

DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

15th January 2024

Dear parent / carer,

You might be aware that National Apprenticeship Week is coming up between 5 and 11 February 2024. The theme for the week is 'Skills for Life', and we think it is a great opportunity for students – and their families – to find out more about the wide range of apprenticeships on offer across a variety of different sectors.

An apprenticeship might not be something you've considered or talked about as a family before. That's why we're going to help our students explore the different apprenticeship options at school during apprenticeship week; there will be a range of activities and talks for learners to get involved with. While our students are learning more, you may also want to find out what apprenticeships can offer, so you can have further conversations about them at home too; apprenticeships have evolved hugely in recent years, and many people are surprised to discover just how varied the options are: from accountancy, business, defence and law, to retail, healthcare, IT, construction and travel.

If you think an apprenticeship might be right for your learner, or you're just curious to understand more about the unique combination of academic study with on-the-job training – all while being a paid – then why not join us for Parent Apprenticeship Information session on **Wednesday 7th February** between **6pm-7pm** online via Teams? The session will give you an overview of the different levels of apprenticeships, as well as the variety of roles across a whole host of sectors.

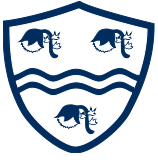
We're also very lucky that we'll be joined during the online event by special guest Darren Hollis from Gatwick Airport. Now a Senior Engineer at the airport, Darren started his career as an apprentice himself, and has a unique insight into the apprenticeship journey; he'll be talking through how the skills and study pathways work and doing some myth-busting for us around some common misconceptions of apprenticeships. The session is a great chance to hear more about a potential future option for your child.

We really hope you can make it. If you'd like to join us, we'd be grateful if you could register for the event beforehand, using the QR code at the bottom of this letter. Then we'll be able to send you the joining details for event.

In the meantime, if you'd like to do your own research into apprenticeships, there are some great resources available:

- A useful and simple guide by UCAS: [Parent and guardian guide to apprenticeships | Undergraduate Apprenticeships | UCAS](#)
- Some free webinars run by Amazing Apprenticeships: you can register for these at the following link: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars/>

As always, thank you for all your support and we look forward to hopefully speaking to you on Wednesday 7th February. In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



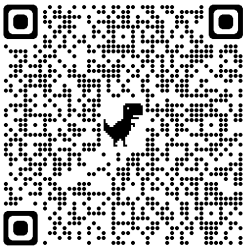
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Yours sincerely,

Mr F. Redfern
Assistant Principal – Personal Development

Please scan here to register for our Parent Apprenticeship Information session on 7th February, between 6-7pm:



<https://forms.office.com/e/CNY7z0jiXp>