

External speakers

Overview

As a part of the Try a Trade programme, schools will be engaging with employers, training providers and apprentices working in domestic trades. This will be either through in-person school visits and events, virtual events or through external visits to local employers.

This lesson activity has been designed for teachers to help students to prepare for an employer / training provider / apprentice visit or engagement activity.

Preparation and delivery

- Introduce the activity to the students using the summary on page 2, explaining why it is important for them to use employer, provider and apprentice events as an opportunity to learn more and impress those contacts.
- Ask students to think about the questions they could ask an employer, provider and an apprentice, and to make a note of them on the worksheet provided.
- We have provided a suggested activity sheet (see page 4) that could be printed and used by students. Please print 1 per student.



Lesson duration:

This activity is designed to take approximately 15 - 30 minutes each, depending on the class size.

Gatsby Benchmarks:

GB1: A stable careers programme
GB4: Linking curriculum learning to careers
GB5: Encounters with employers/ employees



Lesson aims:

- To develop an understanding of domestic trade apprenticeships as a pathway for post-16 students.

Delivery ideas: Discussion and stretch

If you have more lesson time available or would like to set a homework task, you could consider asking students to research where they might be able to find answers to some of their questions.

- Could they ask an apprentice they might know?
- Could they research local employers who offer apprenticeships and see if they have any apprentice case studies on their website or social media?
- Could they look to apprentice networks, such as the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network?

Guidance for teachers

Summary to explain the task to your students



When attending live or online events with employers, training providers or apprentices, you will have the opportunity to learn what it is like to work as an apprentice for a domestic trade organisation and find out more details about the apprenticeship scheme.



You will be able to interact with the speaker and find out why apprenticeships are important to that organisation, what their values are and how you could see yourself fitting into that organisation should you apply for an apprenticeship with them.



It is important that you use events with employers/training providers/apprentices to find out as much information as you can about the apprenticeship and ask any questions that you would find useful to know ahead of starting or applying for an apprenticeship.



This is also an opportunity to impress an organisation that you ultimately may end up applying for. Many employers have met young people at events in schools or colleges and offered them apprenticeship roles as they made a good impression.

Activity instructions

Ask your students to think about questions they could ask employers, training providers or apprentices at events that they would find useful to know or could help them to make a good impression by showing interest in the apprenticeship programme.

We have provided some suggestions below that could start the students off:

Questions to ask employers

- How many apprentices do you take on each year / in each cohort?
- How does the 'off the job' training work at the company?
- Why do you employ apprentices?

Questions to ask apprentices

- Why did you choose an apprenticeship?
- What do you enjoy most about your apprenticeship?
- What do you enjoy least about your apprenticeship?

Questions to ask training providers

- How do you deliver the apprenticeship training?
- What would happen if I were struggling with the content?
- Will I have a personal tutor that I can contact?

Questions to ask employers

- Where is the training provider based - will I go to the training provider or does the training provider come to me?
- What are the expectations of an apprentice when they start?
- What responsibilities will the apprentice have, and how quickly?
- Will the apprentice have a mentor or someone to shadow?
- What will happen if the apprentice falls behind with their training?
- What are the career opportunities at the end of the apprenticeship?
- How many hours per week is the apprentice expected to work?
- Where and when do you advertise your vacancies?
- What are you looking for when you are interviewing for an apprentice?

Questions to ask apprentices

- Can you tell me a little bit about your daily responsibilities?
- How do you find balancing the apprenticeship 'off the job work' and the daily job?
- What is your training provider like? How do they support you?
- How did you find the apprenticeship?
- What was the recruitment process like?
- Do you have any tips for searching for an apprenticeship?
- What are the best bits about being an apprentice?
- What career opportunities has your employer offered you?
- What are your plans for progression when you complete your current apprenticeship?

Questions to ask training providers

- Will I get to meet other apprentices from different organisations?
- What is the final assessment process like?
- What have your previous apprentices enjoyed about the apprenticeship?
- What kind of apprenticeships do you offer?

Student Worksheet

Use the space below to make a note of questions you could ask employers, training providers or apprentices that you may meet.

Questions to ask
employers

Questions to ask
apprentices

Questions to ask
training providers