

KEITS Spring Newsletter

March 2024



***Welcome to KEITS
Training Services' Spring
Edition Newsletter 2024.***

***Happy New Year, we hope
you are starting to see all
the wonderful signs of
spring where you are.***

News and features

- 2** Do you have a rising star?
- 3** Apprentice Oyster Card
Recruit a new apprentice
- 4** Learner of the Month
KEITS are expanding
- 5** Special Recognition
- 6** Discount for Equestrian Employers
Apprenticeship Wage Increase!
- 7** Wellbeing App, Peninsula
Signs of Spring
- 8** National Apprenticeship Week 2024
Horticultural Funding Available
- 9** Employer Webinars



Do you have a rising star with leadership potential within your business?

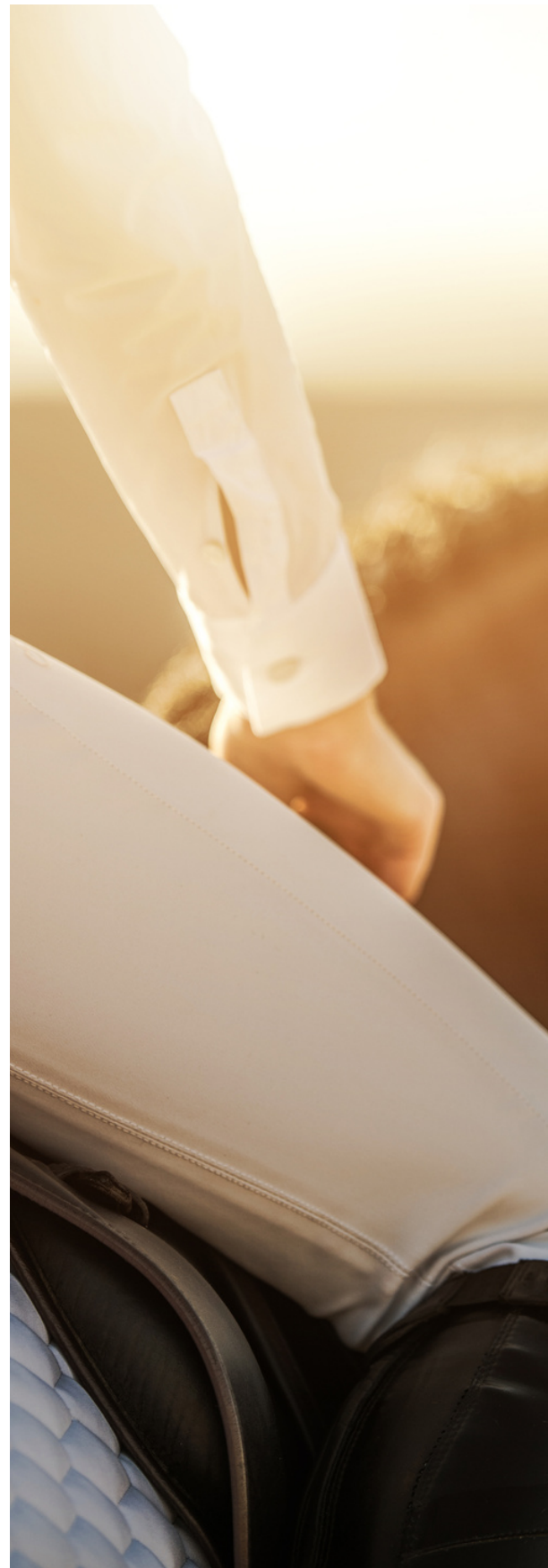
KEITS have apprenticeship progression routes within ALL sectors we work with.

In the last week of November 2023 the long awaited Level 3 Animal Care & Welfare Manager standard went live. KEITS are now thrilled to have level 3 apprenticeship routes in every sector, allowing your staff to further their education.

If you have an outstanding current apprentice that is due to complete soon, or even a member of staff that you feel would benefit from being in a more supervisory role. Then why not consider offering a level 3 apprenticeship!

Our level 3 apprenticeships are designed perfectly for those who are capable within their chosen sector at level 2 and are now ready to mentor and supervise others within that industry. It is a great way to invest in employees and aid in staff retention.

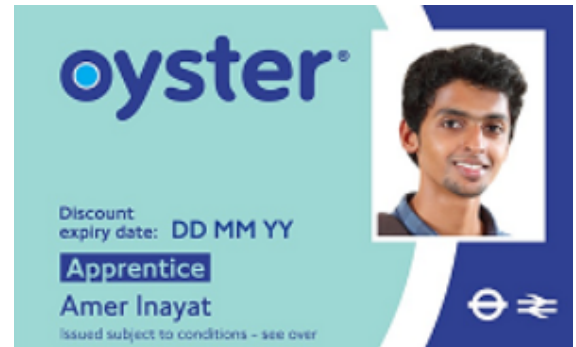
If you are interested in finding out more about progression routes for your staff/apprentices contact our BD team now on 0208 327 3800 or info@keits.co.uk





Apprentice Oyster Card

If you're 18 or over, live in a London borough and in your first year of an apprenticeship, you can get discounted travel with an Oyster photocard.



You can apply for an Apprentice Oyster photocard if:

- Aged 18 or over
- Live in a London borough
- Enrolled on an apprenticeship with a further education college or training organisation (funded or approved by the Education and Skills Funding Agency) for a minimum of 12 months
- In the first 12 months of your apprenticeship
- Started your apprenticeship and not on a planned break from your learning

To apply you will need:

- Active email address
- Unique Learner Number (ULN)
- UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN)

For more information on this card and to apply visit:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/apprentice-oyster-photocard>

Recruit a new apprentice!

Are you thinking about taking on a new apprentice?

Did you know that KEITS offers a FREE recruitment service?

We can advertise your vacancy on our website, social media platforms, the government find an apprenticeship website and also indeed.

On average we process over 400 applications a month on behalf of employers where we check for eligibility of each candidate.

If you are interested in learning more about our FREE recruitment service, please contact us on recruit@keits.co.uk



Learners of the Month!!

KEITS' Learner of the Month scheme continues to recognise and congratulate our hard working learners.

Learners can be nominated by either their training consultant, or employer and are featured on our social media platforms before receiving a certificate. These learners have demonstrated a high level of dedication, knowledge and skill in their chosen industry.

HUGE Congratulations to our latest learners of the month!

KEITS ARE EXPANDING!

We are very excited to share the news with you that KEITS are expanding the areas we cover in animal care and equine.

We are now able to offer our animal care apprenticeship in Dorset, Somerset and Devon and Equine apprenticeships in Cheshire and surrounding areas.

If you have a business in those areas and looking to take on an apprentice



get in touch today to find out how an apprentice can help your business grow.

Call our experts on 0208 327 3800 or email info@KEITS.co.uk



KEITS Special Recognition Award

Congratulations to Willow Mowles of The Pet Grooming Barn who was nominated for a KEITS Special Recognition Award by her employer.

Her manager Sarah said;

“Wonderful Willow has exceeded all expectations, the most kind and caring groomer I have ever seen. Nothing gets her stressed and she is always happy in her work. Never off sick and has never let me down in 2 years. She is one in a million”

Her Training Consultant Emily said;

“I’m so proud of Willow, she has worked really hard over the past few years and her confidence has increased to the point that she is now managing the salon by herself as well as supporting and training new apprentices. During her apprenticeship she put in many additional hours to prepare for her EPA which was reflected by her achieving a distinction. I am sure that Willow will continue to grow within her role and become an established groomer as well as mentor and manager.”

Willow said;

“My Apprenticeship has allowed me to progress to a business manager at 19, and given me the skills I need to run my own salon one day.”

Congratulations Willow a well deserved Special Recognition Award. Good luck in your career.

Congratulations Willow and good luck in your career.





Discount for Equestrian Employers!

We are pleased to offer our employers an opportunity to join the EEA (Equestrian Employers Association).

The EEA can support and guide you and your business in all aspects of employment law as well as providing you with template documents when required

Tailored with the equestrian industry in mind, but suitable for any employer, the EEA are offering KEITS employers a **10% introductory discount** on membership for the first year, bringing the price from **£49.50 to £45.00**.

To find out more click on the link below:

<https://equestrianemployers.org.uk/keitsjoin>



Apprenticeship Wage Increase!

Don't Forget!

On the 1st April National Minimum wage for apprentices is set to see a 21.2% rise from £5.28 per hour to £6.40 per hour.

	NMW rate from 1 April 2024	Increase in pence	Percentage increase
National Living Wage (21 and over)	£ 11.44	£ 1.02	9.8%
18-20 Year Old Rate	£ 8.60	£ 1.11	14.8%
16-17 Year Old Rate	£ 6.40	£ 1.12	21.2%
Apprentice Rate	£ 6.40	£ 1.12	21.2%
Accommodation Offset	£ 9.99	£ 0.89	9.8%



Wellbeing Service for Apprentices



KEITS continually recognise the challenges of this ever changing world and are here to support our apprentices. The health and wellbeing of our apprentices is paramount.

KEITS would like to remind you that we offer all of our apprentices access to an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), delivered by Health Assured – the UK and Ireland’s leading wellbeing provider.

This service is a support network offering advice 24/7 and comes with an app available on IOS and Android, for more information please click [here](#).

KEITS Partnered with Peninsula



We would like to remind you that KEITS are partnered with Peninsula, the UK’s largest employment law and health and safety consultancy and we can now offer the following services to our employers:

- Free initial employment law and health and safety advice – up to 4 free half hour calls per year – on any employment law or health and safety topic(s).
- A free review of your employment contracts.
- A discount on standard fees if you should choose to contract with Peninsula for their full services – just quote ‘KEITS’ in order to qualify.

Signs of Spring

Here are some fabulous signs of spring at King’s College Cambridge who are currently providing apprenticeships in Horticulture!

If you have any nice images of your business or apprentices at work, we’d love to feature you! Just email Beth & Heidi at recruit@KEITS.co.uk





National Apprenticeship Week 2024

5-11 FEBRUARY 2024

#NAW2024

IT'S NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

National Apprenticeship Week was held at the beginning of February and was a huge success. KEITS saw increased interaction with all our blogs and social media posts as well as website engagement and queries.

A huge thank you to all the employers who sent in success stories, videos and images. We couldn't have done it without you! Hopefully many more people have been inspired to apply for an apprenticeship after seeing all the wonderful things that can come from them.

If you missed any of the posts, you'll find the week's worth of blogs on our website news page, or if you have any more stories about your apprentice that you would like to share please feel free to [email us on recruit@keits.co.uk](mailto:recruit@keits.co.uk).

Horticultural Funding Available

KEITS wanted to sign post our horticultural businesses to potential funding that may be available to them.

DEFRA - [Farming Innovation Project](#) - which aims to help farmers, growers and foresters increase productivity, sustainability and resilience

- reduce the environmental impact of agriculture and horticulture
- apply agricultural research to provide real benefits for farmers, growers and foresters
- use science to develop solutions for the practical challenges in agriculture and horticulture

Gov.uk - [Funding for Farmers](#) - where you can apply for grants and other funding to increase productivity, manage your land to benefit the environment and support your agricultural business.



Employer Webinars

The Department for Education and Apprenticeship service have launched some useful webinars to help employers on their apprenticeship journeys.

The DoE has released its latest series of apprenticeship webinars that support SMEs to deliver successful apprenticeships.

Employers will hear from other employers as they share their invaluable experiences, advice and guidance to support businesses on their apprenticeship journey.

webinar topics include:

- Finding the right apprentice for your business
- Supporting your apprentice to achieve
- Mentoring and supporting your apprentice
- Preparing your apprentice for end-point assessment
- What comes after the apprenticeship? Celebration and progression
- Finding the right apprentice for your business

View our topics and [registration page](#)

Recordings of the webinars will be uploaded to the [DfE Sector Comms](#) YouTube Channel.

The Apprenticeship Service has also released a webinar for employers where they will be demonstrating using the Apprenticeship Service to manage apprentices.

The webinar will include the following:

- Register an account on the Apprenticeship Service
- Add PAYE and additional users
- Sign employer agreement
- Access levy funding and how to reserve funds
- Use the finance section of the service
- Recruit an apprentice
- Add an apprentice and RPL
- Provider permissions
- Transfers
- Change in circumstance - i.e. BILS, TNP1, overlapping training days

Although this webinar is full, it will be available for download after 12th March of [DfE Sector Comms](#) YouTube Channel

