



# Contents

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## Welcome to NCW

National Careers Week is a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.

National Careers Week, this year from 4th - 9th March 2024, is the perfect platform to advise and inspire the next generation as they enter the world of work. It encourages education providers to bring together

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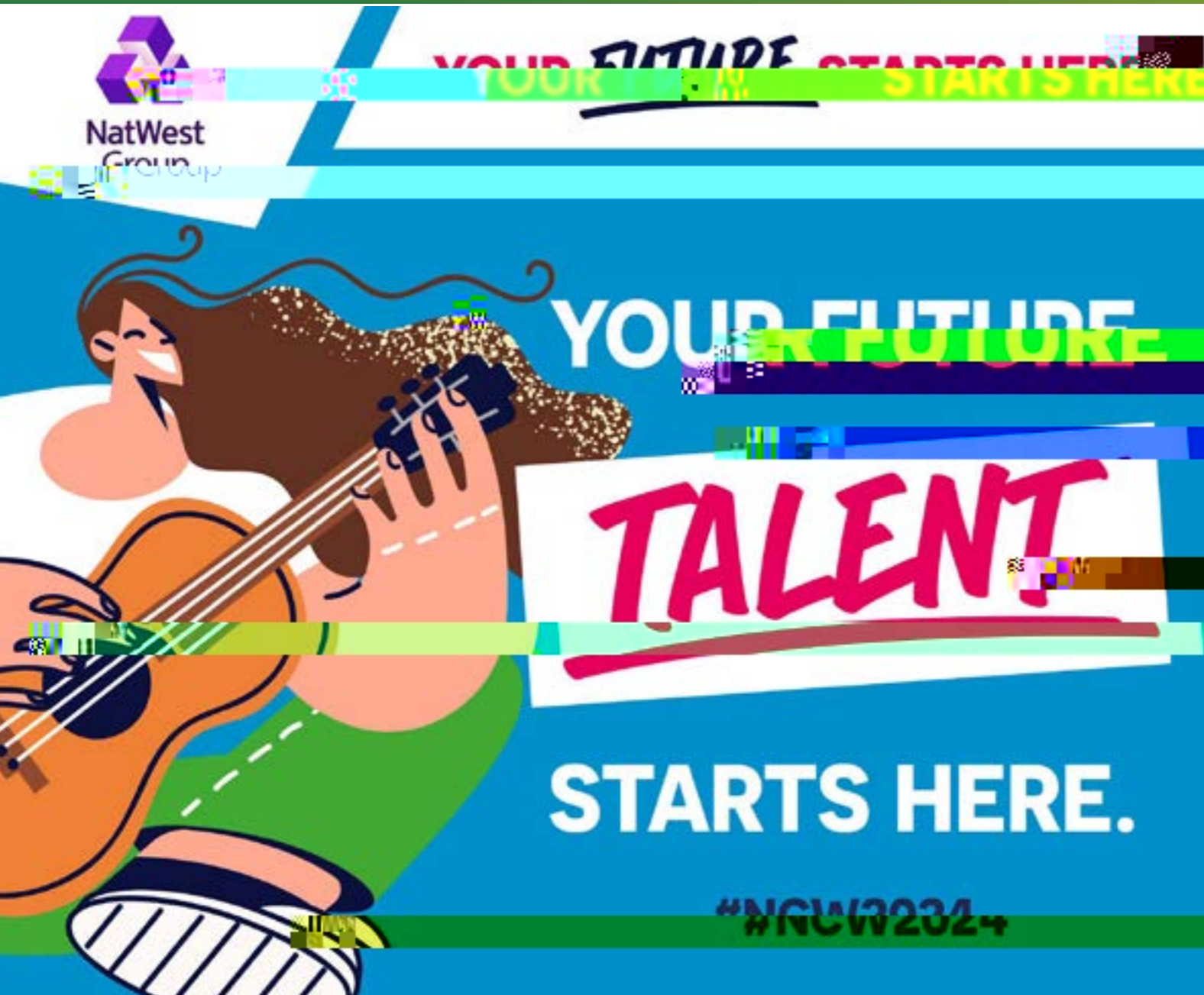
# How to talk to your teen about their future

It can be tricky getting teens to talk about anything, especially what they might want to do after school. That doesn't mean to say they're not coming up with their own plans!

Give yourself the best chance of finding out what they're thinking with our eight tips on making conversations about next steps easier.







## Vocational routes at

The main options for your teen are for them to continue in full time education or take an apprenticeship/ training. They cannot go into the workplace without some educational component to the role. Things they should consider are the type of qualification they are going to study; what type of learning suits them best (classroom or practical); and what they enjoy. Options can include:

### **BTEC Nationals**

Study takes place over a two year period and is a combination of both practical and theory. Knowledge is tested through course work and a final examination (comprising 40% of the total grade).

### **T Levels**

T Levels are a vocational alternative to



### **Your teen's choices at including**

- What qualifications are on offer
- Where they can study – the pros and cons of different learning environments
- Considerations in making the right choices
- GCSE results day – what to do if they don't get the results they need.

[Click here](#)





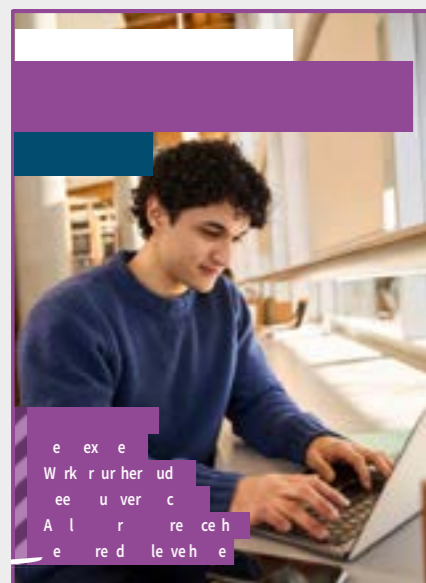
YOUR **FUTURE** STARTS HERE

YOUR FUTURE

DESTINATION

STARTS HERE.

#NCW2024



### Your teen's choices at sixth form including

- University
- Apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships
- Higher education courses at college
- Traineeships
- Jobs with training
- Gap Years
- Starting their own business

[Click here](#)

## Vocational routes at

Important considerations include whether they want to include some form of studying, how they will finance living expenses and course fees (and whether you can afford to help them), whether they're happy to move away from home or stay close by and what they enjoy.

### Apprenticeships

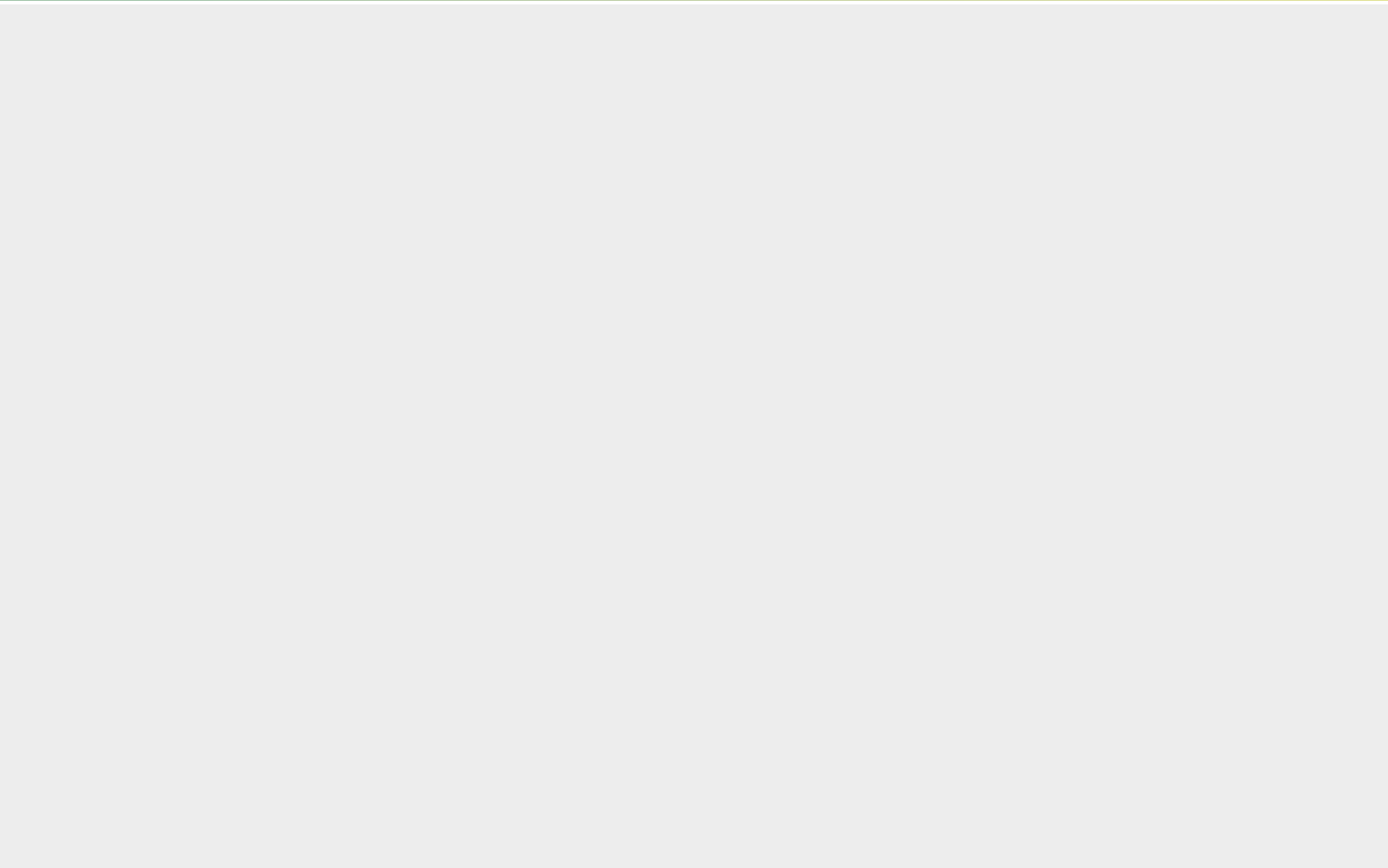
Apprenticeships are real jobs which include learning elements which might take place at university, college or an education provider. Apprenticeships were developed to help address the skills shortage in UK businesses. Apprenticeships can range from level 2 to level 6/7 (degree apprenticeship).

### Employment

Going straight into a job offers work experience but not a qualification. However, it is possible to create a personal training plan if desired.

### Gap Year

Traditionally, this is a year spent travelling overseas, but it needn't focus exclusively on that. Volunteering, gap years, and other options are available. For more information, visit [www.ncw.gov.uk](#).



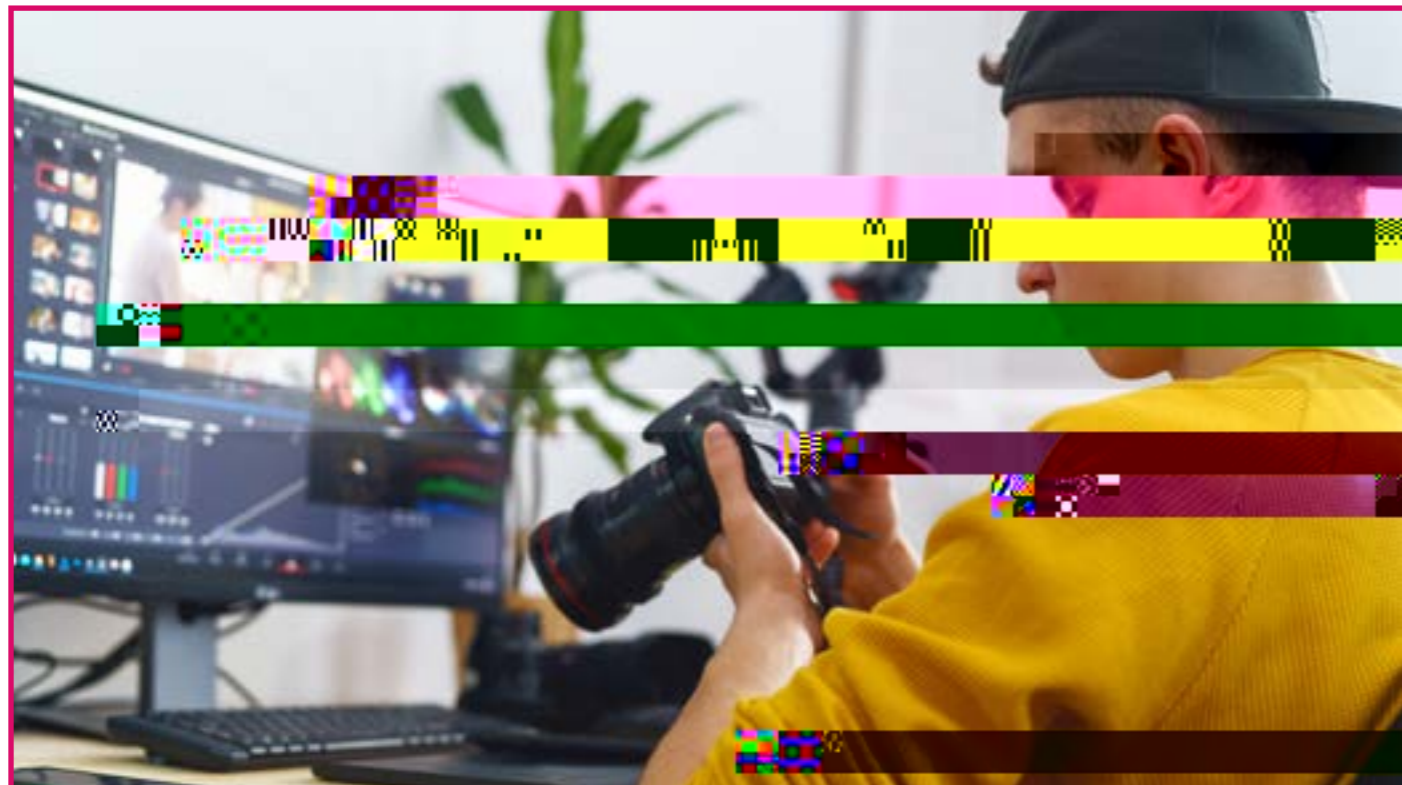


# Artificial Intelligence and the future of work

Ever since ChatGPT was launched in November 2022, AI has dominated the headlines and divided opinion on whether this latest industrial revolution is a cause for celebration or dread. Will it positively transform our lives by providing quicker and more widely available access to complex information or will it embody Terminator's skynet and outsmart us all, overtaking humankind's ability to manage it and decimating the job market in its wake?

## What is AI

Artificial intelligence ("AI") is technology where machines can quickly complete routine tasks AND improve their scope and performance by recognizing patterns in the data they analyse. In other words, unlike "automation" or previous technology that was limited in what it could achieve by the human programming defining its parameters, AI can "learn" on the job; improving and expanding its functionality through its own experience rather than human intervention. The more it does, the smarter it gets.



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## AI in the world toda

You've probably already come across AI through ChatGPT, chatbots and Amazon recommendations to name a few simple examples. AI is already being used in cyber security to identify fraud and block threats; customer services to automate routine enquiries thereby freeing-up customer service operators to resolve more complex issues; and in logistics to streamline complex transportation routes.

## Potential of AI

There's valid excitement about the potential impact of AI in many areas of our lives. It will improve productivity enabling workers to avoid routine tasks and concentrate on more complicated issues. It will enable companies to provide services 24/7 without he y employment costs. Extensive and far-reaching analytics will be completed in a fraction of the time it takes now enabling rapid advancements in our most challenging research areas.

## Worries about AI

But with such fast, cost-e ective ability, will AI displace vast numbers of jobs? Could the benefits of more time o be outweighed by reduced living standards if employees are paid less because they need to spend less time at work? If the data analysed by AI is biased, won't the results and AI's "learn4 (9AI is bmhe r)10.1 (olad b)4.1 d 20 (omp)14 (anies t)14 (o (t nd24 (a)14 (ther than

### AI and qualifications

According to the Department for Education[1], because AI has a more significant role in cognitive tasks, exposure is more likely to be greater for those with higher level qualifications.

### AI and jobs

AI is certainly bringing many new roles for those with tech skills and for those with skills that AI can't provide – such as emotional intelligence. Outside of that, according to the Department for Education, jobs most likely to be exposed to AI are analytics; clerical

Figure 4: Exposure to AI by highest level of attainment for early-career employees

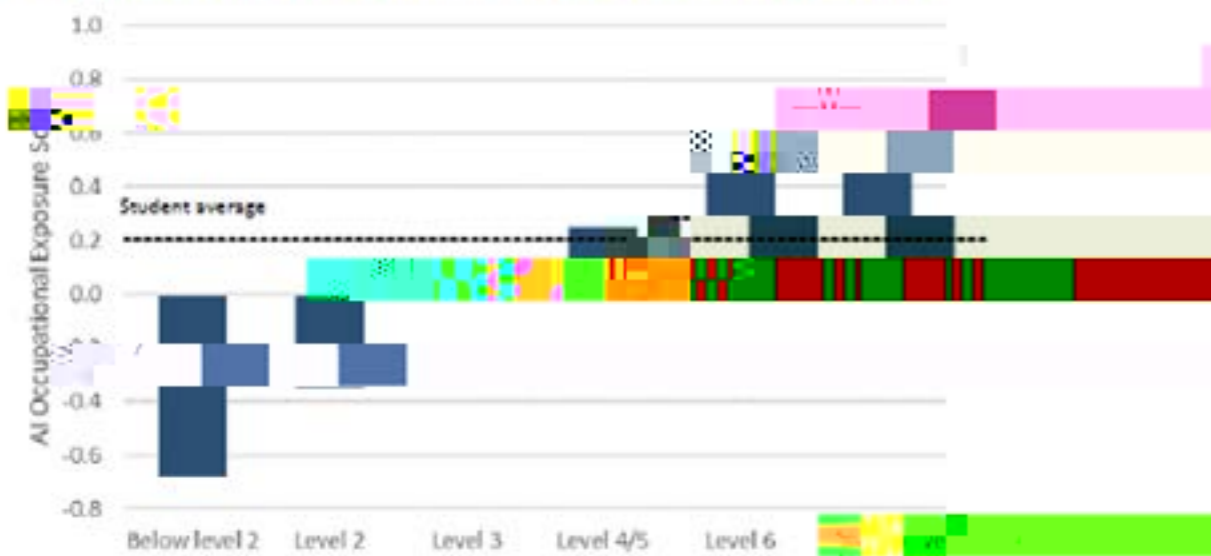
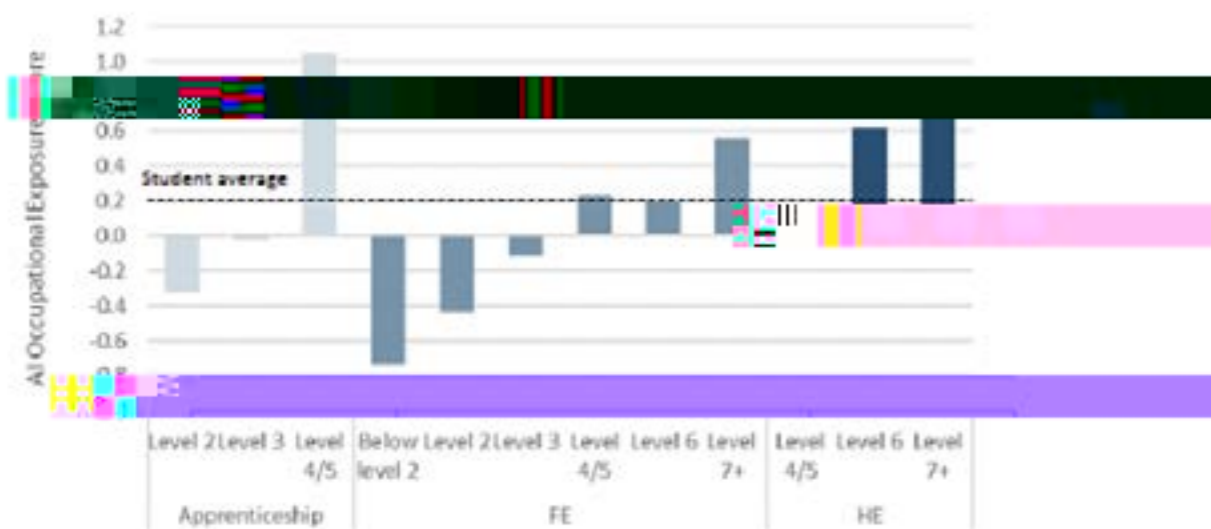


Figure 5: Exposure to AI by training



roles across finance, law and business management; information and communications (i.e. roles that involved collating and analysing lots of data) and jobs least exposed to AI will be those involving significant physical intervention such as nursing (patient care), professional traders (i.e. roofers, plumbers, electricians, construction), and gardeners.

### Skills to hone

There's a lot of nuances to human thinking that AI can't emulate (yet!), so it could be worthwhile your teen focusing on developing these unique

skills, such as:

- Creativity
- People management
- Emotional intelligence
- Critical thinking and problem solving

### Final thoughts

AI is here to stay and we're at the beginning of an exciting journey to unlock its powerful potential. Get your teen to keep an eye on where they spot AI already embedded in everyday life, then they can think about where it might lead in the future and whether they'd like a role within the cutting edge of its development.



Written by Vanessa and Darius

We set up **The Parents Guide** to help parents support their teens through GCSE and sixth form studies. We provide career advice, strategies on personal development, and ways to improve teenage well-being.

### Write for us

Is there something you'd like to help parents understand regarding supporting their teens through years 10-13? We'd love to get your message across and accept guest posts to feature on our website. All guest posts are fully accredited to the author and/or their organisation.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[1] "The impact of AI on UK jobs and training" published in November 2022



# A spotlight on T Levels

T Levels are an exciting new option in sixth form education that provide a recognized qualification tailored to industry needs and skills. It's a great choice for students that want to learn practical skills relevant to certain jobs, regardless of whether they want to go on to study for a degree, take alternative further education or go straight into the workplace.

One T Level is equivalent to three A levels and the course lasts for two years. T Levels involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day

on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

T Levels are a vocational alternative to A levels (because they focus on industry) and include practical study as well as classroom learning. They differ from apprenticeships because the study and working time is reversed. Unlike BTECs, T Level courses were developed with businesses and offer an industry placement.

## FIND YOUR NEAREST T LEVEL

Search for colleges and schools who start delivering T Levels in 2020 and 2021

<input type="text" value="Enter your postcode"/>	<input type="text" value="All T Level courses"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
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### Find out all about T Levels including



- What's involved and where they might lead afterwards
- The subject choices available as of 2023
- What they'll learn on the course
- The qualifications needed to take them The industry placement - why it's a winner
- A summary of alternative options if T Levels are not right for them

[Click here](#)

# Apprenticeships a great pathway to career success

**Apprenticeships are a fantastic choice for many students, either straight after GCSE or after sixth form. They provide a way of getting qualifications while doing a real job and are a great alternative to full-time study for those students that prefer practical experience over classroom learning.**

Apprenticeships help build solid, professional skills transferable from one organisation to another. Employers pay a salary and tuition fees are covered by the employer and the government. Apprenticeships can last from one to five years – and result in a professional qualification.

Apprenticeships offer students versatility. Depending on their age, experience and qualifications already achieved, there are different entry levels for apprenticeships, starting at Level 2 (straight after GCSE for those that have few or no GCSE passes) through Level 6/7 (degree level). The qualifications obtained at each level range from GCSE/BTEC equivalent, A/T Level, diploma/foundation right through to masters degree. Qualifications are nationally recognized.

## Duration of apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can last for just one year or as long as seven (or more) depending on the final qualification. If your teen isn't comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one- or two-year options and still gain recognized, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind later on and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible. This means they don't have to make decisions about long-term commitment when they are young or unsure of their future direction, but needn't miss out on getting higher level qualifications if they decide later that's what they want to do.

## Education element

As well as doing the job itself, apprentices will get dedicated time during the working week to study the education element of the apprenticeship. This usually takes place at a college, university or other education centre. However, it may also be necessary to spend personal time completing projects and keeping on top of studies, so just like being in full-time education, there may be "homework" during evenings and weekends.

## F

Tuition fees for apprenticeships are paid by the government/employer. Apprentices are also paid a wage for their time, so they will usually complete their apprenticeship debt free. However, there will be costs for education materials, travel to and from work and possibly living expenses (if they are not based at home).

## A

Many apprentices are offered full-time roles with the company where they have served their apprenticeship. However, if your teen wants to try a different company, or even a different industry, they'll have first-hand experience in the workplace. This can provide a significant edge over those that have obtained qualifications through full time education, when applying for other jobs elsewhere.

- Types of apprenticeship - the qualifications needed at each entry stage
- The pros and cons - why apprenticeships are ideal for some teens but not for others
- Degree apprenticeships - how they differ from full-time university degrees
- How to research an apprenticeship
- The application process
- How you can help them prepare for interview to make the best impression
- What you can do to help them get them ready for life at work



**There's a wide range of ways to seek out apprenticeships and we recommend using a selection of options rather than relying on one.**

**Government website**  
Most apprenticeships are posted on the Government's website. By creating an account, your child can set up alerts and filters to see opportunities that are of most interest to them and to be emailed when new opportunities arise. However, not all apprenticeships will appear.

**Company websites**  
It's smart to check apprenticeships directly on company, university or college websites. If your child doesn't know which of these sites to select, then they should first do some research on which industry sector may be of interest, and then find companies within this sector.

**Job agencies**  
National job agencies will also advertise apprenticeships and options can be narrowed to review within local distances from home or specific job types. This might be a particularly good way to seek out apprenticeships in level 3-5 range.

**Company websites**  
Another alternative is for them to identify companies that are of interest and check those websites for apprenticeships.

Be warned! Applications to well-known international companies (such as Amazon, Coca-Cola, Facebook, Google, Virgin) will be highly competitive; however, it might be a good starting point for identifying what8 (t)10 (orh9ccludng)]TJ0 -1.133 Td1m22B (wdnt g (e1 (aentic)21.1 (eships. 93 86.1(o tn6.1(o tn (el or identif43i12\_1 Tfio

The application process is very similar to applying for a conventional job and, with the exception of degree apprenticeships, opportunities can arise at any time of the year.





# Virtual Work Experience

Virtual work experience, also referred to as online, remote or digital, is a broad term that includes any opportunity which provides young people with an insight into what it's like to work in an industry or job role while at home.

Opportunities expanded during lockdown and proved so successful they look set to stay. Most virtual work experiences range from half a day to one week, but some may last longer depending on the nature of the work experience and the age of your child.

Not all virtual work experience is the same. Some are open to everyone and provide a platform for students to discover more about the job, view

pre-recorded videos on what it's like to work with the organisation and go on virtual tours. Others may require your child to go through an application process and other regular online meetings with a supervisor, individual project work, networking sessions, training opportunities and video tutorials.

## What are the benefits

**Think global** - Virtual work placements are open to everyone and location does not need to be a limiting factor. This opens many possibilities for your child to explore new jobs and industries in areas that may not be possible face to face.

**Transferable skills** - ITd[(thr)10 llsorials.rk t be

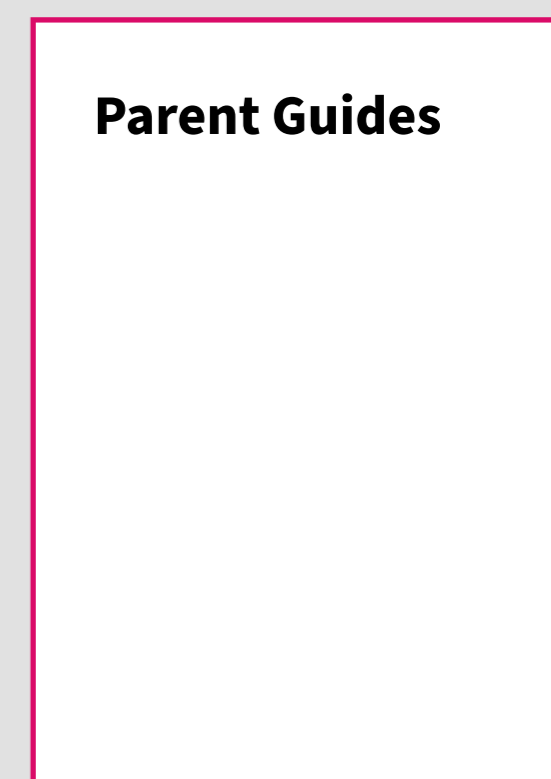
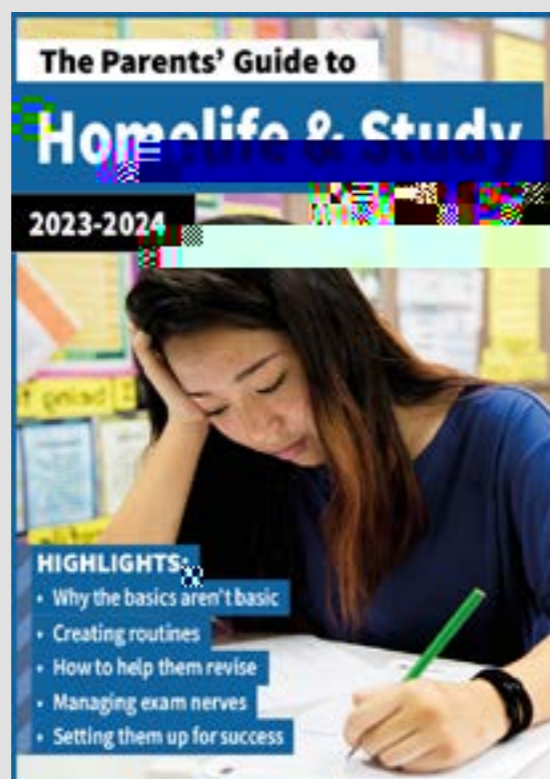
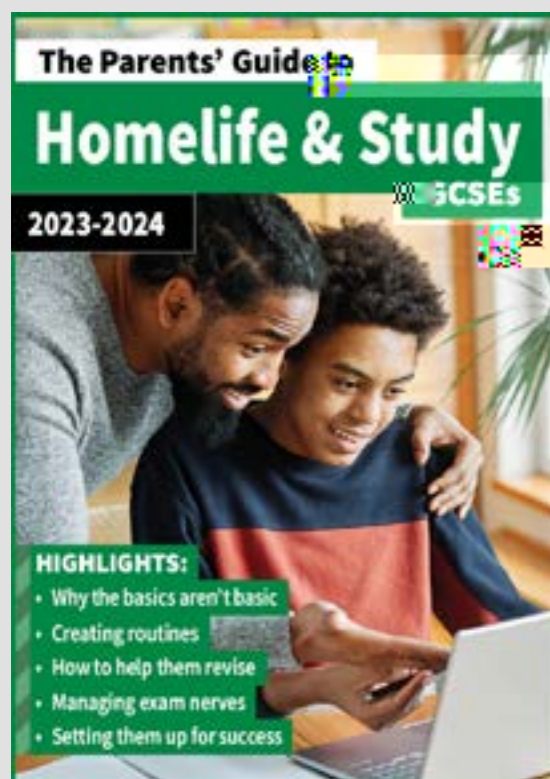
## Help our teen stand out



- Self-development and increasing confidence through reading, audiobooks and podcasts
- Getting work experience
- How different hobbies impact mental and physical health – and what transferrable skills they develop
- Recommendations for non-curricular online courses

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  - 2023 (1)
- **The Parents Guide to National Apprenticeship Week**
  - 2023 (1)
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  - 2023 (1)

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(Years 10-13)

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