

Apprenticeships 2027

Information for Year 11 students and families • October 2026

Is your child thinking about an apprenticeship after Year 11?

You may have seen recent announcements in the press about major employers launching their 2027 apprenticeship programmes, including British Airways and other well-known companies. We wanted to share some information about these opportunities and explain how apprenticeships fit into your child's post-16 planning.

Apprenticeships – a different route after Year 11

An apprenticeship is a full-time job alongside structured learning and training, usually with a college or training provider. Apprentices earn a salary while working towards qualifications.

This pathway is particularly suitable for students interested in moving into full-time employment rather than attending college full-time. However, an apprenticeship depends on securing a job with an employer. Recruitment can be competitive and places are not guaranteed.

All Year 11 students should apply for a full-time college course before Christmas, even if they hope to secure an apprenticeship in 2027. This provides an important backup option while they explore employment opportunities.

College can also be the first step towards an apprenticeship

Another well-established pathway is to begin a vocational course at college and then progress into a related apprenticeship after one or two years.

For example, a student might study early years, construction, or motor vehicle maintenance before moving into an apprenticeship in Year 2 or Year 3 of their post-16 education. This can build skills, qualifications, confidence and experience, helping students become stronger applicants.

Starting college does not mean giving up on an apprenticeship. For many students, it can be an excellent route towards one.

Apprenticeship employers to explore

Some larger employers recruit many months before apprenticeships begin. We are highlighting employers who offer Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships, although not every vacancy will be suitable for students leaving Year 11. Working locations, age restrictions and entry requirements vary.

APPLICATIONS ALREADY OPEN

British Airways — 2027 recruitment has started, including Level 3 engineering and business opportunities; some close on 19 November. Most current roles are at Heathrow, which may be difficult to reach. Students interested in aviation can also watch for opportunities at Gatwick. [Explore BA apprenticeships](#)

PROGRAMMES TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2027

BAE Systems — Engineering, manufacturing, technology and business; applications expected from January. [Employer website](#)

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, Goodwood — Local manufacturing and business opportunities; recruitment typically begins early in the year. [Employer website](#)

Shoreham Port — Local opportunities in engineering, business, finance and marine operations; applications expected around March/April. [Employer website](#)

Ricardo, Shoreham — Previously recruited local engineering and manufacturing apprentices; 2027 dates not yet confirmed. [Employer website](#)

National Highways — A variety of apprenticeship programmes; recruitment expected in February. [Employer website](#)

More local opportunities will follow

These are just a few examples of larger employers. Many more businesses across Worthing and surrounding areas, including smaller local companies in a wide range of industries, will advertise apprenticeships throughout 2027. Some will not advertise until spring or summer, so students should continue searching. Travel and working locations are important considerations, especially for national employers.

Our top tip: Keep an open mind! Students who are flexible about the type of job, industry and workplace they will consider have more opportunities to apply. For example, a business or administration apprenticeship could be based in engineering, healthcare, transport or retail – not just an office-based company.

Finding and applying for apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are jobs. Applications are usually made directly to employers or through the Government apprenticeship vacancy service. Colleges and training providers may list vacancies on their websites and sometimes help students find suitable opportunities.

However, applying for a college course is not the same as applying for an apprenticeship. Students must apply for a specific role with an employer and complete the recruitment process.

How can the Durrington Careers Department help?

Next term, we plan to offer dedicated apprenticeship drop-in clinics. We can help students understand apprenticeships, identify opportunities, search for vacancies, prepare applications and navigate recruitment.

We do not operate a job-finding service or arrange apprenticeship placements. Students, with the support of their parents, carers or other supporting adults, must take responsibility for researching employers, finding vacancies, completing applications and following up. Securing an apprenticeship requires commitment, persistence and often several applications.

We will support and guide all students who wish to pursue this route, but much of the work must come from them. Interested students are encouraged to make full use of the support available.

Start searching: [Government Find an Apprenticeship](#) • Visit Careers or email careers@durring.com

REMEMBER to keep college options open while exploring apprenticeships. No final decisions are needed or possible at this stage.