



Kent & Medway Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony 2022

Press Release

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KENT & MEDWAY'S APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION CEREMONY RETURNS TO ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL ON 14TH OCTOBER 2022:

The organisers of the Kent and Medway Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony are delighted to confirm during National Apprenticeships Week, that the annual graduation ceremony will take place on 14th October 2022 – and once again at its prestigious inaugural venue of Rochester Cathedral.

Covid-19 limitations forced the ceremony to be held as a virtual event in 2020 and 2021. The 2021 graduation proved to be the most successful to date with record apprentice registrations and employer engagement – 140% and 240% increases respectively compared to 2020.

However, the inaugural event which took place at Rochester Cathedral in 2019, ensured that the value and importance of apprentices' achievements, from Level 2 to Level 5+, could be recognised in a manner equal to other graduates.

For 2022, the graduation organisers are once again planning to ensure the ceremony is as inclusive as possible. Apprentices that attend will once again be able to wear formal graduation attire including the traditional gown, stole and mortar board, regardless of level or type of apprenticeship achieved. A key aspect is that with the support of the organising partners and graduation sponsors all apprentices will be able to enjoy these formal aspects free of the usual graduation charges.

The Rochester Cathedral setting also will ensure that friends and family, employers and training providers can witness the apprentices graduate in a wonderful location and venue. The apprentice graduates will each have their names announced and receive a traditional certificate to commemorate their achievements, which will be passed to them by a VIP guest on the day.

Employers will also be central to the event, which also recognises the importance of Kent and Medway's businesses to the national apprenticeship scheme and how they and their apprentices contribute to the county's economy. This has been especially notable during the pandemic given the high numbers of apprentices engaged in key worker front-line roles, including across NHS organisations delivering acute and community care services.

The ceremony will enjoy the presence of Nicola Everett from KMTV as announcing compere and registration will open from 13th February 2022 to coincide with the final day of National Apprenticeship Week.

Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council & Michelle Flegg, Workforce Development Strategy Manager stated, "We are extremely proud of our KCC staff who have taken up the opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills through apprenticeship training. We have seen the fantastic benefits both for the individual and the organisation, that apprenticeship training delivers for both new and existing colleagues, either at the start of their 'work journey' or as part of their ongoing professional development. We are delighted to support this event to celebrate the success of apprentices across Kent and Medway as well as all KCC apprentices."

Nathan Pascall-Smith, Senior Programme Manager System Workforce / OD (ICS), linked to the NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “Support for the 2022 Apprenticeship Graduation event is vital in celebrating and championing the success of Apprenticeships in Health and Care. Providing a platform that gives parity of esteem to all forms of educational pathways is really important to highlight the invaluable contribution apprentices make in building rewarding careers in Kent and Medway’s health and care industry. We are bringing a new approach to careers, education and volunteering in 2022 and apprenticeships are a key part of that strategy. Working collaboratively with employers, partners and education providers will allow us to develop strong workforce careers, skills and behaviours that support the health and wellbeing of our communities.”

Tim Aker, Federation of Small Businesses; “The Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony recognises the immense effort and dedication of Kent’s aspiring workforce. To take up an apprenticeship is an incredible commitment to industry and an individual’s own professional development. The FSB congratulates all apprentices and encourages as many as possible to register for a place at the Graduation Ceremony.”

Mark Hill, project manager for the Graduation Ceremony; said, “We are really pleased to be able to return to Rochester Cathedral. The 2019 ceremony had an incredible impact on the apprentices that attended. It was great to see just how much it meant to the apprentices at all levels, their families and employers on the day. The many training providers that also came got to see a truly inclusive event that properly recognised that apprenticeships at all levels should be celebrated on a par with those that might have chosen purely academic post-16 educational routes.”

ENDS.

The Events so far (2019-2021):

The 2021 virtual graduation ceremony proved to be the most successful ever in terms of record sponsor engagement, the 300 participating apprentices and 170 employers that were engaged through their apprentices – 140% and 240% increases respectively compared to 2020. The ceremony may have been one of the biggest of its kind in England in 2021.

The event was also recorded to ensure as many people could see the event at their convenience. The video content can be seen at: <https://www.appgradkandm.org/past-events> or via [YouTube](#).

To see the **2019 graduation at Rochester Cathedral** and the **2020 Virtual Ceremony** videos visit: <https://www.appgradkandm.org/past-events>

For supporting images please contact: Mark Hill via info@appgradkandm.org

The Graduation Ceremony Team & Supporting Organisations

The partners who are organising this event are: CXK; Careers and Enterprise Company; Canterbury Christchurch University; The Education People; Federation of Small Businesses; Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO); Kent Further Education (KFE); Medway Council; Kent & Medway NHS CCG; Rule 5 Solutions and Wire Belt Company Ltd.

2022 Call for Supporting Funders and Sponsors

The organisers are seeking additional sponsors now for 2022. To find out how to become a sponsoring organisation and to view the range of sponsor packages available please visit the sponsors page of the Kent & Medway Apprentice 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

Who can be nominated?

Any apprentice who has completed their qualification, at any level or discipline, between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 and is either Kent and Medway based or has a Kent and Medway based provider can be nominated.

Who can nominate apprentices?

Applicants can be nominated by their employer, apprenticeship provider or can self-refer in exceptional cases. Applications will be verified and 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.



Sponsor Call for 2022

New sponsor and supporting organisation packages are available [here](#) or see the [sponsor pack](#).

Partners & Sponsors for the 2021 Graduation

K&M Apprentice Graduation Ceremony Partners & Sponsors 2021

