

April 2025
Issue #4



SCIENCE
APPRENTICESHIP FORUM

SAF Newsletter

The latest news, views and announcements

Letter from the Forum

Dear members,

We hope you had a lovely and restful bank holiday!

As we continue to enhance the way we support and connect with our community, we kindly ask all members to complete the new Science Apprenticeship Forum membership form. This will help us ensure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information about our members. You can find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/G2bTPhGdkKnYz1ZM9>

We're also excited to let you know that our Best Practices Document will soon be released. It's designed to support workplaces, training providers, and EPAOs, so please keep an eye out for its arrival - it's full of valuable guidance collected from our apprentice members.

We'd also like to offer our apologies for missing the April members meeting. We value these sessions and look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in May.

Wishing you all the best until then!

Olivia



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

Apprenticeship Vacancies

There are currently a number of exciting apprenticeship vacancies available with various employers, offering fantastic opportunities to earn while you learn.

These roles are within the scientific sector and are delivered in partnership with **Manchester Metropolitan University**. Whether you're looking to kick-start your career or take the next step in your professional development, these vacancies provide a strong pathway supported by expert teaching and real-world experience.

[Luxfer MEL Technologies - Scientist \(Chemical Science\) Degree Apprenticeship](#)

[Organon - Degree Level Apprentice Laboratory Analyst](#)

SBSA Summer - Virtual Conference - Pathways In Technical Education - Science

Join the SBSA Summer Virtual Conference: Pathways in Technical Education - Science on Thursday, 22nd May from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Whether you're an employer, educator, training provider, policy maker, or simply curious about science skills pathways, this event is designed to inform, connect, and energise.

Date: Thursday 22nd May

Time: 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Online (link will be sent to registrants)

Cost: Free!

Register now via Eventbrite: [Click here to register](#)



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

RSB's Apprentice of the Year Award 2025

The Royal Society of Biology (RSB) Apprentice of the Year award is now open for applications. The award celebrates apprentices and recognises their contribution to their teams and the wider bioscience community. Anyone currently on a Level 3+ (England, NI, Wales) or 5+ (Ireland, Scotland) bioscience-based apprenticeship, or who has completed a bioscience-based apprenticeship in the last year, may apply. To find out more and apply, please [visit the RSB website](#). Applications close 17:00 (BST)

Tuesday 8 July

Calling All Recent Apprenticeship Completers!

Marshall Assessment are seeking feedback from apprentices who have recently completed their End-Point Assessment (EPA). If this applies to you, we'd really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. It's quick and straightforward - just a brief response to each question.

Please email your completed questionnaire directly to robgreen@marshall-assessment.com by **Friday, 9th May**.

Feel free to pass this along to any other recent apprentices who may be able to contribute!

Please note: If you're reading this from our LinkedIn post and do not have the questionnaire, feel free to request a copy by emailing the address mentioned above.



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

Connecting with the Early Career Technicians Network

Are you a technician in Higher Education?

Are you in the first ten years of your career?

Do you want to join a community of other Early Career Technicians (ECTs)?

As early career technicians themselves, the founders of the Early Career Technicians Network (ECTN) set out to make networking more accessible and less intimidating. Recognising that conferences and formal events can be costly and overwhelming, they're using social media to create a supportive space where ECTs can connect, share experiences, and navigate career development together. Their aim is to foster a pressure-free community built on peer support, shared learning, and open conversation.

If this sounds like something for you, join the ECTN and share some of your own experiences by following their page and joining in on discussions going forward. They hope to grow a community aimed at connecting technicians in the early stages of their careers to one another.

Scan me



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

TikTok Content Creator Wanted

Are you a creative, social-media-savvy individual who loves making engaging videos? The Science Apprenticeship Forum is looking for a TikTok Helper to create fun and informative content about science apprenticeships!

What you'll do:

- Film short videos in the workplace
- Interview apprentices and professionals
- Edit and post engaging TikToks
- Help grow our audience

All you need is a passion for storytelling and social media! Work around your own schedule, network with like-minded individuals, and build evidence for your KSBs!

What's not to love?

*Interested? Please contact **Erin** at scienceapprenticeshipforum@gmail.com*



Key Updates

Department for Education cuts ASK careers scheme

The Department for Education has announced the termination of funding for the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) programme from August 2025, citing its success and fiscal constraints. Since 2015, ASK has played a pivotal role in promoting apprenticeships and T Levels through school assemblies, workshops, teacher training, and parental engagement. The decision has been met with criticism from education providers, who argue that the programme has significantly enhanced social mobility by informing thousands of students, educators, and parents about vocational career paths.

As the sector faces this change, apprentices are encouraged to actively participate in outreach initiatives to continue championing the value of apprenticeships and inspire future learners.

For more information, visit here:

<https://feweek.co.uk/short-sighted-dfe-controversially-cuts-ask-careers-programme-funding/>

'Outstanding' result for CSR Scientific Training Limited!

Birmingham-based CSR Scientific Training Limited has been awarded Ofsted's highest grade of 'Outstanding' for its healthcare and science apprenticeship and bootcamp programmes. The inspectorate praised CSR's "highly ambitious" curriculum and effective collaboration with a diverse range of employers—including the NHS, universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Pfizer, and the police service—to co-design training that meets both local and national skills needs. Inspectors noted that learners quickly develop practical, in-demand scientific and analytical skills, demonstrating high levels of commitment and routinely achieving top grades to prepare them for their future roles!

To read more, visit here:

<https://feweek.co.uk/eureka-science-trainer-given-ofsteds-highest-grade/>



Upcoming Events / Dates:

Mental Health Awareness Week

13 - 20 May 2025

**International Day Against
Homophobia, Biphobia and
Transphobia**

17 May 2025

Any Other Business (AOB):

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!

