocated by the CDPG.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of career development services, particularly those facing systemic barriers.
- Integrating career management skills during education to prepare individuals for lifelong career development.

[Read more](#)

Barrister apprenticeship standard endorsed by Bar Standards Board



The new [Barrister Apprenticeship Standard](#) has been announced by The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) and the Bar Standards Board (BSB). This new standard sets out the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to become a successful practising barrister in England and Wales. It provides the framework for an apprenticeship route to qualification identified in the BSB's Authorisation Framework.

[Read more](#)

The Top 10 most in-demand tech careers for 2025



The London School of Economics and Political Science has analysed data from leading reports and industry insights to compile an extensive picture of what it believes are the top 10 in-demand tech roles for 2025 which are:

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning engineers
2. Data analysts and scientists
3. Cybersecurity analyst
4. Cloud engineers
5. DevOps engineers
6. Full stack developers
7. Blockchain engineers
8. UX/UI Product Designers
9. Product Managers
10. Network and Systems Administrators

[Read more](#)



London news

New poll suggests inequalities leave many East Londoners feeling 'locked out' of careers in the professions



A recent online survey found that most East Londoners (71%) think that a career in the professions is a realistic aspiration for young people entering the job market today. However, around 40 per cent felt that there are clear inequalities in access to these kinds of careers. The new poll was commissioned by Queen Mary University of London, in association with the Mile End Institute, and fielded by Savanta, from 30th October to 12th November (based on a sample of 502 adults living in East London). 'The professions' were defined here as 'well-paid occupations that lead to secure careers, especially ones that involve prolonged training and a formal qualification e.g., careers in healthcare, finance, IT and technology and the legal sector'.

38 per cent believe it would be challenging to access a career in the professions if you were from an ethnic minority background. 38 per cent said the same of a working-class background and 31 per cent of a religious minority background. A third (33 per cent) felt it would be challenging to access a career in the professions if you did not already have family or friends working in the professions. This suggests that many East Londoners may feel 'locked out' of access to careers in the professions.

[Read more](#)

City of London launches 'Skyline Skills Hub' to secure future green jobs



The City of London Corporation has launched its [Skyline Skills Hub](#), which looks at how the built environment can be part of the green skills future. There is an area on the site called new entrants. This looks at the different careers and resources available in the green built environment that could play an important role in delivering London's sustainable skyline.

[Read more](#)

World's apart: Skills and learning inequalities in the UK



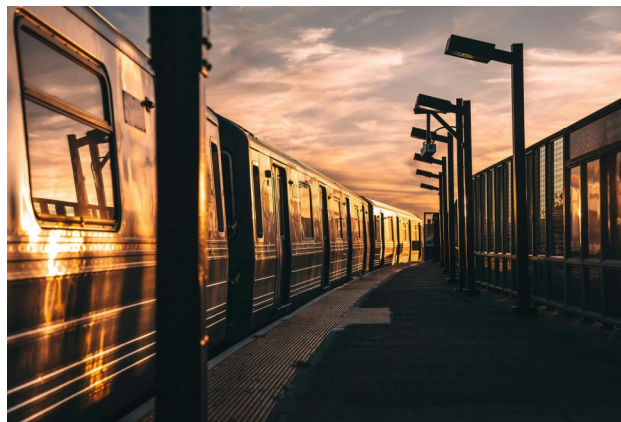
A report by Learning and Skills Institute, [Worlds apart: Skills and learning inequalities in the UK](#), claims that the UK has larger gaps in workforce skills between different parts of the country than in most other European countries. 4.1 million more people outside London are said to be needed to gain higher education qualifications to close the gap between London and the rest of the UK. This could be holding back economies outside London, and action to improve jobs and opportunities across the country is recommended, or the risk is that people gaining new qualifications in low-skill areas may continue to follow the better-paid jobs into cities like London, Leeds, Bristol and Brighton.

[Read more](#)



North East

£500 million Hitachi train deal secures hundreds of jobs



A £500 million deal between Hitachi, FirstGroup and Angel Trains means that hundreds of train building jobs have been secured. Hitachi will make 14 “award-winning, British-built” trains at its County Durham plant in Newton Aycliffe. Work is expected to start in 2027.

[Read more](#)

BAE Systems recruiting apprenticeships as part of major skills investment

BAE SYSTEMS

It is reported that defence group BAE Systems is recruiting 120 new apprentices and graduates across its bases in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber in 2025 as part of a major investment plan.

The company is boosting the number of people in training to 15% of its UK workforce, training a record 6,500 young people next year. Its investment in education and skills is expected to reach £1bn since the start of the decade, spent predominantly on UK apprentices, graduates and experienced employees, as well as education outreach.

[BAE Systems recruiting apprentices in Washington as part of major skills investment - Chronicle Live](#)

New jobs in pipeline as firm wins water work



UTS Engineering, a pipelines firm in Jarrow, has said it will create 50 full-time staff and 25 full-time trainees after securing a major utilities contract with Thames Water. A recruitment drive for welders, fabricators and on-site technicians is now ongoing to make pipe fittings and provide under pressure drilling and line stopping services.

[Read more](#)

JATCO launches £48.7 million EV Factory



Japanese-headquartered JATCO, a global automotive transmission manufacturer, has opened a manufacturing plant on the International Advanced Manufacturing Park in Sunderland, creating up to 183 highly skilled jobs. The plant will produce 3-in-1 electrified powertrains for Nissan Sunderland, integrating motor, inverter and reducer components to make them smaller and lighter. It will support Nissan's EV36Zero project, which includes the next generation of all-electric versions of the Qashqai, JUKE and LEAF models.

[Read more](#)



South

Somerset's skills gap revealed: Care workers, drivers, and tech roles in high demand

Latest ONS data shows Somerset's most advertised job roles are care workers, HGV drivers and tech specialists. Care work is in particular demand in areas with ageing populations such as Mendip and Sedgemoor.

Other key roles being advertised include sales account managers, bookkeepers, and payroll managers.

[Read more](#)

Hundreds of new defence jobs after 'record' funding



Defence firm BAE Systems is to create more than 350 new jobs across the South of England. The company said that Essex, Hampshire and Kent would benefit from UK-wide spending of £1bn on education, training and skills. In addition to this, around 90 jobs are also expected in the south west including the areas Dorchester and Weymouth.

[Read more](#)

Free workshops offered to learn "endangered" crafts



The South West Heritage Trust is hosting free workshops to learn about traditional crafts that are such an important part of the region's heritage. The aim is to revive crafts listed as "endangered" on the Heritage Crafts Red List. This is an annual survey that highlights at-risk traditional skills and crafts such as brick making and hurdle making.

The workshops will take place across Somerset in February and March. They are aimed at those aged 14 to 23 years old. More information and booking can be found [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Dorset Council launches group for young people with special needs



Dorset Council is preparing to launch a new group for local young people with SEND called The Dorset Unstoppables. Aimed at 11 to 25 year olds, the group will give young people an accessible, safe and inclusive space to be listened to. They will have the chance to share feedback and ideas to the Council to make sure services work well for them and their families in Dorset.

[Read more](#)



South Yorkshire

Council initiative recognised for making positive impact on social mobility



Sheffield City Council's See it Be it in Sheffield campaign has been recognised for making significant strides in advancing social mobility in the city. The campaign brings to life the world of work for young people in Sheffield and helps to raise aspirations and improve their life chances.

As part of the campaign, the Council works with schools, colleges and other educational organisations, helping to link young people with local employers and businesses to provide meaningful employer encounters and experiences of the workplace.

The initiative has now been recognised by The Social Mobility List 2024, which highlights the key contributors and initiatives that are driving social mobility in the UK.

[Read more](#)

Barnsley Council unveils plans for "striking new landmark"



Barnsley Council has revealed plans to create a "striking new landmark" in its town centre. The three Yorkshire Roses will form part of the first phase of the Seam Digital Campus redevelopment. A new one acre urban park will also be part of the redevelopment. Work is expected to begin in the summer if planning permission is granted. It is hoped that this development will attract new business and provide opportunities, increase visitor footfall and support town centre businesses.

Phase two of the redevelopment is reported to include a "high-end" hotel and a "National Centre for Digital Technologies", subject to planning permission.

[Read more](#)

M1 Services: First look inside £40m facility at J33 featuring Starbucks, Burger King, Pret, Waitrose and KFC



Welcome Break has opened a new service station on 17th January at the end of Sheffield Parkway on both sides of the M1 at Junction 33. 230 jobs have been created and it includes big brands such as Starbucks drive-thru, KFC, Burger King, Pret-a-Manger, Waitrose, Chopstix and WHSmith.

[Read more](#)

Ofsted report praises high standard of apprenticeships at University of Sheffield



The University of Sheffield has been recently recognised for the quality of its apprenticeship programmes by Ofsted.

The University has a number of well established training programmes in engineering and healthcare, which are developed and delivered in collaboration with the industry. This allows employers to communicate their current and future specialist skills needs.

Professor Mary Vincent, VP for Education at the University of Sheffield, said: "There is a national skills gap in nursing and manufacturing in the UK, so here at Sheffield we are working closely with employers to deliver apprenticeships that meet their needs both now and over the coming years, as well as the needs of apprentices who are looking to launch their career in these fields."

[Read more](#)



Useful websites and resources



[Filming in England](#)

A blog on the 'Filming in England' website about hidden careers in film and TV. There is also an [Education Outreach](#) section on the website.

[Your career as a GP](#)

'Your career as a GP' from the Royal College of General Practitioners contains information to explore opportunities associated with a career in general practice.

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

A reminder of the resources for [students](#), [schools](#) and [parents](#), plus [events](#) and the new arcade games on the [Apprenticeship Arcade](#).

[Apprenticeships Resources Hub](#)

Various apprenticeship resources to support those who are involved in helping young people make career decisions.

[Into Film](#)

Free resources to use in schools that provides guidance and activities for those interested in filmmaking.

Dates for your diary



National

- [National Apprenticeship Week 2025](#) - 10 - 16 Feb 2025
- [Careers Live - National Apprenticeship Week](#) - 10 - 14 Feb 2025, 10am to 3pm
- ASK - [Exploring the range of apprenticeships](#) - 10 Feb 2025, 3.30pm
- [Festival of Apprenticeships - Online careers fair](#) - 10 - 14 Feb 2025
- ASK - [Using Find an Apprenticeship to search and apply](#) - 27 Feb 2025, 3.30pm
- [What Next?](#) Learn about your options once you have left school - NEC Birmingham - 28 Feb - 1 Mar 2025

London

- [London Careers Festival](#) - 3 - 14 Feb 2025
- [The National Apprenticeship Show - London and South East](#) - Sandown Park Racecourse, 11 Feb 2025, 10am - 2.30pm and 12 Feb 2025, 10am - 2.30pm

North East

- [National Apprenticeship & Education Events, North East](#) - Newcastle Civic Centre, 11 Feb 2025, 9.30am - 3pm
- [Durham Careers Fair](#) - Durham Town Hall, 26 Feb 2025, 10am - 2pm

South

- [National Career Guidance Show - South West](#) - Sandy Park Way, Exeter, 6 Feb 2025
- [Plymouth Careers Fair](#) - New Continental Hotel, Plymouth, 26 Mar 2025, 10am - 2pm

South Yorkshire

- [Doncaster Recruitment Showcase](#) - Doncaster Racecourse - 5 Feb 2025, 10am - 5pm
- [Sheffield Hallam University Lets Talk Degree Apprenticeships Event](#) - Sheffield Hallam University City Campus - 11 Feb 2025, 8:30am - 11am
- [Rotherham Careers Fair](#) - AESSEAL Stadium, Rotherham - 5 Mar 2025, 10am - 2pm
- [Opportunities Doncaster Live](#) - Doncaster Racecourse - 6 Mar 2025, 3.30pm - 6pm

Feedback



Please let us know how useful you found this bulletin by clicking on the link [here](#).



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