



May 2024 Update



**Walsall
Council**

Walsall Works

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Works+

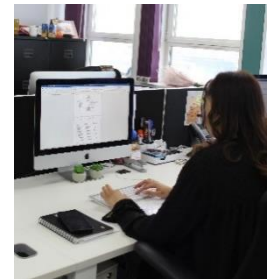
In early November 2023, through Commonwealth Games Legacy Funding, Walsall Works launched its second series of Works+ paid work placements for Walsall residents to gain meaningful experience with local businesses. Employers are reimbursed the wages of an individual at national minimum wage taken on through a work placement. The placements will last for 8 weeks at a



maximum of 30 hours per week. To qualify for Works+ a business must have a current vacancy. If the customer completes the duration of the placement and has generally done well, we expect the business to offer them a permanent contract. The candidates undertaking the placement must be at least 18 years of age.

Some of the businesses that have so far signed up include, Balfour Beatty Vinci, JC Payne, Fortel, Lauren Broxton, Cardboard Boxes 2 Go, Alchemy, HP Westwood and JNS Accountants.

We conducted a Q&A session with two of our participants who were successful in gaining Works+ placements. Ayesha Shabir who gained employment with Grantrow Recruitment as a Payroll Officer and Clara Maduike who was successful with the Bookkeeper/Accounts Assistant placement at JNS Accounts.



How have you found your placement?

A.S - "I have found placement so enjoyable everyone made me feel welcome and I enjoy recruitment"

C.M - "It was awesome and great, I really enjoyed it, Thank you for opportunity"

What skills have you learnt?

A.S - "I have learnt how to do a lot of different things that I haven't done before, such as profiling potential clients for job roles"

C.M - "I have learnt a lot of software skills that I would not have been able to do without this placement"

How have you found the wrap around support?

A.S - "I have found the support so helpful"

C.M - "Jane was awesome, it was relieving to know that someone was around for me"

What support did you get from Walsall Works advisor?

A.S - "Even If I felt overwhelmed or a slight problem or question towards work, I felt like I had Kiran as a best friend she is the best and so helpful I couldn't thank her enough"

C.M - "Julie is an amazing and extremely patient woman"

What do you see your future prospects to be?

A.S - "My highest priority is to find a job within recruitment. This opportunity has allowed me to learn everything about recruitment so I know that I could go into advice or consultancy, but I enjoy the administration side too"

C.M - "To use what I have learnt and be able to gain more hours"

Apprenticeships: Your route to career success

What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships combine real work with training and study. Being an apprentice isn't the same as being a college or university student. You won't just study and gain new knowledge as an apprentice, you'll be putting what you learn straight into practice. Apprentices don't have to pay tuition fees either.

You can apply for an apprenticeship if you are, 16 or older not in full-time education and live in England.

There are different levels of apprenticeships:

Level 2 Apprenticeships

Level 3 Apprenticeships

Level 4 to 7 Apprenticeship

Levels 6 to 7 Apprenticeships



Case Study

At the beginning of the new year Nicole came into Walsall library looking for help with finding a job. Nicole was a confident individual, and she was clear with what she wanted to achieve. At Nicole's first meeting with her advisor, they discussed a variety of different career options, they also looked at her CV and made some amendments. Nicole explained that her aspiration was to set up her own nail business from home but wanted to look for a full-time job or an apprenticeship.

She asked if there was any support to help start a new business and about innovative ways in which she could market her business, after a search on the Business Growth West Midlands Website her advisor booked her onto a Marketing Webinar. Further job search was carried out, Nicole and her Advisor applied for a few jobs and apprenticeships. Nicole also completed a content creator bootcamp at Wolverhampton City College and at the end of the bootcamp she was invited to several interviews.

Nicole quickly secured further job interviews but was unsuccessful. Nicole had an interview for a Property Service Administration Apprenticeship for a property management company in Birmingham. With the help of her advisor Nicole went through interview questions and completed an interview techniques session to help her thoroughly prepare for her interview.

Following this interview Nicole came to see her advisor and she gave her the amazing news of that she had been offered the apprenticeship. Nicole's positive approach and willingness to secure paid employment played a big role in her success in moving forward so fast.

Apprenticeship Event – February 2024

Over 200 Walsall customers interested in finding out and applying for Apprenticeships attended Walsall Works bespoke event staged during Apprenticeship week.

Amongst the employers and providers which exhibited on the day were, Fairlawns Hotel, Amey, McGinley, Walsall College, HS2, DWP, West Midlands Police, Lauren Broxton Design and WM Jobs.

There was a real buzz to the event where more than 150 applications/expressions of interest were made as well as on-line application details shared.

Walsall Works will definitely replicate this event in the future.



Pre-Apprenticeship Event – May 2024

We are hosting a pre-apprenticeship event in line with Path 2 Apprenticeships. Path 2 Apprenticeships is a free 16-week course that could help you take the leap into a new, successful career.

All the providers leading on the programme will be in attendance on the day with opportunities covering most major employment sectors.

If you are interested in gaining an apprenticeship and might need some direct support, then book your place.

Some of the providers attending the event are:

PTP, Pathways, Works Pay, SCL, Post 16 WMBC, Street League, Walsall College

The event is taking place on:

Thursday 2 May between 9.00am and 12.30pm.

First Floor Reference Library, Lichfield Street Hub, Lichfield St, Walsall WS1 1TR

Path 2 Apprenticeships is a free 16 week course that could help you take the leap into a new, successful career.

- Gain the skills that businesses are seeking, build on sought after digital and green skills, plus access support with essentials like CV writing and interview techniques
- Guaranteed interview for an apprenticeship on completion of the programme with an employer paying National Living Wage, so you can go on to earn while you learn
- Receive coaching throughout the programme and during the first year of your apprenticeship, providing knowledgeable support to enhance your experience

Path 2 Apprenticeships is available to anyone who is:

- Aged 19 to 29
- Not in Employment or education OR;
- Claiming Universal Credit, which you can retain for the duration of the programme.

Visit our information session to find out more:
9am to 12.30pm
Thursday 2 May 2024
Lichfield Street Hub, Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1SR

POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

Walsall Council | HM Government | West Midlands Combined Authority



The Link was officially launched on Thursday 15 February by the West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street and this marks a flagship scheme in a unique collaboration between Walsall Council, Walsall College, DWP, WMCA and other partners who have opened the doors to a one stop employment and skills hub based in the town centre.

Walsall was identified in the Government Levelling Up white paper as one of the Pathfinder areas. Through our role on the Walsall Employment and Skills Board, the employment and skills team agreed a focus for our Pathfinder and went about assessing the needs for a multi-agency one stop shop for town centre-based employment and skills service.

Our Walsall Works Employment Advisor, Kiran Bharj, is based at the Link to provide an impartial employability support to our residents. Kiran represents the programme and since opening has been so impressed with the volume of interest there has been for this type of support to residents. The Link has created a real buzz right in the middle of the town centre which creates a flagship for similar models to be developed across the borough.

We are committed to making this service work and we have already pledged to put in place more advisors if the service requires it. In just four weeks, 402 people had entered the Link and this creates an opportunity to assess clients' needs and then refer them to partner organisations for skills assessments, referral to training, apprenticeships, and work placements. The intention is also to use the space for employer led recruitment sessions and pre-employment training programmes and a number of recruitment agencies and employers have already booked the training room. There is also an opportunity to refer clients to other Walsall Works colleagues who are based within 27 other community settings across the borough.



The Fairer Futures Programme

A collaboration between



Fairer Futures is a 12-week Employability programme that supports young people in Walsall to gain confidence, work experience and hopefully into work. This is a partnership between Co-op Mid-shires and Miss Macaroon. Co-op Mid-shire stores in the Walsall area offer the space in the store as a training room and work experience for all participants. Miss Macaroon's Rachel Houslin and Amina Nessa run the employability, learning and post programme support. Walsall Works provides additional support to the employability section of the programme by attending regular job clubs, offering 1:1 work search, putting on job fairs as well as providing information about local events and vacancies.

On the 11 April 2024 the programme hosted a 1-year anniversary event, inviting all partners to take part in a panel discussion, celebrating the programme and what has been achieved in the past year. The programme has now completed 4 cohorts with the next cohort of young people starting at the end of April.

The Fairer Futures Programme have supported lots of people with additional needs such as mental health, Autism, EHCP and physical health overcoming these barriers to prepare them for employment. It has been a very successful programme getting participants into fixed term and permanent contracts through the Co-op. The Fairer Futures Programme is forever adapting and improving to try and get the best possible support for these young people.

Partners in the Fairer Futures Programme – Co-op Mid-shires, Miss Macaroon's, Walsall Council, DWP, Steps to Works -Bridges and local employers.



Multiply

There's nothing more frustrating than trying to understand something we just can't get our heads around and if you feel nauseous when thinking about numbers, you're not alone. Nearly 50% of adults in the UK struggle with maths.

Feeling confident with numbers helps in every aspect of life from measuring materials for DIY projects to cooking, checking our bills, buying shopping, and even just the day-to-day managing of our money. With the ongoing rise in the cost-of-living becoming more and more real for us all, right now might be just the time to get on better with numbers.

The good news is that there's no such thing as someone who "can't do math", if you've tried and think you can't, have you considered it might be the way you were trying to learn? Learning in a way that's right for you not only gives you the ability and skill, but also the confidence that will help you get a job, get on in your career, spend, save and budget better – and you don't need to be a maths expert either.



So, if you're underconfident when it comes to anything about maths, you'll be able to get the support you need in the way you need it from the Multiply programme through Walsall Works. From flexible courses to one-to-one mentoring, learn what you want, when you want – and best of all, it won't cost you a penny!

For details of the different types of programmes available across the Borough, please contact Walsall Works at WalsallWorks@Walsall.gov.uk



Multiply has been launched as part of the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme, by the Department for Education (DfE).



HM Government



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Events

Walsall Works Expo

Another outstanding success for the Walsall Works Expo as over 1,100 job seekers engaged with over 70 employers and training providers.

Walsall Works Expo is one of the largest job fairs in the West Midlands. The event is proudly organised by Walsall Council and helps hundreds of residents to connect with employers, training providers and partner agencies. With over twelve years of experience, Walsall Works has been delivering vital employment connections to the people of Walsall and wider.

There was a number of new businesses in attendance offering new job openings including Fairlawns Hotel, JF Hunt, Meamora, Grantrow, CLC and Voyage Care. Also, present were many of the top 10 recruiters in Walsall.

Holding events like the EXPO is crucial to tackling worklessness. Unemployment in the Borough is currently running at 5.5% with nearly 10,000 of the working age population out of work, compared to 3.7% nationally.



Upcoming Events

Do you want to kickstart your career? Come along to our community event and talk to employers with vacancies and training providers with vocational and educational courses.

Join us on **Thursday 23rd May 2024, 9am - 12:30pm**
At **Walsall Rugby Club, Delves Road, Walsall, WS1 3JY**

Book via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walsall-rugby-club-community-jobs-fair-tickets-881813878047>



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