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Issue #6



SCIENCE
APPRENTICESHIP FORUM

SAF Newsletter

The latest news, views and announcements

Letter from the Forum

Dear members,

We're incredibly excited to welcome you to this summer edition of our newsletter – and what a summer it's shaping up to be! With so much happening in the science apprenticeship world, there's never been a better time to connect, develop, and celebrate everything apprentices bring to science and innovation.

We're excited to share some brilliant opportunities coming your way – starting with the return of the **Science Apprentice Conference**, now in its **3rd year!**

 **Date:** Wednesday 17th September 2025

 **Venue:** MTC Events, Coventry

 **Theme:** Shaping Your Future

This is the UK's only national conference designed just for science apprentices – a full day of workshops, networking, and career-building sessions. From a panel of fellow apprentices, to tailored skills workshops, exhibitor drop-ins and more, this event is all about helping you grow, connect, and succeed.

🌟 **Poster Competition** – Share the impact of your apprenticeship and win £350! Submit your poster by 3rd Sept to: scienceapprenticeshipforum@gmail.com

Don't miss our next Forum Meeting

 Monday 14th July, 10:00-11:00am

We'll be joined by a guest from STEM Learning UK, who'll share how apprentices can get involved in outreach work; a great way to build skills, boost your CV, and give back.

Open to all science apprentices – even if you're not yet a Forum member!

First half: guest speaker. Second half: Forum updates.

Want to join? Message us on LinkedIn or email scienceapprenticeshipforum@gmail.com for the link.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

The Science Apprenticeship Forum Team



Science Apprentice Conference 2025!

The Science Apprentice Conference is back for its 3rd successive year!

The Science Apprentice Conference returns for its 3rd year as the UK's first event dedicated to science apprentices. Taking place at MTC Events in Coventry and hosted by Innovate UK, this year's theme is "**Shaping Your Future**".

Key Details:

- *Date & Location:* 2025, MTC Events, Coventry
- *Partners:* Science Apprenticeship Forum, Innovate UK, Royal Society of Chemistry, Science Council
- *Open to:* All science apprentices or recently completed apprentices
- *Perks:* Counts toward off-the-job training hours; lunch & refreshments included

What to Expect:

- *Workshops & Panels:* Skill-building sessions tailored to apprentices and an interactive Q&A panel with current apprentices
- *Networking:* Meet fellow apprentices, universities, and professional bodies
- *Poster Competition:* Showcase your impact for a chance to win £350 (submit by 3 Sept 2025)
- *Travel Bursary:* Up to £150 available to support travel costs (apply via email)

To get involved:

- Submit poster entries or apply for travel funding via scienceapprenticeshipforum@gmail.com

Don't miss this opportunity to grow your network, enhance your skills, and shape your future!

[Get your tickets here!!](#)



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

Upcoming Forum Meeting

Exciting News! For the First Time Ever – We're Opening Our Forum Doors!

The Science Apprenticeship Forum is thrilled to announce that our next meeting on **Monday 14th July, 10:00–11:00am** will feature a guest speaker from STEM Learning!

They'll be sharing how apprentices can get involved in outreach work with schools and local communities – a brilliant way to develop communication skills, give back, and boost your CV.

For the first time, our online sessions are open to science apprentices who aren't currently members of the Forum – we want to make sure as many apprentices as possible can benefit from this opportunity.

The first half of the meeting will be the guest session (10:05–10:35), and the second half will be Forum updates and upcoming opportunities.

Interested in joining? Email scienceapprenticeshipforum@gmail.com for the link to join!

Let's grow the apprentice voice in science together!



Apprentice of the Month: Isabelle Humphries



Congratulations to Isabelle, our Apprentice of the Month! Based at Cranfield University, Isabelle is currently completing a Level 6 Laboratory Scientist apprenticeship. After finishing A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Business, Isabelle chose to dive straight into industry rather than follow the traditional university route.

Among her many accomplishments, Isabelle built and calibrated a spectrophotometer for analysing the light output from pyrotechnic flares. She is consistently praised for her positive, can-do attitude and her dedication to supporting both staff and students.

In addition to this newsletter feature, she will also receive a certificate to share with her workplace.

To get involved in the next '**Apprentice of the Month**', see more information on page 5!

Apprentice Spotlight: Isabelle Humphries

Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself and your background?

A: After completing my A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, and Business, I knew Chemistry was the path I wanted to follow. I initially applied to university, but during the summer before I was due to start, I had a change of heart. I realised I wanted to go straight into industry and gain hands-on experience. When I came across this apprenticeship role, it felt like the perfect opportunity—so I went for it, and I'm so glad I did!

Q: What inspired you to pursue an apprenticeship in this field?

A: Chemistry has so many real-world applications, and that really appealed to me. I've always enjoyed Maths, especially when it's used in physical chemistry, which is my favourite area. I loved the idea of applying science in practical, impactful ways, and an apprenticeship gave me the chance to do just that from day one.



Apprentice Spotlight: Isabelle Humphries

Q: What does a typical day look like in your role?

A: No two days are the same, which I love! Some days involve running practical sessions and demonstrating techniques to students, while other days I get involved with research projects. It's a great mix of teaching and hands-on lab work, which keeps things interesting and dynamic.

Q: What's the most exciting or rewarding part of your job?

A: The variety! I get to work on so many different projects and across various departments. It's exciting to be exposed to such a wide range of research and to feel like I'm contributing in lots of different ways.

Q: What skills have you developed that you didn't expect to?

A: One of the biggest surprises has been people management. In my role, I interact with lots of different students, all of whom have different learning styles and approaches. I've had to learn how to adapt my communication and support strategies, which has really helped me grow in confidence and develop stronger interpersonal skills.

Q: What advice would you give to someone considering an apprenticeship in your field?

A: Definitely consider it—even if you're unsure whether it's the right route for you. Do your research, ask questions, and don't be afraid to explore your options. Apprenticeships are such a valuable way to learn while gaining real-world experience, and they can open so many doors

Apprentice of the Month Nominations!

We're celebrating our amazing apprentices by featuring those who go above and beyond—whether through outstanding performance, teamwork, or workplace impact. Nominate a deserving apprentice by sharing their achievements and help us highlight the incredible talent in our community!

Use the link [here](#) to nominate now!



Key Updates

Winner: 2025 RSC Apprentice Prize - Christina Dumitriu Jackson

Christina Dumitriu Jackson is a peptide discovery apprentice at AstraZeneca, where she works on developing and improving peptides—small proteins used in treatments for conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Her work focuses on engineering peptides to last longer in the body by using chemical modifications, helping them reach and treat specific areas more effectively.



In her day-to-day role, Christina synthesises molecules in the lab and contributes to a variety of research projects aimed at creating life-changing medicines. She is also deeply committed to promoting STEM careers, apprenticeships, and inclusivity. She leads an early careers research group with over 1,000 members and supports AstraZeneca's sustainability goals.

Christina is active in diversity and inclusion efforts both within and outside the company, participating in initiatives like the RSC's Broadening Horizons programme. She values apprenticeships as essential pathways between education and industry and is passionate about inspiring the next generation of scientists.

For more information, and to see the other RSc Apprentice Prize Winners, see:

[https://www.rsc.org/standards-and-recognition/prizes/winners?](https://www.rsc.org/standards-and-recognition/prizes/winners?Career%20Stage=0a9e9474-c979-4210-82be-a7b9439ca5af&sortby=a-z)

[Career%20Stage=0a9e9474-c979-4210-82be-a7b9439ca5af&sortby=a-z](https://www.rsc.org/standards-and-recognition/prizes/winners?Career%20Stage=0a9e9474-c979-4210-82be-a7b9439ca5af&sortby=a-z)



Upcoming Events / Dates:

SAF Guest Speaker:

STEM Learning

14 July 2025

Any Other Business (AOB):

Science Apprenticeship Forum Membership Form

As we continue to enhance the way we support and connect with our community, we kindly ask all members to complete the new SAF membership form. This will help us ensure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information about your members.

You can find the form [here!](#)

