

Kent & Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony 2023 Press Release

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FULL HOUSE FOR THE KENT & MEDWAY APPRENTICE GRADUATION 2023



Photo: Graduation Attire

The Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony which takes place on 20th October 2023 at Rochester Cathedral has received an overwhelming response, achieving maximum capacity and a long waiting list. Registrations are up 40% on the record set in 2022.

Jo James OBE, CEO of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce; said, “This is the second year in a row that the Chamber has supported the Graduation Ceremony and the pre-ceremony business reception, so it’s fantastic to see the ceremony grow so rapidly. The Chamber recognises the key roles apprentices play in so many of our Kent and Medway businesses and how much they have and continue to contribute to business development, economic success and workforce continuity. Apprenticeships are central to many of the objectives set out in the Local Skills Improvement Plan, across so many industry sectors. I and Chamber colleagues are very much looking forward to seeing our county’s apprentices celebrated and graduating at the ceremony in October.”

Mark Hill, project manager for the Graduation Ceremony; said, “The volume of registrations is amazing and to have a waiting list of over 40 apprentices shows the potential for the ceremony to be bigger still next year, possibly with two full sets. We once again have a substantial cohort of apprentices from Level 3 to Level 7 working in the health and care sector and especially from NHS organisations across multiple training providers, which is great to see. Now the detailed ceremony planning is our focus, as we prepare to deliver another fabulous Ceremony.”

Claire Wardle, Programme Lead, NHS England – South East; said, “I am very much looking forward to attending the Kent and Medway Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony – it is a special time to acknowledge and share the success of our apprentices and their achievements. Apprenticeships not only help us to attract and retain talent but also helps us address our workforce shortages. I strongly believe apprenticeships enable us to widen access and opportunities for people from all backgrounds to join the NHS workforce, equips individuals with Skills for Life to succeed, and enables them to earn a salary whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification.”

Ceremony sponsors and supporters are continuing to enable the graduation gowning costs, photos and family places, to be free to all apprentices from Level 2 to Level 7. The Ceremony Management Board are hugely grateful to all of those organisations that make the graduation happen.

David Knox, Principal Apprenticeship Lead, The Education People; said, “We are so proud to sponsor this year’s apprenticeship graduation. We have long been part of the group that supports the ceremony and it is always amazing to see the excitement of apprentices attending Rochester Cathedral. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate the brilliant range of apprentices from level 2 to level 7 and their apprenticeship achievement, with their families and employers. The ceremony celebrates the important benefits an apprenticeship brings to employers and apprentices.”

Pauline Smith, CEO of CXK, said, “It is a tribute to the hard work of the joint organising committee and Ceremony Management Board that since the inaugural event in 2019 graduate numbers have more than doubled. The ceremony provides the opportunity for apprentice family members, their employers and training providers to be part of a collective recognition of the important part our apprentices play in our economy and communities. I am really excited to attend the ceremony and celebrate the wonderful achievements of all the graduate apprentices - it reminds us all of why education and training is so important on so many levels.”

Brad Levy, Strategic Lead for The Kent and Medway Careers Hub; said, “We are delighted to support the Kent Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony again this year. The Careers and Enterprise Company exists to help [every young person to find their best next step](#) and are committed to amplifying Apprenticeships, technical and vocational routes for all young people. Celebrating those who have achieved their apprenticeship and discovered their careers pathway is incredibly rewarding to the Hub’s mission and we look forward to our continued support.”

Rebekah Jardine, CITB Engagement Adviser; said, “The CITB is delighted to be sponsoring the Kent & Medway Apprenticeship Graduation 2023, it is vital to acknowledge the hard work that apprentices, employers and providers undertake, to create these opportunities for our current and future workforce.”

ENDS.

Event information including the ceremony 2022 programme, event videos and links to photo galleries are at www.appgradkandm.org

Graduation Ceremony Team Organisations

The partners who are organising this event are: CXK; Careers and Enterprise Company; Canterbury Christ Church University; CiTB, The Education People; Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO); Kent Further Education (KFE); Medway Council; Rule 5 Solutions; NHS Kent and Medway.



The 2023 event was recorded to ensure as many people could watch the ceremony at their convenience. The video is available via: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYzVJb2bZps>

A 1 minute social edit is also on the Apprentices Graduation site: <https://www.appgradkandm.org>
 For further information please contact: Mark Hill via info@appgradkandm.org

2024 Call for Supporting Funders and Sponsors

The organisers are now open to supporters for 2024. To find out how to support the AppGrad visit the sponsors' page on the Kent & Medway Apprentices Graduation [here](#) or see the [sponsor pack](#).

For more information visit the website at:

www.appgradkandm.org Twitter: @AppGradKandM
 Instagram: AppGradKandM or via: info@appgradkandm.org – Mark Hill, [Rule 5 Solutions](#)
 Use the hashtag: #AppGradKandM

Sponsors & Supporters 2023

K&M Apprentices Graduation Ceremony Partners & Sponsors 2023

