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Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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Sarah Champion MP encourages young people to find out more about apprenticeships

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, is encouraging young people to seriously consider an apprenticeship as they make decisions on their future. This week has been National Apprenticeship Week, with teenagers across the country being shown there are other options for further education other than University.

Rotherham has seen 1,050 young people start apprenticeships in each of the past two academic years. Sarah wants that number to increase for the current academic year, with figures showing that hundreds have already started an apprenticeship since August 2014 in the constituency.

One of the ways Sarah hopes to see apprentice numbers rise is by backing Rotherham College of Art and Technology's campaign to try and recruit 100 apprentices in 100 working days. After launching earlier this month, the College have already enrolled 14 new learners in their bid to reach the total. She wants young people to simply find out more on what an apprenticeship can offer before they make a final decision on their future.

Discussing apprenticeships, Sarah said:

"Apprenticeships are a vital way of investing in our young people with skills and training so they are work ready. This is especially important in Rotherham which currently has the 35th highest rate of unemployment in the country. We need to make sure that a generation don't miss out on work because they haven't been given enough of the right opportunities."

"I'm backing Rotherham College's campaign to recruit 100 apprentices in 100 working days. We need to make sure that as many young people as possible have real prospects for the future. This is the only way our country can achieve long term economic recovery and stability."

"I'm asking young people to consider all their options before making a decision on what next to do in life. An apprenticeship might not be for everyone, but they offer a real alternative to University and give practical experience and skills which pave the way for a chosen career. Latest figures show 740,000 young people across the country are unemployed, this is far too high and we need to tackle it; apprenticeships are a fantastic solution."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Information on apprenticeship start numbers - www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06113.pdf

Information on Rotherham College's 100 apprentice campaign - <http://www.rotherham.ac.uk/Pages/NewsTickerDisplay.aspx?NewsID=409&type=LatestNews>

Information on youth unemployment -

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05871/youth-unemployment-statistics>

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