



Jobs | Apprenticeships | Training

JANUARY UPDATE



Walsall Council

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Staff Recognition Awards



The Staff Recognition Awards were a heartwarming celebration of the incredible people who make Walsall Council exceptional. It was a chance to come together and honour the dedication, innovation, and excellence that define our organisation.

The ceremony showcased the unwavering commitment and hard work of some of the individuals who are the foundation of our organisation.

In the heart of Walsall, we united to honour the excellence, resilience, and innovation our colleagues bring to their roles every day. The event was filled with appreciation, pride, and gratitude as we celebrated the remarkable efforts that drive the success and vibrancy of Walsall Council.



We're also proud to say our very own Matthew Allmark won the **Outstanding Achievement** award for his amazing leadership and Aaron Gharu was highly commended in the **Making a Difference** category for his incredible work supporting ex-offenders into positive outcomes.



Matthew expressed what this meant to him by saying -

"I am very pleased to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award for my work on delivering the Restart Scheme as part of Walsall Works. Delivering this programme over the last three years has been both challenging and rewarding, but the real credit belongs to my incredible team. Their dedication and compassion in supporting local people to overcome barriers and progress into sustainable employment have been nothing short of inspiring."



"Together, we've worked to make a positive difference in our community, and this recognition reflects their hard work and commitment. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey."

Express & Star Ladder for the Black Country Apprenticeship Awards



Walsall Council sponsored the category of Medium Employer of the Year for the Ladder for the Black Country Awards 2024. The Walsall Council table was attended by members of the Walsall Employment and Skills Board, including Councillor Andrew, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Councillor Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills.

Walsall Council joined some of their Apprentices celebrate as they were recognised for their achievements at the sub-regional awards ceremony. Abbie-Farr Smith, a Finance Apprentice at Walsall Council was awarded Apprentice of the Year in the Professional Services category and also won the Overall Apprentice of the Year category.

The awards acknowledges the very best apprentices and employers across the region, and Abbie was nominated by her training provider, Walsall College. Judges applauded Abbie for inspirational determination since starting her apprenticeship at the Council two years ago.

The Ladder for the Black Country first launched in 2014, and this years awards were hosted at Hawthorns in West Bromwich on 13 November where hundreds of employers, training providers and partner organisations gathered for the prestigious ceremony.

Good News Stories



Peter, who had been working solidly as a butcher for the past 46 years, sought help from Walsall Works in November 2024 to create a CV. With no IT skills, he had been unsuccessful with handwritten CVs.

Jane, one of our Walsall Works advisors, assisted Peter in creating a professional CV. He was extremely determined to find work and didn't want his unemployment to be a long term thing.

Peter printed 40 copies of his new and improved CV and distributed them to butchers in Walsall and Staffordshire. Within three days, Peter landed an interview and accepted a job offer from a butchers in Staffordshire. He expressed gratitude to Jane for her timely support in helping him secure employment before Christmas.

Sandra after recently being made redundant from the leather industry, sought support from the Walsall Works to find new employment or training opportunities. Despite limited IT skills, she enrolled in a 6-week introductory computer course that The Thomas Project was offering at the time. With additional support, she completed the course and enrolled in further IT training.



Sandra actively sought volunteer opportunities during her employment search to gain new skills and boost her confidence. She successfully secured volunteer positions at two charity shops and planned to undertake work experience at the library. Throughout the process, she received support from Helen, her Walsall Works adviser and expressed gratitude for the assistance she received.

Good News Stories



After being let down last minute by a host employer, local student Alex was in search of a work experience placement. His mother, Irena, reached out to her Walsall Council colleague, Employment and Skills manager for Walsall Works Jane Kaur-Gill, to see if Walsall Works could support this urgent request. Alex was looking for any business exposure as he is currently studying an NVQ in Business Studies.

Jane got in touch with Andrew Clayton at Morgan Sindall Construction, who spoke to the Aldridge team and confirmed they could accommodate Alex's work experience for the next week. Following Alex completing his work experience at Morgan Sindall, Irena contacted both Jane and Andrew to express her gratitude.

"I am writing to you to let you know that Alex really enjoyed his work experience with Steven and his team on the HWRC site at Aldridge. We normally do not get much from him as he is of that age when talking to the parents is 'at minimum' however, we saw he wanted to go every day and picked up a lot of knowledge and information particularly from the project management side, which will be useful for his college course.

I wanted to reach out and thank you personally and will drop off a card and chocolates to Steven on site later this week.

Appreciate yours and Jane's support on identifying this opportunity at such a short notice and wish you all the best."

Community Visits



Walsall Works visited the new Energy Recovery Centre being delivered by Encyclis at Leamore Lane in Bloxwich. The company are investing a whopping £600m to create a state of the art facility to turn residual waste that would otherwise be landfilled.

This process supports the circular economy and sustainability by giving a second life to general household and commercial waste.

The plant will create 600 new jobs in the processing of turning waste management into baseload electricity, which in turn will create hot water for district heat networks.

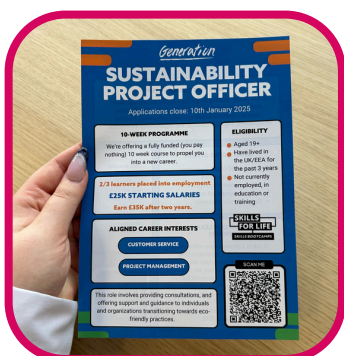
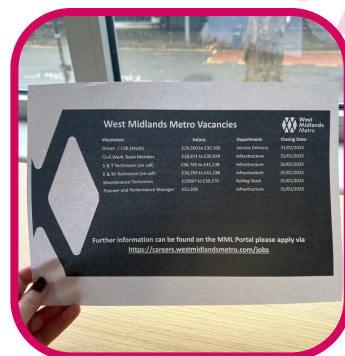
Rob Beck will be the relationship manager to ensure local people secure these local jobs.

We also visited the international company Babcock, based just outside of the town centre. Babcock specialise in defense, aerospace and security systems to create a safe and secure world and working together with the armed and police forces.

They have 300 employees in Walsall who specialise in armouring the Land Cruiser 300 and are looking to grow their team of Vehicle Fitters, Convertors, Electricians, Coach builder, Composite Fitter and Painters.



Group Information Sessions



Since the last newsletter we've hosted even more group information sessions to promote the different sectors we have available within Walsall.

28th November we saw Generation UK promote their Skills Bootcamp to become a sustainability Project Officer. This was an incredible session, highlighting that 70% of learners who complete a Generation Bootcamp go into employment within 6 months, and that they work with West Midland employers such as Octopus, Groundwork Trust, and Equans to get their learners into the Green sector.

On 5th December we held a session with West Midlands Metro on how to become a tram driver through their Sector Based Work Academy Programme (SWAP). 25% of new tram crew came from SWAPS in 2023. West Midlands Metro are keen to support Walsall residents into employment, and will be back with more Group Information Sessions in the new year so keep an eye out for dates in 2025.

Brownhills & Aldridge Jobs Fair



We're thrilled to share the success of our recent job fairs!

Our Brownhills and Aldridge job fairs saw over 600 combined job seekers connect with local employers and training providers. They were both a resounding success with attendees exploring potential career paths and employers offering valuable insights and recruitment information.

We thank all that attended, employers, and community partners who made these events possible.

Stay tuned for future job fair announcements!



Apprenticeship Show

Unlock Your Future!

Thursday 13 March 2025 - 4pm - 7pm
The Hub @ Walsall College, Littleton Street West, WS2 8ES

Investing in Apprenticeships can lead to significant increases in productivity. Apprentices bring fresh perspectives and new ideas to the workplace, often challenging established practices and driving innovation. By integrating young talent into their teams, companies can benefit from a more vibrant, adaptable workforce that is eager to contribute and grow.

By supporting Apprenticeships, businesses play a crucial role in the economic development of Walsall. Each Apprenticeship creates a ripple effect, contributing to local employment, reducing youth unemployment, and stimulating local economies. As employers invest in the future of their community, they also build a positive reputation, attracting customers who value corporate social responsibility.

When employers invest in their Apprentices, they are likely to see lower turnover rates and higher employee satisfaction. Apprentices often feel a strong sense of belonging and commitment to the organisation that trained them, reducing recruitment costs and ensuring that product knowledge remains within the company.

Let's work together to unlock the potential of Apprenticeships and shape a prosperous future for Walsall and come along to our Apprenticeship Show!

Book now for the Apprenticeship Show: <https://ApprenticeshipShow2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

Upcoming Events



EXPO 2025

Jobs | Apprenticeships | Training

Thursday 13 March 2025 9am - 3pm
The Hub @ Walsall College Littleton Street West WS2 8ES

Book now for the EXPO: <https://wwexpo2025.eventbrite.co.uk>



BUSINESS & SKILLS

EXPO EVENT

Wednesday 19 February 2025

9.00am – 1.00pm

Bloxwich Library, Elmore Row, Bloxwich
Walsall, WS3 2HR



We'll also be attending the Bloxwich Launchpad EXPO Event
Contact: launchpadbloxwich@walsall.gov.uk - 01922 650600

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