



## ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO CLIMB THE LADDER OF OPPORTUNITY WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP AND CONNECT THEM TO LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Head Teachers, Principals, and Senior Leaders,

We are writing to invite you to participate in an exciting new apprenticeships pilot that the Department for Education and UCAS has launched for the 2023/24 academic year across three selected pilot regions; Lancashire, the North East, and Greater London.

'Early Connect' aims to support more young people on to apprenticeships, specifically your Year 13 students, by providing additional support and greater visibility of relevant apprenticeship opportunities in your local area.

Building upon the national services that are already in place through the Department for Education and UCAS, the pilot will provide your students with exclusive access to expert support when exploring and applying for apprenticeships alongside their other options (including undergraduate courses).

It is free of charge, and should your school or college choose to participate, you'll gain exclusive access to a wide range of resources and services:

- Access to a new digital service that will connect your students with local and relevant apprenticeships based on their interests and talents.
- An enhanced support service for students who need extra support in finding and securing an apprenticeship.
- Additional resources and staff CPD to help you meet Gatsby benchmarks.

**If you would like to make the most of this opportunity and be a part of the pilot, your school or college will need to sign up on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) as soon as possible to access the exclusive resources for your region**

Further details on what your school or college can expect to gain from participating in this pilot can be found at [ucas.com](https://ucas.com). Here you can hear directly from those leading the pilot, Carolyn Savage OBE, Head of The Young Apprenticeship Growth Team, DfE and Lindsay Conroy, Apprenticeship Programme Lead, UCAS.

We do hope that you will encourage your Careers Leaders and UCAS Advisers to engage with this pilot so that your students can be further supported to explore the many high-quality apprenticeship vacancies that are available within your local area.

All the best

**Sander Kristel**

Interim Chief Executive Officer  
of UCAS

**Hannah Sheehan**

Director of the Skills Journey Directorate  
at the Department for Education (DfE)

Delivered in partnership between

