

KS5 EDITION

20th July 2026



DERBY MOOR
SPENCER ACADEMY

The Derby Moor **DISPATCH**



Work experience opportunities, university events, open days, apprenticeships, and more. Speak to your Tutor or any of the Sixth Form staff.

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SPENCER APPRENTICESHIPS



SPENCER
APPRENTICESHIPS

Our Programme Offer 2025-2026



We are now accepting applications for our Post Graduate Teacher Apprentice, TA and Early Intervention Practitioner Programmes for a September 2026 start. Email the team to get further information or guidance on how to apply spencerapprenticeships@spencertrust.org.uk

ASPIRE | LEARN | GROW



Specsavers – Bright Stars University Scholarship

For us, Optometry is more than just glasses. It's a chance to change lives. To work with cutting edge tech and diagnose diseases. It's a long-term career choice that can lead to you owning your own store and becoming a partner with us. Sounds good, right?

Due to the huge success of our launch last year, we're excited to be offering the Bright Stars scholarship again for 2026! This is an exclusive opportunity for students interested in Optometry to get the support they need to go far, including:

- £10,000 towards university costs, spread across the 4 years
- Paid part-time work experience in one of our practices
- Ongoing support and mentorship from colleagues
- Protected clinical time to boost their experience
- A host of community and social events to take part in

This is a one-of-a-kind scholarship with only 40 places across the UK.

To register your interest and to learn more about this fantastic opportunity, please [click here](#).





KPMG's 2026 Apprenticeship Programmes now open

We're thrilled to announce that applications for our 2026 apprenticeship programmes in Audit, Tax and Business Services are officially open. We're so excited to welcome the next generation of talent and can't wait to see how you'll make the difference at KPMG.

Apply now to join us in Audit, Tax or KPMG Business Services

Roles will fill quickly, so apply early to secure your 2026 position. Whichever programme you choose to join, you'll benefit from

- Exceptional learning and development: you'll have a structured training programme, dedicated study time to work towards a professional qualification or degree, mentoring opportunities and a range of professional development resources.
- A supportive and collaborative culture: You'll be surrounded by colleagues who are passionate about their work and want to help you succeed.
- The opportunity to make the difference: At KPMG you'll work on projects that make a real difference to our clients and communities. You'll be helping businesses to operate more sustainably and make a positive contribution.
- A competitive salary of £24,000 – £27,250 depending on your office location

Search and apply now

Aldi – Store Management Apprenticeships



You need to be conscientious, ambitious and able to do things without being asked. You should have bags of common sense and can take responsibility for yourself. For our Management Development Programme you will need to have GCSE Maths and English grade 4-9 (minimum grade C or equivalent).

Our Management Development Apprenticeship programme takes approximately 3 years to complete. In year one, you sign a fixed 12-15 month contract with us. Providing you successfully complete your first year you will progress onto a 13-16 month fixed-term contract and begin year two and three working towards your Retail Team Leader qualification.

Store Apprenticeships | Aldi Recruitment UK

Apprenticeships in the Rail Industry

Over the next five years there will be tens of thousands of new jobs in the railway, including many apprenticeships. This heralds a life-changing opportunity, for people of all backgrounds, to consider a rewarding role in an industry that's going places.

Railway 200 invites people, interested in science, technology, engineering and maths, to think about a career in rail and become the pioneers of tomorrow. A wide range of exciting, and sometimes surprising, roles are available such as architect, ecologist, drone pilot and data controller.

If you're at school and would like to know more about becoming an apprentice, when you can earn and learn at the same time, find the right apprenticeship for you:

<https://routesintorail.org/apprenticeships/>

Army Apprenticeships

In October 2023, the Army celebrated a century of apprenticeships and was named the UK's top apprenticeship provider for the fourth year running in 2024. Offering more than 40 different apprenticeships from level 2 to level 4, the Army has a range of exciting opportunities from Animal Care to Network Engineer to Public Services.

An Army apprenticeship offers a fantastic opportunity to earn recognised qualifications while working and getting paid, making it an ideal choice for those who prefer hands-on learning over traditional classroom settings.

The apprenticeship you will undertake is directly connected to the job role you select. It will commence during the second phase of your training (Initial Trade Training), and the specific location of the training will vary based on the role you choose.

As your career progresses, you can apply for a degree-level apprenticeship in Leadership and Management Studies. Every Army position offers professional development pathways to higher qualifications, including Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Technical Corps like the Royal Engineers will help you gain civilian qualifications, such as Chartered Engineer status. Many Officers and Soldiers can also become qualified instructors or leaders in adventurous training, enhancing their interests.

[For more information, please click here.](#)



The Higher and Degree Vacancy Listing

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Listing showcases hundreds of vacancies from a diverse mix of employers starting in 2024. The variety of vacancies listed range from Engineer to Police Constable – there's something for everyone.

For the full range of live vacancies, please visit the government website, Find an apprenticeship <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Are you thinking of applying for an apprenticeship?

If you are thinking about applying for an apprenticeship but don't know what to expect, you can take a short course to see if it's the right pathway for you. Click on the link below for more information.

Apprenticeships Unlocked Trailer | Springpod & Skills for Life

Apprenticeships – Meet the Employer

The NEW Meet the Employer platform has just launched! Explore the skills employers look for in their apprentices and learn about application processes, help and support

available and apprentice experiences. Some of the employers included below have profiles, which you can view by clicking on their logo. To view all of the latest new profiles, please [click here](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships application guide

If you are interested in applying for an apprenticeship, this useful guide will help you to prepare for the application process and be ready to show you are the right person for the role you want. This guide explores key information to include in your application forms, CV's, cover letters, assessments, interviews and much more! To download this guide please [click here](#).



Routes into Rail with CrossCountry

Discover how to start a career with Cross Country.

If you're looking for a career with strong earning potential, clear progression, and the chance to be part of something that keeps the country moving, rail could be the perfect track to follow.

School Leaver Opportunities, Apprenticeships and Graduate Schemes



Routes into Rail with CrossCountry



Start your journey at CrossCountry:
Click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Train Driver Roles Now Open to 18 Year Olds

From 30 June 2026, the legal minimum age to become a train driver is lowering from 20 to 18. That means school leavers can now apply directly for train driver apprenticeships, giving younger people the chance to build rewarding careers in the UK railway industry at a pivotal time.



Why choose an apprenticeship in rail?

An apprenticeship in rail means a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid from day one!

- ✓ **Strong Earning Potential**
Rail careers offer competitive salaries and long-term financial stability. Apprenticeships are fully funded!
- ✓ **Job Security**
Rail is essential to the UK economy, moving millions of passengers and vital freight every year.
- ✓ **Clear Progression**
Achieve a qualification and progress to driving, operations, management, engineering or specialist roles.
- ✓ **Be Part of National Change**
Big changes are happening in the railway, creating new opportunities for the next generation.
You're not just getting a job, you're starting a skilled career.

Great salary
& benefits!

Routes you can take from school

CrossCountry offers the following apprenticeships:

- Train Driver
- Train Manager
- Customer Service
- Operations
- Marketing
- Finance

Learn from
rail experts!

Build your skills now!

The following skills are what CrossCountry look for. These are skills you can start building now!

- Focus and concentration
- Responsibility and reliability
- Teamwork
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving
- Strong maths and literacy

Say hello to our
refurbished
Voyager!



Ready to apply? Roles available now. Click [here](#) for more information.

Virtual Insight into University



Insight into University is a virtual experience that helps students explore STEM degrees, apprenticeships, and related careers. It offers access to university life, STEM projects from top UK universities and global companies, first-year lectures, and live sessions with academics, admissions tutors, apprentices, employers, and current students.



Course topics

- Hear from STEM professionals at top UK companies, from early-career apprentices to senior leaders and recruiters, about their journeys, inspirations, and projects.
- Join live Q&A sessions with STEM professionals, admissions officers, students, and professors in a supportive environment.
- Get expert advice on university applications, interviews, admissions tests, student finance, and support services.
- Take part in hands-on STEM activities like bridge building, making ice cream at the chemical level, and flight experiments.

"I absolutely loved the course. It has helped me discover my true passion, and love which I hope to pursue in the future."

100%

of students increased their awareness of STEM opportunities available to them

92%

of students felt the skills and knowledge gained from the course would have a positive impact on their future studies or career.

Course requirements and registering your interest

This course is open to all students aged 16+ who have a genuine interest in STEM subjects and is suitable for all abilities. To apply, please visit our website [here](https://www.etrust.org.uk).



CONFERENCES, WEBINARS & EVENTS

Here at **The Engineering Development Trust** we are delighted to share a range of engaging summer opportunities designed to help your students explore STEM from home, develop valuable skills, and gain a meaningful insight into future study and career pathways. These activities offer a flexible and accessible way for students to stay inspired over the summer while building confidence, curiosity, and experience.

For students aged 16+: STEM Futures: University Pathway

STEM Futures: University Pathway, formerly Virtual Insight into University, is a comprehensive virtual experience for students interested in exploring STEM study at university. Students can learn more about university life, take part in STEM projects and activities developed by leading UK universities and global STEM companies, access first-year undergraduate-style lectures, and join live interactive sessions with academics, admissions tutors, employers, and current students. Upon completion students will receive a Silver level Industrial Cadets Award, a nationally recognised accreditation that can strengthen future university, apprenticeship, and employment applications.

For students aged 16+: Online Masterclasses

Our Masterclasses are virtual live sessions designed to provide students with an insight from experienced industry professionals. Covering a range of topics, from careers in STEM to key professional skills, these sessions offer students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and hear directly from experts in the field.

- World Class Project Management - [view](#)
- A Career as an Engineer - [view](#)
- Time Management - [view](#)



Careers in the Rail Industry

Over the next five years there will be tens of thousands of new jobs in the railway, including many apprenticeships. This heralds a life-changing opportunity, for people of all backgrounds, to consider a rewarding role in an industry that's going places.

Railway 200 invites people, interested in science, technology, engineering and maths, to think about a career in rail and become the pioneers of tomorrow. A wide range of exciting, and sometimes surprising, roles are available such as architect, ecologist, drone pilot and data controller.

If you're interested in a role in rail, visit [Routes into Rail](#).



Unifrog – Future Talent Programme

Since we launched Talent pool, our newest tool, in December, 2,100 students have already signed up to receive tailored courses and apprenticeship opportunities from a diverse range of universities and employers.

For students who need some extra support to identify, develop, and evidence their skills, we've created the Future Talent Programme to help them stand out from the crowd! With a mix of live webinars and independent study, they'll gain confidence and the know-how to be able to assess their own skills and create an action plan.

This programme is predominantly aimed at Y12 students from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds, but students from all backgrounds are welcome to take part:

[Get students to sign up here](#)

University Open Days

Please see below to search all University Open Days in the coming months.

Search the [Opendays.com](https://www.opendays.com) calendar of university and college open days - search for an open day.

The Engineering Development Trust

Here at The Engineering Development Trust we just want to let you know that 'There's still time for your students to apply' for our hugely popular 2026 Summer Residential Insight into University courses.

These unique courses are for students in Year 12 / S5-S6 taking place at various Top Universities that run over 4 or 5 days where students get a taster of university life and an insight into a specific STEM subject. Students will get the opportunity to experience university style lectures and work on activities and group projects with the support of academics and student mentors. Students will stay in halls of residence and will take part in social activities in the evenings.

Accreditation: Silver Industrial Cadets Award Inspired by its Patron, His Majesty, King Charles III, Industrial Cadets is a widely recognised, accredited awards scheme increasing diversity and inspiring young people through industry-based experiences to become part of the workforce of the future.

·Residential Maths at Lancaster University
<https://www.etrust.org.uk/mathsatlancasteruniversity>

·Residential Chemical Engineering at UCL: Finding sustainable solutions for a sustainable planet
<https://www.etrust.org.uk/chemical-engineering-at-ucl>

·Residential Engineering and Physical Sciences at University of Lincoln
<https://www.etrust.org.uk/engineering-and-physical-sciences-at-university-of-lincoln>

·Non-Residential Insight into University Engineering, Built Environment and Computing at Sheffield Hallam University
<https://www.etrust.org.uk/engineering-built-environment-computing-sheffield-hallam>



NEW MODEL INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Autonomous Robotics



Did you know NMITE has an Autonomous Robotics degree in development for September 2026?

This new degree is being created to equip students with the skills to design, build, and control intelligent machines that can sense their environment, make decisions, and act independently. They'll explore robotics, AI, control systems, and real-world applications that are shaping the future of industry and society.

If you want to stay up to date as this exciting new programme develops and be the first to know when applications open, register your interest today.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Looking to gain work experience you can complete from home? Inside Audit is KPMG's free virtual work experience platform, designed to give you a real insight into what a career in Audit could look like.

Through a series of interactive activities, you'll step into the role of an auditor and explore how teams help organisations stay on track, solve problems and make confident decisions. You'll gain a clear understanding of audit, the skills involved, and how this career path could suit you.

What will you gain?

By completing Inside Audit, you will:

- Learn what audit is and why it's important
- Try realistic workplace tasks and challenges
- Build key skills employers value (problem-solving, communication, teamwork)
- Explore careers in business, finance, and professional services
- Receive a completion certificate to add to your CV, personal statement, or applications

Why should you take part?

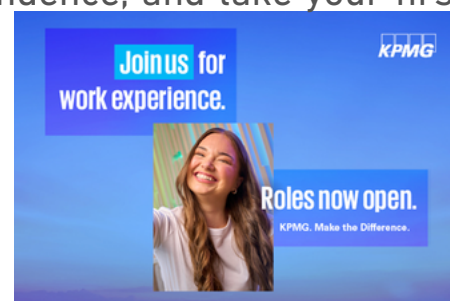
- ✓ Completely free and online – complete it anytime, anywhere
- ✓ No applications or grades required – open to all school students
- ✓ Real-world insight into Audit at a global professional services firm
- ✓ Build employability skills such as communication, critical thinking and teamwork
- ✓ Certificate of completion to boost your CV and future applications

You don't need any prior knowledge of Audit – just curiosity and a willingness to learn.

👉 Get started today:

https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprentice/work-experience/inside-audit/?utm_source=target-schools-midlands&utm_medium=html&utm_campaign=ba_sr26-outreach&utm_content=generic-app_apprentice_geo-midlands_text_na_may26

This is a great way to explore your options, grow your confidence, and take your first step towards a future career – all from home.



WORK EXPERIENCE

The Emerging Talent team at **Rolls-Royce** are delighted to share a fantastic work experience opportunity for your Year 11 and Year 12 students.

'Discover: Behind the Scenes' is a 4 day, in-person experience giving you a rare look inside one of the most enduring and iconic brands in the world. Running in Derby across two summer options, this experience is ideal for students interested in a career in engineering or in business.

What you'll be doing

This hands-on experience gives you the chance to:

- Find out more about Rolls-Royce
- Collaborate on a team project, from initial challenge to final professional presentation
- Develop key skills through workshops focused on employability and personal growth including future-ready skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and professional confidence
- Experience real-world engineering and innovation through hands-on activities
- Connect with current apprentices through networking sessions and Q&As
- Get practical advice on applying for future opportunities at Rolls-Royce

Where & when?

Derby Learning & Development Centre (DE24 9BD)

21-24 July or 11-14 August (open to current Year 11 and Year 12 students)

Who can Apply?

- If you're currently in Year 11 or Year 12
- No specific subjects or prior experience needed but you must be able to attend the full 4 days on-site in your chosen location (including travel if you're not local)
- Before applying, you'll need to complete the 'Future Ready Skills' module on our virtual work experience platform, Discover: On Demand, you can access the platform [here](#)
- This will require creating a free account
- The module is called 'Future Ready Skills' and it will take between 45 minutes and 1 hour to complete
- You'll then receive a certificate of completion, which you can download directly from the Discover: On Demand platform under the "My Achievements" section
- You'll need to upload this certificate as part of your Discover: Behind the Scenes application

If you're interested in applying, you can find more information and submit your application here: [DERBY](#)