

Kent & Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony 2022 Press Release

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR KENT & MEDWAY'S APPRENTICE GRADUATION CEREMONY AT ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL ON 14TH OCTOBER 2022 – KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO SUPPORT EVENT AND CONFIRMED VIP RECEPTION:



The Kent and Medway annual Apprentice Graduation Ceremony will take place on 14th October 2022, returning to the prestigious venue of Rochester Cathedral. Registration is now open and closes 2nd September 2022.

In further exciting news, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce will be supporting the event for the first time in its four-year history and will be the named host organisation for the now confirmed pre-ceremony VIP reception.

The ceremony is already building momentum with several key national and regional organisations giving it their backing or attending as special guests and speakers on the day, including from; the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE), the Association of Education and Learning Providers (AELP), the national body that promotes apprenticeship training Amazing Apprenticeships, the South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network and the Kent & Medway NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

The fully gowned formal ceremony ensures that the value and importance of apprentice achievements across multiple industry sectors, from Level 2 to Level 5+, are recognised in a manner equal to other traditional university graduates. The ceremony is free to all graduates making it one of the most inclusive of its kind.

Professional presenter Nicola Everett will be compere of the graduation, which enables friends and family, employers and training providers to witness and celebrate the achievements of the county's amazing apprentices. Places are limited on a first come first served basis and consequently event organisers recommend early registration to avoid disappointment.

Jo James OBE, CEO of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce; said, "The Chamber is proud to support the Graduation Ceremony for the first time in 2022 and is delighted to be central to this year's VIP pre-ceremony reception. Through its work in supporting the county's businesses the Chamber recognises the key roles apprentices play in so many of our employer organisations and how much they contribute to business continuity. Our recent and on-going work on the Local Skills Improvement Plan consolidates this understanding across so many industry sectors. The Chamber congratulates all the apprentices graduating at the ceremony this year, confident that they should be proud of their achievements and equally their contribution to the success of their employers' businesses and to the county's economy."

Nicola Everett, professional presenter; said: "We've all looked forward to getting back to a traditional format at a county venue in 2022. I'm especially delighted to be involved again as compere because I live in Rochester and participated in the inaugural ceremony here in 2019. It is wonderful to be part of this event recognising so much hard work in a manner equal to other educational options. The Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation certainly helps restore balance as well as demonstrating the commitment of so many employers to apprenticeships."

Mark Hill, project manager for the Graduation Ceremony; said, "We are really pleased to be able to return to Rochester Cathedral, especially with the support of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce given its central role working with businesses across the county. 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, 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](#).

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 NHSCCG; Rule 5 Solutions and Wire Belt Company Ltd.

2022 Call for Supporting Funders and Sponsors

The organisers are open to additional sponsors 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.

2019 to 2021
527 Graduates
Participated
(297 in 2021)

2021
170
Employers
Engaged

2020 & 2021
500
Event Day
Views of
Virtual
Ceremony

2021
19
Training
Providers
Participated

Sponsors & Supporters 2022

K&M Apprentice Graduation Ceremony Partners & Sponsors 2022

