

**#SkillsForLife**

**Yeovil College National Apprenticeship Week Update – February 2023**

The Employer Engagement Team hope you are well and thank you for all your support so far, this academic year. We have seen a strong uptake in apprenticeships and intend to continue the positive trend into the remainder of the 2022-23 academic year. This week we are celebrating the 16th National Apprenticeship Week and wanted to take the opportunity to share our plans for the week with you, as well as some exciting Yeovil College updates which may be of interest.

**What have we got planned for National Apprenticeship Week?**

The theme of this year's National Apprenticeship Week is 'Skills For Life', highlighting how individuals can develop the skills and knowledge for their careers through apprenticeships and in turn how businesses can futureproof themselves through nurturing a talented and skilled workforce using apprenticeships. The overall aim of any National Apprenticeship Week is to showcase the extraordinary impact of apprenticeships on individuals and their careers, businesses and the wider economy. As usual, we have a busy week planned with our own celebrations of apprenticeships, including:

* Our 'Amazing Apprentice Shoutouts' will be shared throughout the next 2 weeks, celebrating the successes of some of our wonderful apprentices.
* You will see a whole range of apprentice and employer case studies across all social media channels - what's better than to hear it directly from the people involved?!
* Our team of expert Apprenticeship Co-Ordinators and Student Recruitment Consultants are booked to see all of our full-time students to share the benefits of apprenticeships and hopefully inspire the next members of your workforce.
* On Wednesday 8th February sees the return of our annual Apprenticeship & Careers Fair between 5 - 7.30pm on campus, set to be even bigger and better than in previous years. We've got over 30 exhibitors secured, with information on a range of apprenticeship and career options, as well as talks providing further insight into apprenticeships.

We encourage you to keep an eye on our social media channels throughout the week to stay up to date and get involved, if you can. If you're planning your own activity for the week, please tag us in your posts so we can see all the wonderful things our employer partners are up to and don't forget to use the hashtag #NAW2023 to join in the conversation nationally.

**New & Upcoming Apprenticeship Programmes**

We are always looking to develop our Apprenticeship offer to ensure that it is in line with industry needs, to equip your business with the skills required. Some of our most recent additions include:

* [Laboratory Technician Level 3 – Digital Dental](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/326885/laboratory-technician-digital-dental-level-3-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/)
* [Oral Health Practitioner L4 – coming soon](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/330603/oral-health-practitioner-level-4-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/)
* [Digital Marketer L3](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/324846/digital-marketer-level-3-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/)
* [Supply Chain Warehouse Operative L2](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/326880/supply-chain-warehouse-operative-level-2-intermediate-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/)
* [Content Creator L3 – coming soon](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/324743/content-creator-level-3-advanced-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/)
* [Chef de Partie L3](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/324840/chef-de-partie-level-3-apprenticeship-starting-between-january-2023-and-july-2023/)

Ever thought about upskilling your existing staff or developing those key team members that are critical to driving your organisation forward? Did you know we also offer the [Team Leader/Supervisor Level 3](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/323005/team-leader-supervisor-level-3-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/) and [Operational/Departmental Manager L5](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/course/323009/operational-departmental-manager-level-5-apprenticeship-starting-between-august-2022-and-july-2023/) through the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), suitable for existing and aspiring managers. These apprenticeships are perfect for equipping your managers and supervisors with the knowledge and skills to perform their roles effectively and confidently, allowing them to get the best from their teams.

For more information on any of the above, or to find out what else we offer, please get in touch via apprenticeships@yeovil.ac.uk or contact your designated Apprenticeship Co-Ordinator.

**Big Build**

We are all really pleased to share that ****Yeovil College was named as one of 16 colleges in England to benefit from a significant investment as part of the government’s Further Education Capital Investment Fund.

****Mark Bolton, Principal & CEO, of Yeovil College, said: “This is the biggest investment in education in Yeovil and our local area in our living history. The quality and appointment of these spaces will be amazing for our community, our business environment, and our future learners, creating the spaces to fulfil our high aspirations.

“The campus transformation will allow plans will deliver a campus which reflects our approach and attitude to all that we do – only the best is good enough at Yeovil College.”

The Yeovil College team are excited to see the plans brought to life over the next few years, as this will benefit all of our key stakeholders. The redevelopment will see the whole campus transformed, with state-of-the-art workshops and facilities, creating a focused and productive environment for all students, apprentices, staff and our local community.

**Institute of Technology (IoT) – filling the region’s skills gaps**

75% of UK businesses face a major higher technical skills gap, which can put huge strain on business profitability, productivity and employee satisfaction.

The answer? Tap into the talent, training and networking opportunities offered by the West of England Institute of Technology to address your unique organisational challenges in 2023.

Yeovil College is proud to be part of the West of England Institute of Technology (WEIoT) – a collaboration between 4 other local colleges and major local industries to design and deliver flexible, higher-level technical learning, equipping people with the skills they need to contribute to innovation and economic growth.

We offer a range of opportunities that can benefit your business in many ways, from upskilling your workforce to recruitment, apprenticeships across a range of sectors, and short courses to enhance skills within your organisation. Specifically, we are delighted to be able to offer access to free, time limited, flexible and modular training from education and industry specialist partners to enable people to gain the soft skills and certified credentials requested and recognised by local employers. 7 modules are available, which can be mixed and matched. Face to face, online and twilight delivery options are available, and all training must be completed by 31 March 2023. Click on the following [link](https://www.weiot.ac.uk/soft-skills-certificate/) to read more and sign up.

As we welcome in the new year, it’s the perfect time to take a fresh look at how you can address your technical skills development and recruitment needs, and the West of England Institute of Technology can help.

**Bootcamp Courses**

Skills Bootcamps are flexible courses of up to 16 weeks, giving people the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer. At Yeovil College, we are delivering bootcamps in Digital, Digital Marketing, Factory 4.0, CAD and Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Repair and Replacement. For more information, visit: [Skills Bootcamps - Yeovil College Yeovil College](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/adults/skills-bootcamps/)

**Work Experience & Industry Placements**

In Employer Engagement, we also support our full-time students with work experience and industry placements as part of their courses, ensuring that learners have an opportunity to try out potential careers pathways and learn skills and knowledge in the workplace environment. Commitment from employers can range from 30 hours (one week) to 315 hours (equivalent to around 45 full days at work), depending on the programme. Work experience is a great way to trial learners, getting them used to the industry, before enrolling them as an apprentice after their current study programme.

We are still actively seeking placements for our Digital & Digital Support Services learners and would very much appreciate a conversation for those of you who have digital teams within your organisations. Job roles could include: Digital Support Technician, IT Solutions Technician, Software Solutions, Network Cable Installer, Web Developer, Programmer, Software Developer, App Developer. We are also looking for business admin related roles for ‘industry placement’ learners to join your team for one day a week and any electrical or site placements.

If you feel your organisation may be able to support with placements, please get in touch with our Careers and Work Placement team on work.experience@yeovil.ac.uk.

**Events**

Over the next few months, we have various events happening here at the college:

**Adult & Yeovil College University Centre Information Event**

**Thursday 23 March 2023, 5.00 - 7.00pm**

The Adult & Yeovil College University Centre Information Event is a fantastic opportunity to start thinking about your next steps, whether that be career development, a complete career change, a Maths or English qualification or a leisure programme. During the Adult & Yeovil College University Centre Information Event, you will discover the options available for advanced and further study including professional qualifications, Access to Higher Education (HE), university-level courses, higher apprenticeships, and much more.

**Information Event and Taster Sessions**

**Thursday 25th May 2023, 4.30 – 7.00pm**

This is your final opportunity to visit Yeovil College before applying for a study programme or course starting this September. We will be holding taster sessions available across all Vocational and T Level courses, so that you can experience your future course and work alongside industry qualified staff here at Yeovil College.

**National Minimum Wage for Apprentices - 2023 Increase**

You may well have seen the news already, but if not, the National Minimum Wage rate for Apprentices will increase on 1st April 2023, in line with the other NMW increases. This takes the apprentice rate from £4.81 to £5.28 - this applies to apprentices aged 16, 17 or 18 or those aged 19 and over in the first year of their apprenticeship. For more info on NMW rates and who they apply to, please visit the Gov website: [National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates)

**Reporting Safeguarding and Prevent Concerns & Your Responsibility as an Employer**

The College has a legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults andthe role you play as one our employer partners is key in making sure a learner is safe. It is your responsibility to act and report safeguarding concerns if a student discloses anything that gives you reason to suspect that they may be at risk of harm.

If your apprentice shares anything that gives you reason to believe they may be at risk of harm, ensure you:

* Listen carefully and take what is being said seriously
* Tell your apprentice you have a duty to report concerns
* Tell the apprentice you cannot promise confidentiality
* Write down what the learner says in their own words.

For more information and advice on your role as an employer in safeguarding and prevent, please check out our Employer’s Guide to Safeguarding on our [website](https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/safeguarding-prevent-values/) or watch this helpful summary [video.](https://youtu.be/Ey7g6agSomQ) Our Safeguarding team can be contacted on 07973 898849 during College Opening Hours. For more information on who to contact outside of opening hours, see Employer’s Guide above.

Don’t forget that we are here all year round to support with your queries regarding any of our courses. We are always on the lookout to support new businesses with your skills needs and helping learners find their next steps into their chosen career pathways, so please let us know if there is anything we can do to support. To find out any more information on any of our courses please visit our website <https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/> or get in contact with our apprenticeship team via email apprenticeships@yeovil.ac.uk. Know another business who is interested in finding out more about how we can help? Please feel free to forward our details, we’re always happy to discuss how we can support with training.