

# Guidance for Parents

As a parent/guardian, you want your child to get the best possible start in their career and with so many options available to young people after they leave school, it can be daunting when offering advice. Here are some frequently asked questions to help you support your child in making the right decision for them.

## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job that combines practical experience with training to achieve a qualification. It's an opportunity for your child to gain practical skills and academic knowledge all whilst earning a great salary.

## When do apprenticeships start?

At JN Bentley, our apprenticeship applications open in January, with the recruitment process happening in February and March. The apprenticeship will then start in September.

## What are the entry requirements?

Each role will have its own requirements, so it's always best to check the job advert, but the basic requirements are:

- Your child must be 17 years old or older.
- They must have 5 GCSEs graded C/4 or above (including maths and English).
- For our Level 4 Apprenticeships they will also need to have 2 A-levels or an equivalent Level 3 diploma.
- For some of our apprenticeships they must hold a full UK driving licence or be in the process of learning to drive

## How much will my child get paid?

We pay all our apprentices well above the apprentice national minimum wage. It's important to us that our apprentices feel well rewarded for the roles they do.

## How do I know if this is the right option for them?

Engage in open, supportive conversations with your child about their career aspirations and interests. Help them evaluate their strengths and skills that align with apprenticeship opportunities.

The best thing you can do is to research and understand apprenticeships. Familiarise yourself with the concept of apprenticeships, including the different levels, types, and frameworks available. Websites such as [National Careers Service](#) and [National Apprenticeship Week](#) can provide valuable information to help you.

## How do I find an apprenticeship?

The government's [Find an Apprenticeship](#) website lists most apprenticeship schemes. JN Bentley apprenticeship opportunities will appear on our [career's website](#) in January. You can also find our design apprenticeships on our parent company [Mott MacDonald's website](#).

## How can I help my child prepare for an apprenticeship?

One of the main ways you can help your child prepare is by helping with their CV and getting them ready to interview for the first time. You can find out more about the application process at JN Bentley [here](#). Another way you can help your child to prepare for an apprenticeship is by encouraging them to carry out some work experience. This will give them experience of being in the working world and allow them to see if they enjoy the company or industry they're considering for the apprenticeship.

Reach out to JN Bentley to discuss work experience opportunities by emailing [mmbcearlycareers@jnbentley.co.uk](mailto:mmbcearlycareers@jnbentley.co.uk)