

# Kent & Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony 2023 Press Release

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**APPRENTICE GRADUATION REGISTRATIONS UP 10%+ AHEAD OF KICC LAUNCH!**



Photo: Graduation Attire

The Organising Management Board of the Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony are delighted to see that on the 1<sup>st</sup> June apprentices registered for the Rochester Cathedral ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 have already exceeded the total number of graduates that attended the inaugural 2019 ceremony!

Registration opened in National Apprenticeships Week and usually registrations tend to peak from June to August as many apprentices' end-point-assessment is completed and achievement is confirmed by the ESFA.

**Mark Hill, project manager for the Graduation Ceremony;** said, "The volume of registrations at this point is unprecedented, even for the virtual ceremonies we held in 2020 and 2021. Looking at the registrations we're delighted to see that we have some new providers engaging and we are seeing big increases in the number of higher and degree apprenticeships, especially linked to NHS employers. It's a reminder that with the ceremony's limited places that providers and employers wishing to register apprentices should do so well ahead of the closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> September."

The 2023 ceremony will also see a further profile boost, thanks to its support from the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce. At noon, 6<sup>th</sup> July KICC's forthcoming [Chamber Connections networking event at the Coachworks Ashford](#), will double up as a more formalised launch of the 2023 event, and as a final push to engage a wider range of employers in the apprenticeship agenda – and may be as future supporters of the Graduation Ceremony.

Ceremony sponsors and supporters are continuing to enable the Kent and Medway graduation gowning costs, portrait photos and family places to be free to all apprentices from Level 2 to Level 7, unlike some similar events. The Organising Management Board are again hugely grateful to all of those organisations that make the ceremony happen. Of special note for this press release are The Education People and Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, who will also play a central role in the pre-event reception in the Cathedral Crypt. More information about this and employer places at the event will be issued after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

**Jo James OBE, CEO Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce;** said, “The Chamber is proud to support the Graduation Ceremony for a second time running. Through its work in supporting the county's businesses the Chamber recognises the central role apprentices play in so many of our employer organisations and how much they contribute to business continuity and growth. Our work on the Local Skills Improvement Plan and prospective LSIF consolidates this understanding across so many industry sectors. The Chamber congratulates all the apprentices graduating at the 2023 ceremony. They should be proud of their achievements and equally their contribution to the success of their employers' businesses and to the county's economy.”

**Pauline Smith, CEO of CXK,** said, “It’s great to see the ceremony now well established as one of the county’s most important annual events. The ceremony is unique in that it provides an opportunity for apprentices at all levels and skills, whatever business they work for, or training provider they have engaged with, to celebrate their successes equally. Through the ceremony it’s possible for family members, their employers and the training providers that helped them achieve, to be part of a collective recognition of the important part our apprentices play in our economy and communities.”

**Elizabeth Flegg, Chair of the South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network;** said, “We are delighted to support the Kent Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony again. Celebrating those who have achieved their apprenticeships and sharing positive stories about the great difference an apprenticeship makes is a key priority for us.” To join the network visit [Apprenticeships Ambassador Network South East \(seaan.org.uk\)](https://seaan.org.uk).

**ENDS.**

Event information including the ceremony 2022 programme, event videos and links to photo galleries are at [www.appgradkandm.org](http://www.appgradkandm.org)



The event was recorded to ensure as many people could watch the ceremony at their convenience. The video content produced by Media Partner, Iliffe Media Group and is available in full on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYzVJb2bZps>

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

## Graduation Ceremony Team Organisations

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

## 2023 Call for Supporting Funders and Sponsors

The organisers are still open to additional supporters for 2023. To find out how to become a sponsoring organisation and to view the range of packages available please visit the sponsors' page on the Kent & Medway Apprentice Graduation [here](#) or see the [sponsor pack](#).

**For more information visit the website at:**

[www.appgradkandm.org](http://www.appgradkandm.org) Twitter: @AppGradKandM

Instagram: AppGradKandM or via: [info@appgradkandm.org](mailto:info@appgradkandm.org) – Mark Hill, [Rule 5 Solutions](#)

Use the hashtag: #AppGradKandM

## Who can be registered for 2023?

Any apprentice who has completed their qualification, at any level or discipline, between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 and is either Kent and Medway based or has a Kent and Medway based provider can be nominated. Registration will open in February 2023 and close 1st September 2023. Don't leave it to the last minute as places are limited!

## Who can register apprentices?

Applicants can be registered by their employer, apprenticeship provider or can self-register. Applications will be verified. Places are available on a first come, first served basis. When nominations are made it's essential that all parties involved, apprentice, employer and provider are informed.

## Sponsors & Supporters 2023

### K&M Apprentice Graduation Ceremony Partners & Sponsors 2023

