

The Apprentices

At **Creative Education Trust**, we believe that a rewarding educational experience and the highest possible qualifications are the best way to ensure social mobility for young people. This is mirrored by our drive to ensure that all staff, wherever possible, are supported in their development too. Apprenticeships are an excellent way for us to further the skill set on offer at our schools and improve the level of support that we can provide to our students.

Apprenticeships are not just for school leavers, nor are they solely for 'new' employees. Apprenticeship standards and frameworks range from Level 2 to Master's, so there are a wide range of opportunities for our staff to continue their learning and professional development.

Meet some of the apprentices currently working in our trust!

Meet **Simi Sandhu**, our **Business Support Officer / PA to Headteacher at Three Peaks Academy**. Before transitioning to this role, Simi completed her PGCE and spent six years as a class teacher, where she also led the EYFS, Data, and Assessment initiatives and earned her NPQSL. Seeking a career change, Simi chose the apprenticeship route to gain essential HR knowledge and hands-on experience in managing HR functions—an invaluable asset for understanding the real-world dynamics of the workplace. During her apprenticeship, Simi has gained significant confidence in communicating with leaders on various HR functions. Looking ahead, she hopes to apply her knowledge and skills across multiple schools, making a positive impact on the education sector.



Meet **Mitchell Whitfield**, our dedicated **Attendance Apprentice at Thistley Hough Academy**. A former student at Trinity 6th Form at St John Fisher Catholic College, Mitchell pursued A-levels in Maths and Psychology, along with an NCFE in Business Studies. Mitchell chose an apprenticeship to gain independence and practical workplace experience, feeling it would set him on a clear career path while earning a valuable qualification and income - particularly helpful whilst he takes driving lessons. In his role so far, Mitchell has thrived, gradually coming out of his shell and growing in confidence through tasks like communicating with parents and collaborating with colleagues and students. His efficiency and abilities have flourished, thanks to the trust and responsibilities he's been given. Looking ahead, Mitchell is hopeful that his apprenticeship will open up future career opportunities within the academy or the trust, whether in attendance or another area of administration.



Meet **Darcie Fiske**, an enthusiastic **Apprentice Youth Worker at Lynn Grove Academy**. After completing college and a stint with the NHS, Darcie realised her true calling was in education, helping children achieve their dreams. Not interested in university, Darcie found her way into education through a job with the Trust. When the apprenticeship opportunity arose, she seized it, and now, over six months in, she's loving every moment. Captiva, the course provider, offers a fantastic virtual learning experience with engaging lectures and seminars that Darcie can attend from home. Being a Youth Worker has become a passion she didn't realise she had, offering a unique way to support and inspire children. With exceptional support from the Academy and her team, Darcie thrives in her role. She highly recommends an apprenticeship with CET for anyone keen on working in education.



Meet **Jade Chamera**, a dedicated **Design and Technology apprentice** at **Wrenn School**. With nearly three years at the school, Jade initially pursued an English and Education BA and an MA in Education at Northampton University. Throughout her time at Wrenn, Jade has gained valuable experience in the SEND department and as a cover supervisor, eventually stepping into a full-time role as a DT cover teacher.

Introduced to the apprenticeship programme through her school, Jade found it beneficial to continue working with the same supportive team while completing her training. The apprenticeship route has enabled her to support herself and her family while growing professionally.

Despite her degree in English, Jade discovered her passion lies in Design and Technology. She is now enhancing her skills and knowledge in this area and is eager to progress further into the teaching profession with the support of her colleagues and school. Jade's dedication, passion, and commitment to her role shine through, making a positive impact on the school community.



Meet **Chloe Davies** our dedicated **Finance Officer** who began her journey at **Thistley Hough Academy** in 2017 as an administrator. Initially planning to attend university, Chloe found her path redirected thanks to several promotions, a supportive team, and a belief in her abilities.

Over the years, Chloe has successfully completed Level 3 and Level 4 AAT apprenticeships with Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group. This involved 20% off-the-job training, attending college once a week, and compiling a portfolio of her on-the-job experiences. Chloe credits her success to the unwavering support of her finance team, which played a crucial role in her development.

As an apprentice, Chloe gained a wealth of practical experience and honed her skills in writing comprehensive reports. This blend of hands-on learning and academic training has equipped her for a successful career in Finance and Accounting, and she is forever grateful for the opportunity provided by Creative Education Trust.

Chloe takes pride in her willingness to support others and seize every opportunity. Her dedication and passion for the academies she works with shine through, positively impacting the wider community.



Meet **Madison McKeever**, a dedicated **Year 6 teacher** at **Woodlands Primary Academy**. Madison initially aspired to be a lawyer, studying A-levels in History, Politics, and Law. However, joining an agency as a teaching assistant led her to reconsider her career path. After four years as a Teaching Assistant, Madison transitioned to a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant, where she covered classes and discovered her true passion for teaching. Her current school offered her the apprenticeship route, allowing her to gain hands-on experience while earning a salary. This invaluable experience helped her grow into the teacher she is today, with the school's support in reflecting, improving, and developing her skills. Madison highly recommends the apprenticeship route to anyone considering a role in teaching. The confidence gained from being in the classroom prepared her for the challenges of her first year as an Early Career Teacher (ECT). The online learning component was relevant and enabled her to network with individuals from across the country. Excited for her future in teaching, Madison is confident that CET will continue to support her career progression beyond her ECT years.

