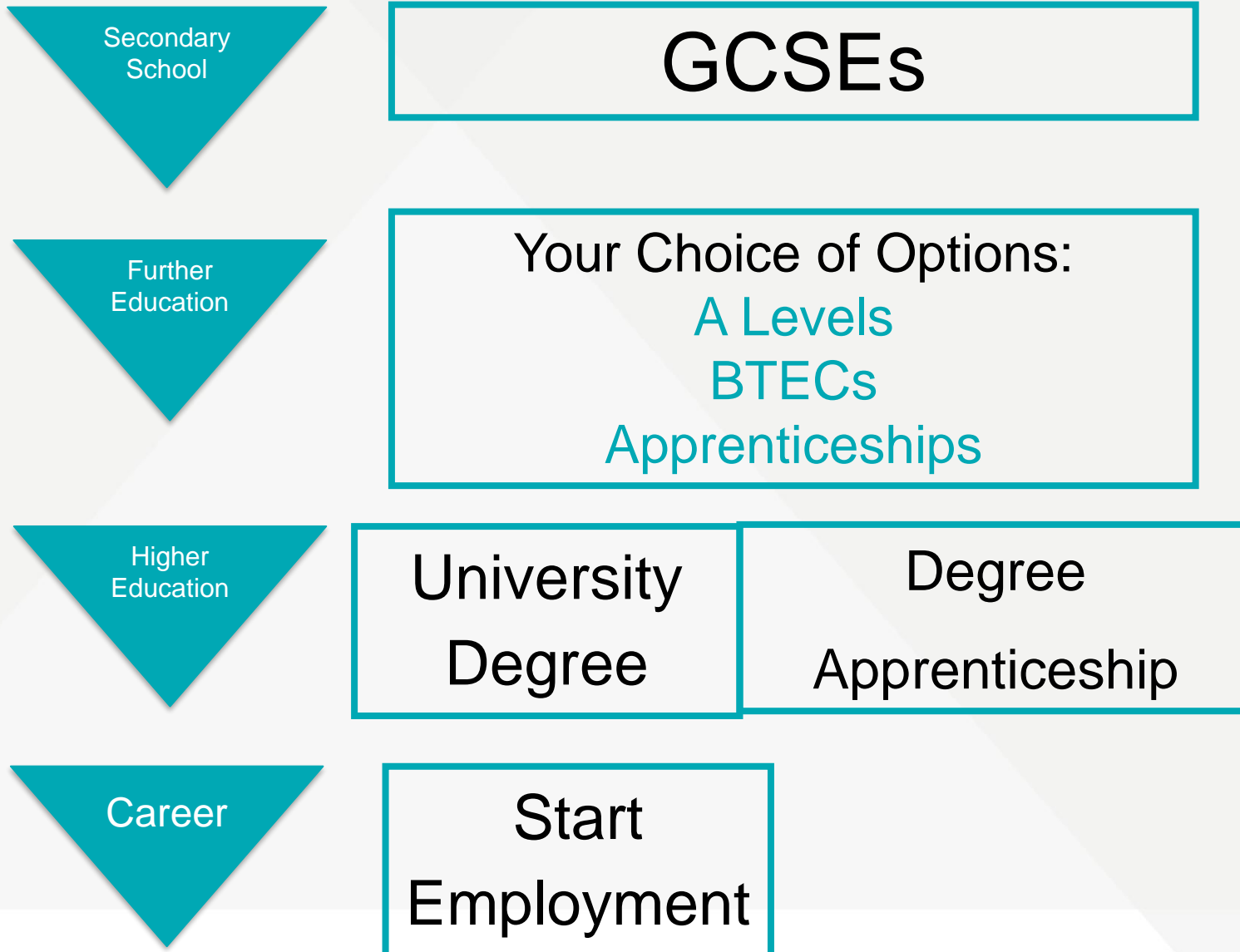


Degree Apprenticeships

Graduate employability

Routes to University and Apprenticeships



Degree Apprenticeships

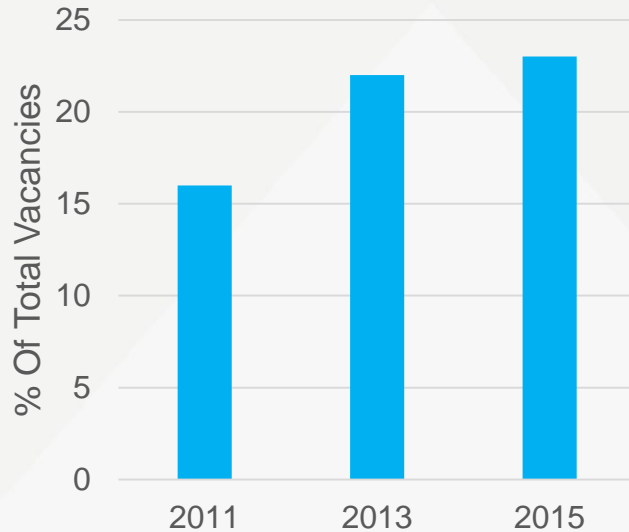
What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprentice is an **employee** studying an apprenticeship against an approved **work based learning programme**



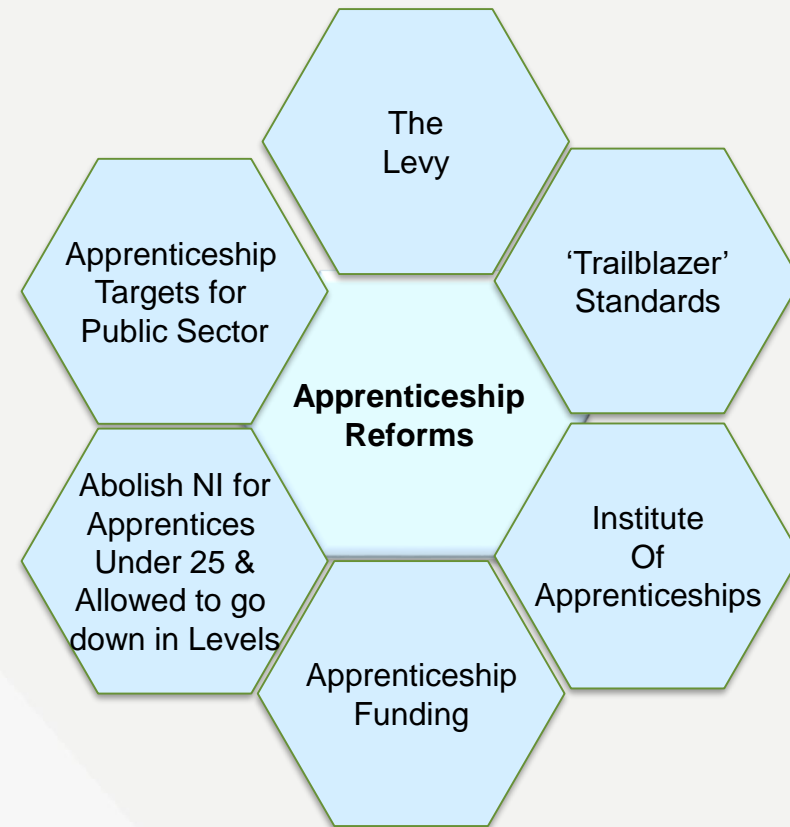
The Apprenticeship Reforms 2015

Skills Shortage Vacancies



1.4 Million

staff lacking proficiency in their current jobs



A new age for Apprenticeships – Degree Apprenticeships
The rise of the professional apprentice

What is a Degree Apprenticeship?

Students get the **best of both worlds**

- Degree Apprenticeship Qualification
- Full BSc Hons Degree
- 4+ years of work experience...and the salary attached to this
- No student debt. The full cost of the degree is paid for by the employer

They are a student and a full time employee
They 'earn whilst they learn'

*A rise of Degree Apprenticeships in industries which value experience and job specific skills over university qualifications on their own





- Leading the way – first university to offer Degree Apprenticeships in September 2015
- In July 2017 we had our first Degree Apprenticeship graduates
- We currently offer...

Digital & Technology Solutions

Chartered Manager

Embedded Electronic System Design and Development

Healthcare Science Practitioner – Audiology (July 2018)

Professional Engineer: Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (July 2018)



Aston apprentices work with ...

 //  // Caan Associates // Cadbury College //
BENTLEY

Capgemini  // [dstl] // Elected Technologies // Forbo Flooring // 

// Integrated Water Services // IVTS // Jobchange //  //  Microsoft

// Pinewood //  // Triqs //  // Waterloo Housing

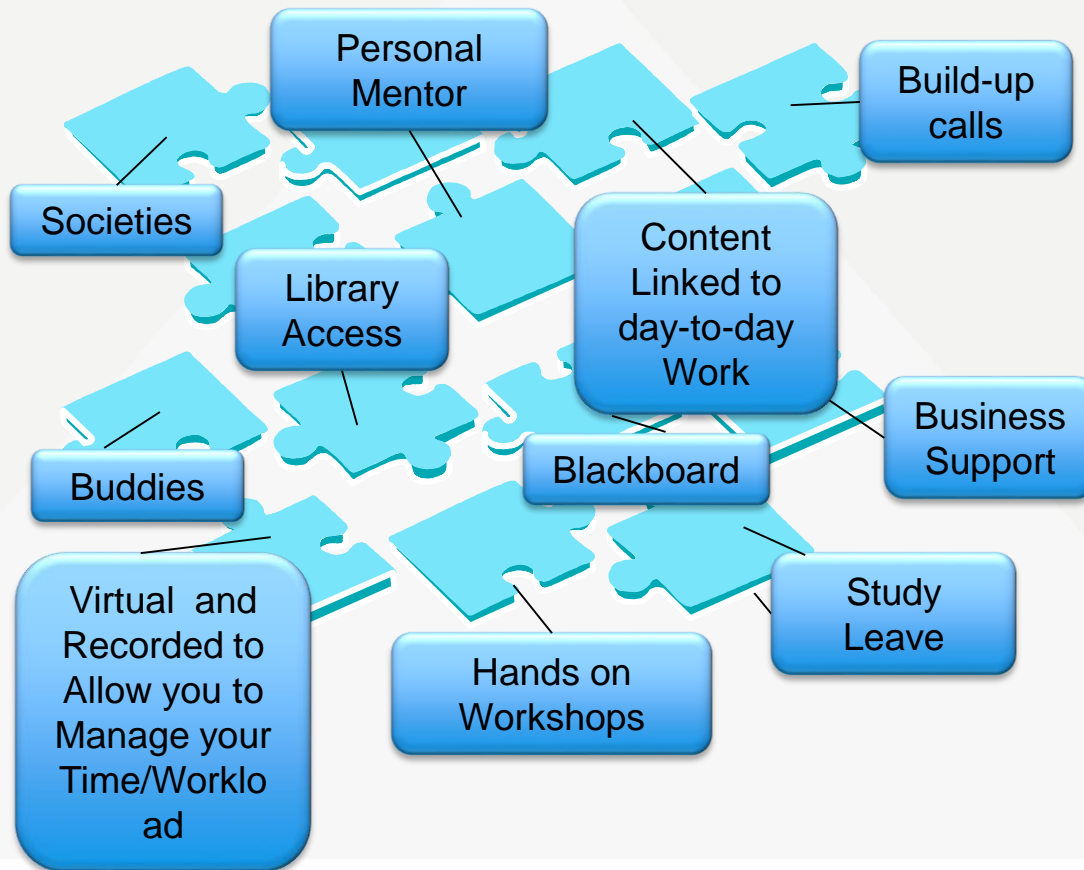
How does a Degree Apprenticeship differ to a traditional degree?

University
Academic option
Lectures / Labs / Seminars
Varied timetable depending on which course you are studying
£9,250 tuition fees per year paid for by you (Student Finance available)
Subject specific but quite generic
Option to do a placement year to gain experience
University life
Very competitive

Degree Apprenticeship
Academic option
Work based learning and study days
9 - 5pm working day
Fees paid for by your employer
Very specific and focused (trained to do a specific job)
You get paid a salary (treated like a real employee)
Guaranteed job once you have graduated
Very competitive

Students are supported by the employer and the university

Support Available



Continued Improvement

Degree Apprenticeships are not 'an easy option' but there is a lot of support in place to make sure that students succeed

Meet the students



Is a Degree Apprenticeship right for you?

Ask yourself these three questions...

- ▶ Do you want a degree?
- ▶ Do you want to go to university to get this?
- ▶ Are you ready to start in the working world?



Everything about a degree apprenticeship appealed to me, as it enabled me to get a degree with no debt gained. Every day is different but I always learn something new – that's why it's such a privilege to be one of the first ever degree apprentices.



James Gee

BSc (Hons) in Digital & Technology Solutions
Software Engineer Lead



The Application Process

- Most companies will ask students to complete an **online application**
- They might also be called for an **interview**
- They might be asked to attend an **assessment centre**
- They might be asked to complete an **aptitude test**

It varies depending on the employer



Digital and Technology Solutions

Software Engineer

- Technical Focus

Business Analyst

- Technical and Business Focus

Study Expectations

- Start the course with a **7 week boot camp**
- Gets students ready to contribute to the business as quickly as possible

• After



Work-based



Distance



Face to Face

Expected Time Commitment

Weekly Average

Taught content
(5 hours)

Self study
(5 hours)

Yearly

On-campus Teaching
(8 days – 4 weekend)

Exams
(4 days)

Study Leave
(30 days)

How do you apply?

- Degree Apprenticeships are only available for students living in England
- Students apply directly to the employer, not UCAS or the partner university
- Unlike UCAS Applications, there isn't one specific timeline for the application process
- The timeframe depends upon when the employer is hiring (like a job!)
- The application process is varied based on the employer...**application, interview, assessment centre**

Did you know?

Many students complete a UCAS and Apprenticeship application to keep their options open



In summary...weighing up the options

Ask yourself these questions...

- ▶ Do you want a degree?
- ▶ Do you want to go to university to get this?
- ▶ Are you ready to start in the working world?

Shaping your future

**Graduate employability and
where to next**

The 2018 Job Market

- ▶ 18% increase in graduate vacancies
- ▶ 32% increase in employers offering apprentices
- ▶ 4.3% of graduate vacancies left unfilled in 2017
- ▶ Average graduate starting salary is £30,000 with the leading UK graduate recruiters

Source: Institute of Student Employers 2018



What is employability anyway?

.....is about the development of a set of skills and capacities in students that allow them to engage with the unknown in a creative, analytical, contingent and novel manner



Where to start...?

82% employers don't care what subject you study at university (Gilworth, 2018 Director of Careers)

Allows students to broaden their horizon of opportunity

The decline of the clear career trajectory

Fluid job market

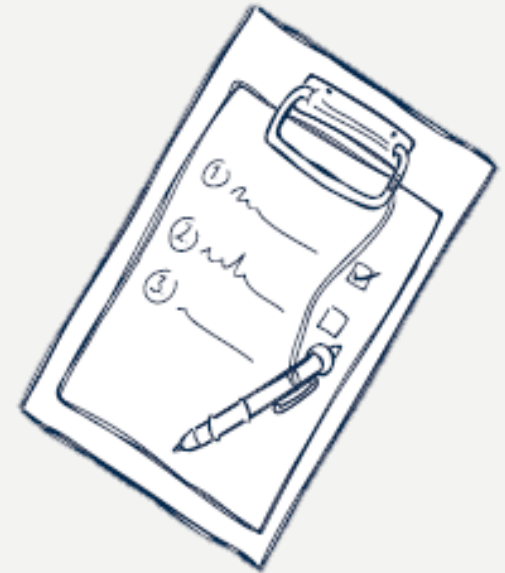
A bigger playing field of **CHOICE**

Transferrable skills are KEY!



Top ten skills employers want

1. Verbal communication
2. Teamwork
3. Commercial awareness
4. Analysing and investigating
5. Initiative and self motivation
6. Drive
7. Written communication
8. Planning and organising
9. Flexibility
10. Time management



Start developing your personal brand



Develop your personal brand

- Social media plays a key role in the recruitment process today
- Allows a glimpse of who you are outside the confines of an application
- Set your settings to private
- Delete inappropriate posts and pictures
- Have a sensible email address



What does your social media say about you?



Keep private things private & be careful what you post – employers will check your social media activity!

Your Action Plan

- ▶ Start exploring your options
- ▶ Start creating your brand
- ▶ Identify your strengths & play to them!
- ▶ Experience what's out there
- ▶ It's your future – only you can make things happen!!



Big fish, small pond





**Any questions?
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