# National Apprenticeship Week 2025: Skills for Life

The 18th annual **National Apprenticeship Week** kicks off on **Monday, 10th February 2025**, celebrating the incredible impact apprenticeships have on individuals, businesses, and the wider economy. This year, we take the opportunity to highlight the significance of apprenticeships for both new and existing school staff.

**Recognising Our Apprentices**

**Congratulations** to the dedicated staff members in our schools who have successfully completed their apprenticeships this year. Your hard work and commitment to professional growth are truly inspiring! (Victoria Bagley, Lucy Earl, Laura Freeland, Ankita Das, Casey Rogers, Megan Lees, Nathaneal Kent, Lou Slocombe and Amber Walters).

**Apprenticeships for School Staff**

Schools offer a variety of apprenticeship opportunities, supporting career development and progression. One exciting new option is the **Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship**, designed to enhance specialist support within education. You can find out more about this opportunity here: [Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/st1414).

For aspiring senior leaders, the **Level 7 NPQH Senior Leader Apprenticeship Programme** remains a valuable pathway. However, with proposed funding changes, this could be the last opportunity to enrol onto this apprenticeship, starting in **March 2025**. **The deadline to register is 16th February, so act quickly!**

Additionally, the **Institute for Apprenticeships** has developed comprehensive **Education and Childcare Occupational Pathway Maps**, showcasing career progression through apprenticeships. Explore these resources here: [Education and Childcare Occupational Maps](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/occupational-maps/).

**Upcoming Events**

**Lunch and Learn Event**

📅 **Monday, 10th February**
⏰ **12:30pm - 1:30pm**
📍 **Online (no registration required, just join via this link** [**https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\_MzdiZWQxMDQtYWIyZS00NWU5LTg3ZTUtNWFlNzkyYWE0YjJl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22996ee15c-0b3e-4a6f-8e65-120a9a51821a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2204fc54c5-83c8-44d3-9546-f631c0d4987a%22%7d**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MzdiZWQxMDQtYWIyZS00NWU5LTg3ZTUtNWFlNzkyYWE0YjJl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22996ee15c-0b3e-4a6f-8e65-120a9a51821a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2204fc54c5-83c8-44d3-9546-f631c0d4987a%22%7d) **)**

This Berkshire-wide event is open to **all colleagues, managers, and existing apprentices**. If you're currently on an apprenticeship, this is a great networking opportunity. If you're considering one, this event will provide valuable insights into how the programme works.

**Apprenticeship and Learning & Development Event**

📅 **Tuesday, 11th February**
⏰ **10:00am - 2:30pm**
📍 **Shute End, The Mall (by reception)**

Join us for an informative and engaging drop-in session where you can:

* Learn about **apprenticeship opportunities** available within the Council.
* Speak to **Apprenticeship Training Providers** about available apprenticeships and how they could support your career development.
* Get advice from the **Recruitment and Apprenticeship Team** and **HR Business Partners** on recruitment and resourcing needs.
* Find out about **Learning and Development (L&D) opportunities**.
* Meet representatives from **Wokingham Recovery College** and the **Adult Education Team** to explore additional educational offerings in the borough.

Enjoy a **cup of tea or coffee** while learning more about the exciting career pathways available through apprenticeships.

**Why Apprenticeships Matter**

Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to gain new skills, develop professionally, and advance your career while continuing to work. They provide structured learning with real-world experience, making them an invaluable tool for both individuals and organisations.

Whether you are an **existing staff member** looking to upskill or someone exploring new career opportunities, **National Apprenticeship Week 2025** is the perfect time to consider how an apprenticeship could benefit you.

For more information, speak to your line manager or contact Gemma Lenton Workforce Development Specialist – gemma.lenton@wokingham.gov.uk . We look forward to celebrating apprenticeships with you next week!