



# Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

## Advice and Guidance for KS4 Students

### Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a practical alternative to going to university. Apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills whilst studying for nationally recognised qualifications with a registered training provider or local college.

Apprenticeships can be completed in one to four years and are available in lots of different industries eg catering, construction, finance and care. They are designed with the help of the employers and offer a structured programme that helps you get the skills you need to succeed.

Apprenticeships are available at three levels – intermediate, advanced and higher.

### Pay

From October 2012 onwards the minimum wage for an apprentice is £2.65. However, on average an apprentice will take home around £170 per week and be entitled to holidays and pension contributions. Plus between the ages of 16-18 you do not have to pay for your training, (your employer does).

### Applying for an Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are open to anyone over 16 years of age. There may be different entry requirements depending on the level and industry/ sector. However competition for places can be fierce, so you will need to show that you are committed, and aware of your responsibilities to both yourself and the company who would employ you.

All apprenticeships vacancies are advertised on a national website - [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

You will need to register on the site and search for opportunities using keywords, job roles and geographical locations. If you see any of interest you can then apply online for up to 10 vacancies at any one time. On the site you will complete an application which may be sent straight to employers so you will need to complete this to the best of your ability. Some adverts may however direct you to the employers website to follow their own application process.

There is also a mobile phone app “AV search” which gives full details of current apprenticeship vacancies in the Merseyside area.

Other useful websites: [www.whatapprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.whatapprenticeship.co.uk)

