



EKC Group Employer Newsletter

Welcome to our first Employer Newsletter. Bringing together local updates, insights and opportunities for Kent businesses, this newsletter highlights key developments and shared challenges, offering practical insight which aims to support employers across the county.

Gain up to £6,000 by hiring a young person

Unlock an array of financial incentives by hiring a young person as part of the **Government's Youth Guarantee scheme** including **£2,000 for SMEs** hiring a new apprentice aged 16 to 24, **£3,000** for each 18- to-24-year-year you hire who has been on Universal Credit and looking for work for six months or more, and **£1,000** employer payment for businesses of any size employing an apprentice aged 16 to 18, or 19 to 24 who has been in care and/or has an EHCP.

Youth Guarantee

The Government's offer to employers who recruit an apprentice

£3,000

For employers who hire 18-24 year olds who have been on Universal Credit for over 6 months

£1,000

For employers who hire apprentices aged 16-18

£2,000

For SMEs who hire apprentices aged 16-24

No NIC

On employees under 21 or apprentices under 25

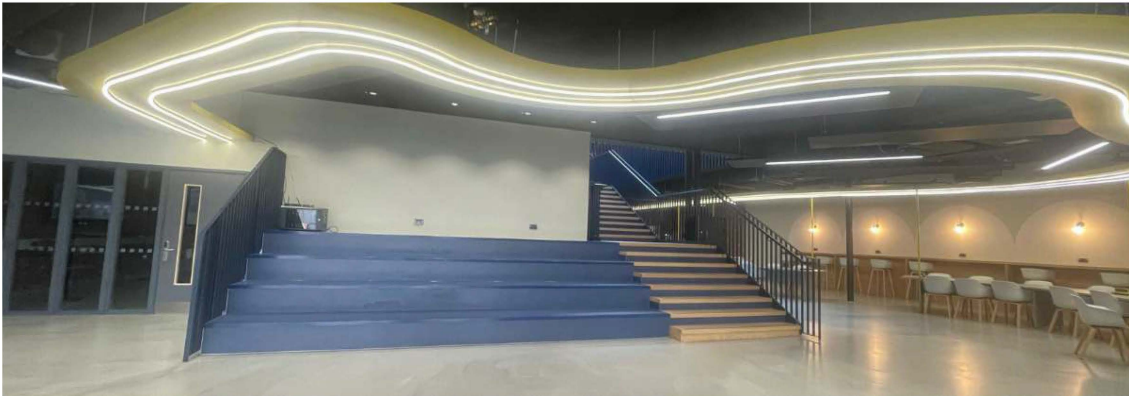
Job Guarantee

Fully subsidised work for long-term unemployed 18-24 year olds

For more information on the Youth Guarantee and how your business can benefit from taking on a young person, attend one of our free webinars:

- Monday 13 July, 10am – 11am
- Wednesday 12 August, 3pm – 3.30pm
- Friday 18 September, 11am – 12pm

Register to attend a webinar



New creative campus provides future talent with hands-on skills to grow creative industries

At the heart of Margate, a new creative campus is helping Kent employers build the skilled workforce they need to grow the county's creative industries.

A fresh pipeline of skilled talent

A new generation of creatives are entering the workforce equipped with sought-after skills in the digital and creative space.

Through access to industry-standard facilities, professional-grade equipment and training in Adobe Creative Suite software, [EKC Broadstairs College Margate Digital Campus](#) equips students with the practical skills and commercial understanding needed to succeed in the workplace.

The result? Emerging creatives who are ready to add value from day one, supporting productivity, innovation and growth across the creative and digital sector.

[Read more here](#)



Fighting the National Skills Shortage



Kent employers are continuing to feel the impact of the national skills shortage, with many businesses reporting difficulties recruiting people with the right technical, digital and employability expertise.

As the county's economy grows, demand for an expert local workforce is increasing, making collaboration between employers, education and training providers more important than ever to develop talent and secure future growth.

How can employers help tackle the skills shortage?

- Upskill your workforce
- Invest in apprenticeships
- Work with local education providers

Find out more



Join the hundreds already upskilled in tech for better social care outcomes

With the health and social care industry constantly evolving, it's vital to ensure your workforce is confident using new technologies.

So far, hundreds of people working in the industry have already been upskilled to get to grips with assistive technology. This includes technologies like communication devices, wearable technology, smart home devices and mobility aids.

Understanding this innovative technology is not just a vital step towards enhancing care and maintaining or improving a person's ability to do things in everyday life, for businesses and care homes, but also for the staff working in the sector. It all aims to keep the people using the equipment safe to live independently in their own homes for longer, or enhance the work being done at care homes.

**Find out more about our short courses to help you, or your staff,
upskill**

Halfords Autocentre praises apprenticeships

Recognising the importance of developing industry talent, Halfords has taken on 11 apprentices since 2022 with EKC Training, which is an apprenticeship training provider in Kent and part of EKC Group.

This year, the Halfords Autocentre branch in Maidstone has supported Nathan Rowden with his Level 3 Automotive Apprenticeship.

Combining practical, on-the-job learning with formal study, the 27-year-old spends one day a week at EKC Training in Dover and gains hands-on experience for the rest of the week at the Maidstone Halfords Autocentre.

Dean Cocks, Assistant Manager at Halfords Autocentre in Maidstone, said apprenticeships play a vital role in tackling skills shortages in the motor trade.

He said: "Hiring an apprentice is a good way for us to pass our experience down to somebody.

"We struggle for technicians as it is in this trade, so it's nice to train someone in-house because you get them to how you want them. We also get to learn from them based on what they're learning at college, which is great, because the industry is changing all the time.

"The apprentice gets real-world experience – you can't learn everything in this trade in the classroom – it's impossible. You need to make mistakes and find out how to rectify them."



Read more here

We're proud to work alongside employers across Kent to support skills development, workforce growth and long-term sustainability. If you'd like to explore training, apprenticeships or partnership opportunities, we're here to help.

Click [here](#) to find out more.



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