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The Best Time For Apprentices

Companies who take on apprentices are making such a contribution to the future of the country's workforce that a new scheme has been created to recognise their efforts.

The Apprenticeship employers badge can be displayed by businesses on their website to illustrate their commitment to the workforce and the great news is that research shows it can be good for business. In research carried out on behalf of the National Apprenticeship Service, 64% of consumers would use a register which enabled them to choose a business which hires an apprentice. Furthermore, an amazing 80% of people stated they are more likely to use a business if it offers apprenticeships to young people.

These figures, as encouraging as they are, sum up something I learned very early on in my dealings with business... people trust apprenticeships and appreciate businesses who give people a chance to learn how to make a living.

With that in mind, we're asking for employers to make a New Year's resolution to take on an apprentice and take advantage of the financial help and support which has been made easily available.

The good news is that taking on an apprentice has never been easier and with the recent news that the government has launched an incentive of 5,000 "Golden Hellos" for employers who take on new 16 and 17-year-old apprentices it's never made more financial sense. Add to that the other help and support available and it's a great time to take on an apprentice.

You'll get help with health and safety checks, legislation and, vitally, you'll get help with recruitment, ensuring you get a member of staff who has potential and is hungry to learn.

To quote Kevin Brennan, minister for further education, skills and apprenticeships, "We must invest for growth, and that means investing in our young people."

We couldn't agree more and hope that the business community of Lancashire does too.

If you'd like to give a talented apprentice the chance to learn a trade then please get in contact by calling **01254 354429**

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