

Careers and Skills – Warwickshire College – Transcript

Gary Woodman: Interviewer – CEO of the Worcester Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP)

?: Interviewee Warwickshire College

Gary Woodman: Hello my name is Gary Woodman, I'm chief executive of the Worcester local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) and welcome to this episode of the Making Connections Skills and Careers podcast series from the Career's Hub Team. So, the first question is, are employers and training providers still taking on apprenticeships, during the current COVID-19 crisis?

?: Yes, they are.

Gary Woodman: And what are the benefits of a young person following this route to be an apprentice what that means for their career?

?: An apprenticeship is the opportunity to earn while you learn. You will work alongside experienced staff and you'll gain on the job training and learning new skills. You will also earn a wage and get paid holiday pay. You will attend college to gain underpinning knowledge, usually around one day per week and you'll be usually employed for at least 30 hours a week.

Gary Woodman: What are the sectors that you can really recruit into to get an apprenticeship in? I think often it's thought about kind of the trades, engineering, manufacturing but there are other opportunities.

?: Here at Warwickshire College we have a wide range of sectors that you could do an apprenticeship in. Let me just give you a few examples; we've got accounts, animal care, bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, crop technician, dental, engineering, early years, farriery, hair, marketing, plumbing, team leading and management, business admin, customer service, infrastructure technician, vet nursing. There just a few of what we do here at Warwickshire College.

Gary Woodman: And how will the recruitment process work? Do they have to have an interview with the employer?

?: The recruitment process normally starts with the apprentice applying or, the potential apprentice, applying through the government website where the post is being advertised. The college will then send through the potential recruits to the employer for them to select for an interview. The employer can conduct interviews in whatever way they usually conduct interviews for employees. With reference to starting, whenever the employer wants them to start is the start date. We are not restricted to just starting in September. Most apprenticeships can start at any time of the year. If there are exceptions to this the employer would be aware of this at the start of the recruitment process.

Gary Woodman: Once they've gone through that recruitment and progression stage, what's the opportunities beyond say the first year or second year of their apprenticeship?

?: Once you have started an apprenticeship you can progress onto the next level. For example, advanced or higher or degree apprenticeships or move into full time employment.

Gary Woodman: What challenges do employers need to think about for both current and future recruitment?

?: I would say that employers really need to think about having someone that can mentor and support the apprentice throughout the apprenticeship in case they have any questions or they come unstuck on something they've got someone there that can support them within their role.

Gary Woodman: And if I'm interested in kind of, finding out more about apprenticeship, what shall I do now, where do I go to find out more?

?: You can find more information on www.skills4worcestershires.co.uk or wgc.ac.uk where you'll find apprenticeships that you can apply for. Or, you can actually go onto the government website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>.

Gary Woodman: If you're a young person listening, make sure you go to the Skills for Worcestershire website where you can find a range of support on offer to help you decide the career pathway for you. So that's www.skills4worcestershires.co.uk. Thanks for listening.