



TALKING APPRENTICESHIPS

WITH COLONEL TERBLANCHE

IS THERE A SPECIFIC DATE IN OCTOBER THAT THE ARMY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OR IS IT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE MONTH?

We selected Oct 23 knowing that there was a short lived Apprentice College in Aldershot (1923-24) before the official opening of the Boys' Technical School at Chepstow on 28 February 1924. In total, there have been 16 Apprenticeship colleges over the years, spread right across the UK. The last Army Technical Foundation College in Arborfield closed in 2004 when the Army offered Modern Apprenticeships which are delivered in Initial Trade Training Schools and in the workplace. Since 2004, there have been 106,945 achievements. We now have 6,000 starts annually.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ARMY RETAINING THE NUMBER 1 SPOT FOR 'TOP APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDER 2023' FOR THE 3RD YEAR RUNNING?

We are tremendously proud of a team effort that involves 15,000 apprentices, all their military and civilian instructors, and their line managers. It's wonderful that this important contribution to our national security, prosperity, and social mobility is recognized.

WHAT WAS THE FIRST APPRENTICESHIP?

I don't know for certain, but it would have been a technical trade such as electrical or mechanical engineer.

HOW HAS THE APPRENTICESHIP OFFER CHANGED AND DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS?

Following WWI, the Army needed skilled tradesmen to help modernize the its forces to meet the demands of the mechanized age. The original apprenticeships where only for boys and focused on mechanical skills and where delivered in college settings. Today, our apprentices (both male and female) are leading us into the Digital Age, learning in the workplace, gaining nationally recognised qualifications in one of 39 standards, whilst getting paid, and learning valuable life skills."

WHAT MAKES THE ARMY APPRENTICESHIPS APPEALING? WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF AN ARMY APPRENTICESHIP?

You can earn qualifications whilst getting paid and it's fantastic to belong to a team which has a clear purpose – defending the UK and our way of life. The Army offers great opportunities to develop leadership and management skills with clear routes for promotion, career progression, and personal development.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO SOMEONE LOOKING AT AN ARMY APPRENTICESHIP?

I think it would be good to direct people to the Army Jobs website which is a great start when looking for information.

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