



Keep informed on your journey through education, training and work

Get Ahead update!

We are reviewing the Get Ahead newsletter! This will be the last issue in this format until we have conducted a review of the publication. We will be in touch with everyone with a follow up newsletter. A big thank you to all the contributors and to all our readers who helped shape the current Get Ahead publication!

We value your feedback!

Please go to our online survey to tell us your thoughts on the Get Ahead newsletter:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5C33DVB>

The Survey closes on Friday 21st June.

DfE update on English and Maths flexibilities

Previously, if an apprentice had an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan related to their learning difficulty or disability their apprenticeship training provider could consider the needs of the individual. Where it was identified that the apprentice would face a barrier to achieving the required level of English and maths qualification and where appropriate, they could arrange for the apprentice to study to the lower Entry Level 3 in these subjects.

Many people who have a learning difficulty or disability do not have EHC plans, so were previously not able to use this flexibility.

Following a positive pilot which ran from 1 May 2023 to 1 May 2024, the Department for Education are extending English and maths flexibilities for apprentices who have a learning difficulty or disability but don't have an Education, Health and Care Plan, to study a more suitable level of English and maths.

These flexibilities can be considered for new starters and for apprentices who are currently on-programme. The new arrangements will be part of the new Apprenticeships Funding Rules which will be in place from August 2024.

Flexible working

Flexible working law changed in April 2024. Businesses will need to change how they manage flexible working requests from employees. All employees have the legal right to request flexible working.

From April, they will be able to make a statutory request to make a permanent change to their contract from their first day of employment. Working flexibly enables opportunities to work that suit employer and employee needs. It goes beyond simply working from home. Options are wide ranging, from job sharing and compressed hours, to flexitime and annualised hours. Offering flexible working options can benefit businesses, including increased retention rates, a higher number of job applicants and reduced absence rates.

Learn more about flexible working, benefits, and the legal changes: **[Flexible working](#)**.

The Apprentice Support Centre

The Apprentice Support Centre is a single source of information and support specifically for new and existing apprentices of all ages. The resources focus on key information and support which apprentices need to help them complete their apprenticeship. It can also help answer some of the questions you may have about your apprenticeship, so a useful link to keep and share with other apprentices. We recommend you take some time to go through it at the start and at regular intervals during your apprenticeship.

For more information go to : **[Apprentice support centre \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](#)**

The Academy for Disabled Journalists

The Academy for Disabled Journalists (ADJ) was formed in 2019 with the 'Roving Reporter' program which we started with our team of disabled volunteers at Ability Today HQ. Going out on assignment to cover the world around them, creating reports of their experiences from a disabled perspective. As they developed their reporting skills it was clear that this could be a gateway to a possible career path.

We have partnered with the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) to create a unique and accessible (ONLINE) environment, where people with disabilities can learn journalism without the conventional barriers, studying online alongside their peers. All delivered via the distance learning platform and weekly zoom classes.

We are now in our fifth year of the ADJ and supporting students at both an introductory level to journalism and a Diploma. If you think that one of these courses could be for you, click below to learn more.

For more information got to: **[The Academy for Disabled Journalists](#)**

Your stories

Get Ahead shares the unique talents and stories of Disabled people who are doing apprenticeships, traineeships, supported internships, work experience or have done something special they want to share.

You too can get involved! Send your story to Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Great story from Autism care and share (on twitter - X) @autcareandshare

I'm Adam | Proud Father of 3 | Full Time Carer |My Eldest Son Ryan is autistic.

Before we went to Spain last summer, I did lots of preparation in order to help Ryan, he'd never flown, never been to Spain.

One thing I did was to show him on google where the supermarket is in Spain. He spent months looking at it on google maps. When we got there he directed me from memory with ease.

We are going to Spain again later this year, Ryan has already been talking about Spain and still knows the route to the supermarket...and the train station, bus station, town centre, etc etc all by memory, he really is an incredible young man.

The photo below is off Ryan doing the shopping in Spain.





Summer

Bring the sun back please!

Where has she gone, I wonder?

When will the pleasing warmth of the likeable, diligent, wonderful star return
and show her warming face?

She is hiding for now.

Give us some kindness and hope in our lives!

It is a tiring day, every day

when Summer does not reveal the sun's real affection.

She must surely be exhausted to hide her glows of yearning and honesty.

But we must be understanding and be patient
and give her time to appear.

I greatly feel for the Sun.

Is she yearning to show herself amid the clouds?

As we ask the Sun's young radiance to

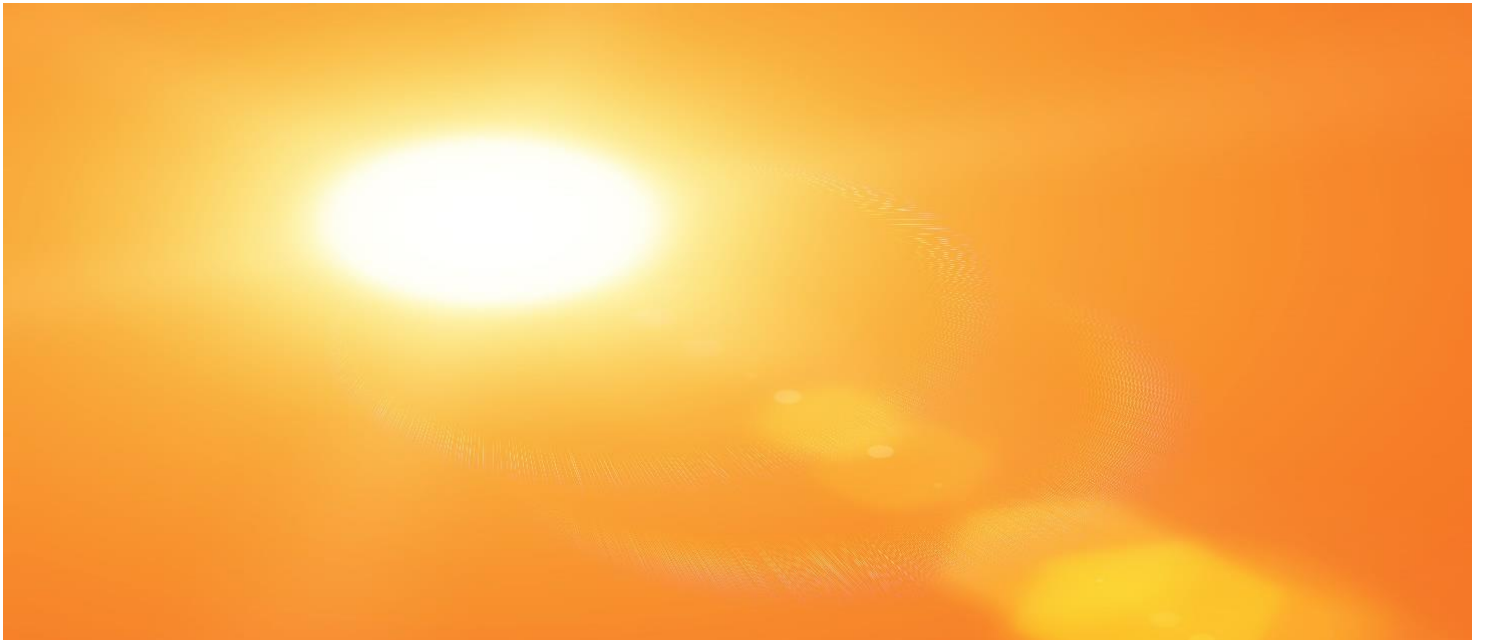
Give us respite from the rain,

We must believe that true summer will be sent to us soon

And the Sun will emerge from her shelter,

Bringing delight in her blazing arms.

Murray Bruce, June 2024





Are you doing an apprenticeship or recently finished your apprenticeship, then join us and become part of our leadership group.

The Disabled Apprentice Network (DAN) brings together Disabled apprentices and those who have finished their apprenticeship.

The Network is a lively and friendly forum for Disabled apprentices, to share their experiences and to offer views and proposals on what could improve apprenticeships for Disabled people.

Watch DAN members talk about their apprenticeships on the **DAN video** and on **Tik Tok @DisRightsUK**

To join the group contact: **rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org**

Association of Apprentices (AoA)

The Disabled Apprentice Network has a platform on the **Association of Apprentices** website. To join, register with AoA and go to AoA Connect or use this **Link to DAN**

Helpline for students, apprentices and trainees

Disability Rights UK runs a **Disabled Students Helpline** which offers information and advice to disabled students, apprentices and trainees by phone and email on a range of topics including:

- applying to college, university and apprenticeships
- telling people about your disability
- financial assistance
- adjustments for disabled students and apprentices
- rights in post -16 education and training under the Equality Act 2010
- how to resolve any disagreements.

The helpline supports disabled students, apprentices, parents and carers and professionals supporting disabled students aged over 16 in England.

- Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Telephone: 0330 995 0414
- Email: **students@disabilityrightsuk.org**

Information on student finance and funding from DR UK

Listen to our Education Officer Rundip Thind speak about student finance and funding on Tik Tok **@DisRightsUK** and our podcast.

You can listen to the podcast to find out more about our work on this website.

we've updated our Into Apprenticeships resource for Disabled people. It deals with Qs such as finding an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and workplace support available.

<https://disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/apprenticeships>

Contact Us



Email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org



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Tik Tok: [@DisRightsUK](https://www.tiktok.com/@DisRightsUK)

[Get Ahead](#)



[Get Ahead webpage](#)

[DR UK website](#)

We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

For a text-only or large-print version of the Get Ahead newsletter:

email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Access the Get Ahead newsletters and magazines on our [Get Ahead webpage](#)

To join the Get Ahead mailing list, go to the [Get Ahead webpage](#)

Disability Rights UK

We are Disabled people leading change, and the voice of young Disabled people has to be central to that change.

DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK

Edition 49
April 2024 - April 2025

A guide to benefits and services for all disabled people, their families, carers and advisers



DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK UPDATER 2024-2025

- Disability Rights Handbook updates
- Significant recent case law



Disability Rights Handbook

Comprehensive, in-depth information and invaluable guidance on the benefits system and social care services. Full of tools and tactics to help you make a successful claim.

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