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CAREERWAVE BULLETIN

Independent and impartial career guidance from CareerWave



Will the lockdown affect the plans I have for September?

by Richard Allnutt, Director of CareerWave

The short answer is, for most people, no we don't expect that it will. Obviously we say this with an assumption that the lockdown will have ended in time for the new academic year, September 2020.

Most people progress from Year 11 into full-time education i.e. college, sixth form or a course with a training provider. For those of you who have already been offered a place on a course, all education providers are keen to stress that your place is safe. All you have to do is turn up for enrolment as you would have done in normal circumstances. You don't need to do anything else.

If you are yet to apply it is not too late and staff are available to respond to all applications. Most colleges, sixth forms and training providers have an on-line application system and they are doing interviews over the phone. The following link provides you with a list of all [local providers](#) and their websites. If there is not an online form, you will be able to get in touch by email, webchat or telephone.

However, for learners who are in the apprenticeship market things *might* have changed. On the next page we have provided some advice about what to do if you are applying for an apprenticeship or have already been offered one to start after you leave Year 11.

The overriding message is, **stay calm** and, if need be, seek reassurances from the education provider or employer you have applied to.

Year 11 options

- **Sixth form**- if you want to continue to learn in an academic way, i.e. be in a classroom and be assessed by exams, then this is the option
- **College**- offers mainly **technical** courses linked to industries and jobs. Courses are available at all levels. Colleges also offer apprenticeships and some have their own sixth form
- **Training Providers**- offer many of the same courses found at colleges but they are usually **smaller**. They also offer apprenticeships and traineeships
- **Apprenticeship**- real jobs that you have to **compete for**. See page 2 for more information about them and the possible impact of Coronavirus



Apprenticeships and the lockdown

The first thing to say is that your apprenticeship, if you have been made an offer, **could be safe**. Certainly many employers will hope to be in a position to follow through their existing apprenticeship plans. However, it is clear that the economy is currently suffering and it would be unrealistic to think that this won't have some impact on the apprenticeship market.

So, if you are holding an offer of an apprenticeship, or you are still going through the application process, you should get in touch with the named contact on the initial job advert or from any correspondence since (if they haven't been in contact already). This contact name could be someone at the training provider/college or the employer.

They should be able to let you know the state of play- even if the answer is it is on hold until things become clearer.

For those of you without an apprenticeship offer, but still actively looking for one, the message is clear; **Keep looking and applying!** As of today (20th April), there were 11 vacancies added to [gov.uk apprenticeship website](https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeship-website) since the start of the month. Some were with really big employers too, including Virgin and the NHS.

However, if, as expected, the number of vacancies are lower this year than previous years, then the competition is going to be more intense. Given that in any normal year apprenticeship recruitment is very competitive, CareerWave strongly advises that this year a back-up plan is definitely put in place.

Therefore, whatever stage you are at in your apprenticeship search, **make sure you also apply for a course at sixth form, a college or a training provider**. It is important to know that you can do the same qualifications as a full-time student as you would be doing as an apprentice.

Our top tips for learners seeking an apprenticeship this year

- *Get in touch with the person dealing with your application if you are in the recruitment process or already have an offer*
- *If you don't have an offer and want an apprenticeship keep looking. There are still vacancies to apply for*
- *Get a back up plan sorted i.e. a course at sixth form, college or with a training provider*

CareerWave is the career guidance company working in your school. During the lockdown, you might need some further support with your career planning. Our website has loads of advice about your options, local learning providers, Labour Market Information in your area and what career websites are best to explore your ideas.

Find us at:

www.careerwave.co.uk/insights