



THE APPRENTICE UPDATE

RECENT NEWS IN BRITAIN

The Middlesbrough A66 Crash: A Reminder About Road Safety and Responsibility

What happened?

On the morning of Saturday 22 August 2026, a tragic collision took place on the A66 near Middlesbrough. Seven people lost their lives, including two Cleveland Police officers, PC Matthew Blades and PC Tom Clough.

According to reports, a Volkswagen Passat carrying five people was travelling in the wrong direction on the dual carriageway when it collided head-on with a marked police vehicle travelling in the correct direction. Emergency services attended the scene, but all seven people involved sadly died.



Why should apprentices take notice?

Recent events in Middlesbrough are a reminder that the choices people make can have consequences far beyond the individual. Families, communities and emergency services can all be affected by antisocial and irresponsible behaviour. We cannot control the choices other people make, but we can control our own.

As apprentices, we are building our futures. The decisions we make today help shape the people, employees and members of our communities that we become tomorrow.

Respect others. Take responsibility. Make positive choices. Help create a community where people feel safe, valued and respected.

Impact on Local Communities

Antisocial behaviour can gradually change how people feel about the place where they live. When people regularly experience nuisance, intimidation, vandalism or disorder, they can begin to feel that their community is becoming less safe.

Take five minutes to think about your Personal Responsibility

Before joining in with something, ask yourself:

- Could this hurt someone?
- Could this damage someone's property or reputation?
- Could this get me or someone else into trouble?
- Would I be happy for my family, employer or future employer to see my behaviour?
- Am I making the situation better or making it worse?





Safeguarding – Report a Concern

Semester Learning and Development are here to support and listen.

If you have worries or concerns regarding your safety, or the safety of someone you know, please use the hotline number or email address below:

01792 278154

safeguarding@semesterlearning.com

Worries and concerns could relate to:

- Working Hours
- Being underpaid
- Working in dangerous conditions
- Living conditions
- Financial worries and difficulties
- Mental Health worries and concerns
- Concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.



For emergencies relating to your immediate safety or someone you know, please contact 999.

APPRENTICE REMINDERS

OneFile Courses Available

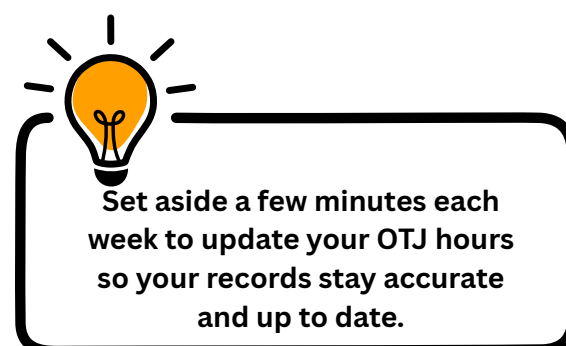
Don't forget to complete the Wider Learning courses available on OneFile.

These short courses are designed to support your personal and social development, safeguarding awareness, and citizenship, helping you build the knowledge and behaviours expected throughout your apprenticeship and future career.

Logging Off-The-Job Hours

You need to log your off-the-job hours in your 'Learning Journal' on OneFile.

Off-the-job hours could include training sessions, workshops, shadowing, online learning, project work, or completing assignments.



Set aside a few minutes each week to update your OTJ hours so your records stay accurate and up to date.

Attending Teaching and Learning

Please remember to check your calendar regularly for your upcoming teaching and learning sessions.

These sessions are an important part of your apprenticeship and are designed to help you develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed to succeed.



LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN

PREVENT

What is Extremism?

Extremism is the promotion or support of ideas, beliefs, or actions that reject the rights, freedoms, or safety of others. It can involve encouraging hatred, violence, or division based on factors such as race, religion, nationality, gender, or political beliefs. Extremist views can be spread both online and in person.

Extremist Ideologies and the workplace

Although rare, extremist ideologies can sometimes appear in workplaces through:

- Inappropriate comments,
- discriminatory behaviour, or
- Attempts to influence others with hateful or divisive beliefs.

Everyone has a responsibility to help create a safe, respectful, and inclusive working environment by challenging unacceptable behaviour where appropriate and reporting concerns through the correct workplace procedures.

Discussion & Task

As an engineering apprentice, how would you respond if a colleague shared extremist views or discriminatory content at work or in a team chat, and why is it important to address it professionally?

BRITISH VALUES

What is Individual Liberty?

Individual liberty means having the freedom to make your own choices, express your views, and live your life within the law, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others. It also includes taking responsibility for your actions and treating everyone fairly and with respect



Individual Liberty in Engineering

As an engineering apprentice, individual liberty means being encouraged to think independently, ask questions, share ideas, and raise concerns about safety or ethical issues without fear of unfair treatment.

Engineers have a responsibility to use their freedom professionally by following workplace policies, complying with health and safety regulations, and respecting the views, beliefs, and rights of colleagues, customers, and the wider community.

Discussion & Task

Why is it important for engineering apprentices to feel confident speaking up about safety concerns or unethical behaviour, and how does this support both individual liberty and a positive workplace culture?



LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

What is Diversity?

Diversity is about recognising, respecting, and valuing the differences between people. These differences can include age, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, gender, sexual orientation, background, experiences, and ways of thinking. A diverse environment encourages everyone to contribute their skills and perspectives while treating others with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Diversity In Engineering

- Diversity is essential in engineering because it brings together people with different ideas, experiences, and problem-solving approaches.
- Diverse engineering teams are more likely to develop innovative solutions, improve decision-making, and design products and services that meet the needs of a wide range of users.
- As an engineering apprentice, you can support diversity by working respectfully with colleagues, challenging discrimination, and creating an inclusive workplace where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and succeed.

Discussion & Task

How can diversity within an engineering team lead to better problem-solving, safer designs, and improved outcomes for customers and society?

SAFEGUARDING

Healthy VS Unhealthy Relationships

- Healthy relationships are built on mutual respect, trust, honesty, good communication, and appropriate boundaries.
- Unhealthy relationships involve behaviours such as disrespect, manipulation, controlling behaviour, bullying, harassment, discrimination, or pressure to do something that feels unsafe or wrong.

Healthy VS Unhealthy Relationships in Engineering

- In an engineering workplace, healthy relationships help teams communicate effectively, solve problems collaboratively, and maintain high standards of safety and quality. Colleagues should respect each other's ideas, provide constructive feedback, and support one another in completing work safely.
- Unhealthy relationships can lead to poor communication, conflict, bullying, exclusion, or pressure to ignore safety procedures or ethical standards.
- As an engineering apprentice, it is important to speak up if you experience or witness inappropriate behaviour and to follow your organisation's reporting procedures to help maintain a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace.

Discussion & Task

What are the signs of an unhealthy working relationship in an engineering team, and how could it affect communication, safety, and the quality of work?



CAREER SUPPORT & GUIDANCE

Setting and Achieving Goals

Why Set Goals?

Setting goals helps you stay focused, measure your progress, and develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed to succeed in your apprenticeship and future career. Good goals provide direction, increase motivation, and help you identify areas for improvement.

A useful way to set goals is by using SMART goals

- Specific – Clearly define what you want to achieve.
- Measurable – Know how you will measure success.
- Achievable – Set realistic but challenging goals.
- Relevant – Make sure the goal supports your apprenticeship or career.
- Time-bound – Set a deadline for completion.



Useful Websites

- National Careers Service – Career planning, goal setting and skills development.
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) – Information on apprenticeship standards.
- EngineeringUK – Careers information, resources and industry insights.
- Tomorrow's Engineers – Career inspiration and engineering opportunities.
- Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) – Professional development resources.
- The Open University – OpenLearn – Free courses on study skills, time management and personal development.

Discussion & Task

What is one SMART goal you could achieve over the next three months that would make you a more confident and capable engineering apprentice, and what steps will you take to achieve it?

