

ECC Report March 2019

Apprenticeships available with ACL (adult community learning)

In the National Apprenticeship Week 2019, (4 to 10 March), ACL Essex urged individuals and employers to find out more about apprenticeships – the prospects they can bring individuals and the benefits to employees.

An apprenticeship enables individuals to develop new skills directly aligned to their job role. They undertake training that supports their career progression.

Apprenticeships are made up of 'off-job' learning e.g. taught sessions in a classroom, 'on-job' learning, in some cases a qualification e.g. Diploma in Management and if required maths and English, and they are driven by the employer.

It's not just school and college leavers that can take advantage of the hundreds of apprenticeships that are available; there is no age limit on apprenticeships. Anyone starting a new job role with their existing employer or entering a new profession can undertake an apprenticeship as part of their training and development. An apprenticeship supports individuals to gain the right skills for the job and gain certification that demonstrates they have met industry standard.

Recognising the potential benefit to individuals, businesses and the economy in general, the government has invested in a nationwide advertising campaign to increase awareness of apprenticeships. And apprenticeships are being developed specifically to meet the current and future needs of business and include innovative and growing sectors such as media, digital, health and construction.

For those looking to further their study there are also an increasing number of degree level apprenticeships now available, allowing individuals to undertake apprenticeships that will qualify them as teachers, solicitors, accountants and nurses – to name but a few.

Authorised training providers, like ACL, who have local centres across the county have experts on hand to help both individuals and businesses find the right solution to their employment needs. This could be supporting individuals to undertake an apprenticeship in their place of work or helping those looking to access the labour market via an apprenticeship to secure a position in which to complete a programme.

In summary, Apprenticeships are excellent opportunities for both individuals and businesses in Essex to improve their future prospects. The growing numbers of apprenticeship options available and the quality of training providers, like ACL, have never been higher than the current position.

For more information visit please contact our apprenticeship team on 03330 139502 or email acl.nostoppingme@essex.gov.uk

Three new SEND schools set to be built in Essex

Three new schools are set to be built in Chelmsford and Witham, greatly expanding the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEND) places in Essex.

At an Essex County Council Cabinet meeting on 26th February councillors agreed to progress with three projects which will provide much-needed school places for children and young people with autism and social and emotional health needs in Essex – at no extra burden to county taxpayers.

Essex County Council has been working with the Department for Education (DfE) to enable the building of the three new Special Education Needs (SEND) schools in Chelmsford and Witham.

This project will provide 209 new places in the county for children with autism and social and emotional mental health needs, 30 of which will be residential.

Two schools will be built on the old St Peter's College site in Fox Crescent, Chelmsford, and one will be built on a site close to the New Rickstones Academy in Conrad Road, Witham.

These projects all reuse existing education land. No land has had to be purchased for this project and the schools will all be centrally funded by £23m in grants from the DfE.

Currently ECC's infrastructure team have secured all the approvals from the DfE to commence the design and consult with the local community on all three schools.

Each of the new SEND schools will be sponsored by a different Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

The school in Witham will be sponsored by the Market Field Trust, which operates Market Field School in Elmstead Market, near Colchester, a school rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in July 2015. This school will be known as The Chatten Free School after Brad Chatten, a former student at Market Field School.

One of the schools in Chelmsford will be sponsored by the Seax Trust, who currently sponsor the city's Thriftwood School and College, which was rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in September 2017.

The other school in Chelmsford will be sponsored by the Beckmead Trust, a trust new to Essex, which runs the Beckmead Family of Schools in the Croydon area.

Beckmead School, operated by this trust, was rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in January 2019.

Consultations with local communities near to all three schools are now set to take place during spring of this year.

The need for school places for children and young adults with autism and social and emotional mental health needs has been rising, and ECC is determined to meet that need even during these financially challenging times.

Direct grants from the DfE, the reuse of land already allocated for education purposes and the involvement of the multi-academy trust partners, have meant that the Authority can provide as an excellent education to many children with special educational needs, as those in normal main stream.

Preparing For EU Exit in Essex

Locally across Essex authorities and public services are working together and planning for us leaving the EU.

The council does this as part of local resilience forums (LRFs) which are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and others. These agencies are known as Category 1 Responders, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act.

LRFs are supported by organisations, known as Category 2 responders, including the Highways Agency and public utility companies. They have a responsibility to co-operate with Category 1 organisations and to share relevant information with the LRF. The geographical area the forums cover is based on police areas.

LRFs also work with other partners in the military and voluntary sectors who provide a valuable contribution to the forum's work in being prepared for emergencies.

The LRFs aims to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. Because the method of our exit from the EU is currently unknown the LRF also has a role to play in preparing for what happens when we do.

The organisations which make up the LRF work together to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any incident on their local communities.

Further information on how you may be impacted by EU Exit, please view the National Guidance at <https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/>

This website has been designed to enable an easy access to the work of the Essex Resilience Forum, which is a partnership of the organisations who respond to emergencies, and to provide information which will enable residents, business, and communities to cope and prepare with an emergency.

The Essex LRF has been planning to mitigate for any disruption that may be caused by the EU Exit since August and has a working group dedicated to EU Exit type issues that may arise.

Appeal for foster carers

An appeal has been launched for new foster carers to come forward.

Essex County Council's fostering service is looking for at least 100 new carers as it seeks to address a shortfall in numbers.

County Hall says there are now more than 1,000 children in foster care in Essex and this number is continuing to rise.

A fostering information event took place at the Dragonfly Hotel in Ardleigh on 22nd February; anyone who missed the event and is interested should call 0800 801 530, email; adoptionandfostering@essex.gov.uk

Or visit the website for more information essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/fostering

Secondary state schools preferred list

Demand has been overwhelming in North Essex secondary schools, especially the two selective Schools in Colchester.

Students are able to apply for up to six schools with the most popular schools being oversubscribed.

The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex announced that 612 pupils hoping to get into Colchester County High School for Girls sat the 11+ entry exam, and 539 children sat the exam for Colchester Royal Grammar School.

Oxford House School in Colchester was the most successful with 11 pupils receiving grammar schools' offers.

Figures released by Essex County Council's show:

- The Gilbert School, Colchester- 375 parents picked as a first choice with 312 places.

- Stanway School, Colchester - 311 parents picked as a first choice, with 280 places,
- Colchester County High School for Girls - 612 parents picked as a first choice with 160 places.
- Colchester Royal Grammar School - 539 parents picked as a first choice, with 128 places.
- Philip Morant School, Colchester - 236 parents picked as a first choice with 340 places, which includes 180 places at Paxman Academy, due to open at the former Alderman Blaxill School site in September.
- Thurstable School, Tiptree - 193 parents picked as a first choice, with 210 places available.
- St Helena School, Colchester - 184 parents picked as a first choice, with 200 places.
- Thomas Lord Audley School, Colchester - 177 parents picked as a first choice with only 168 places.
- St Benedict's Catholic College, Colchester - 166 parents picked as a first choice with 180 places.
- Colchester Academy - 95 parents picked as a first choice with 240 places.
- Colne Community School and College, Brightlingsea - 203 parents picked as a first choice with 248 places.
- Honeywood School, Coggeshall - 157 parents picked as a first choice, with 210 places.
- Manningtree High – 215 parents picked as a first choice, with 174 places.
- Ramsey School, Halstead - 151 parents picked as a first choice, with 130 places.
- Clacton County High - 353 parents picked as a first choice, with 279 places.
- Clacton Coastal Academy - 150 parents picked as a first choice, with 270 places.
- Tendring Technology College, Frinton - 298 parents picked as a first choice, with 312 places.
- Harwich and Dovercourt High - 170 parents picked as a first choice, with 260 places available.

