T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG PERSON TO GET READY FOR A **BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING**

A briefing for parents, carers or supporters

INTRODUCTION TO AN INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

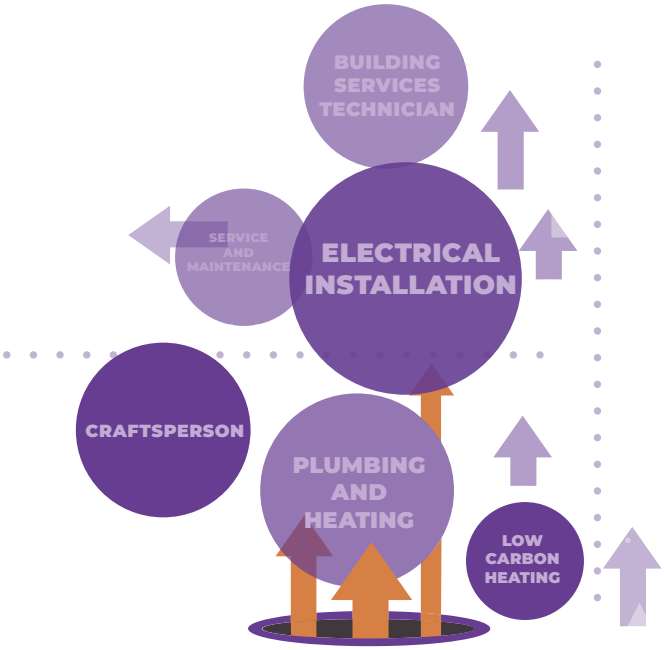
Your young person's Building Services Engineering T Level includes a substantial industry placement with an employer. This is a mandatory part of the course and must be completed for them to achieve their full T Level.

The placement is part of the education programme, not a job. Employers are not required to pay students for industry placements, although some may choose to support costs such as travel, meals or equipment.

Support arrangements vary between colleges and schools. If travel, clothing, footwear, PPE or equipment are required and difficult to arrange, your young person should speak to their college or school as early as possible so they understand what local support may be available.

The placement gives students the chance to experience real work, understand employer expectations and begin developing the confidence and behaviours needed in the sector.

The aim is not for parents or carers to manage the placement, it is to help young people understand the commitment, prepare practically and build independence.



WHAT THE PLACEMENT MAY INVOLVE

Depending on the placement, your young person may spend time in workshops, depots, offices, construction sites, domestic properties or live buildings such as schools, hospitals, shops or business premises.

They may need to:

- start earlier than a normal college or school day
- travel to different locations
- wear PPE, safety boots or specific workwear
- bring food, water or equipment
- spend time on their feet
- observe before taking part
- follow safety instructions carefully

They will not be expected to arrive fully trained. Employers understand they are still learning. Students may begin by observing, listening and supporting small tasks before taking on more responsibility.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your young person should take responsibility for preparing for placement, but support at home can help them think ahead.

A few days before the placement starts, it may help to talk through:

- how they will travel, including a back-up option where possible
- what time they need to arrive and where they should report
- what clothing, footwear, PPE or workwear they need
- whether they need food, water or equipment
- who they should contact if they are delayed, unwell, worried or unsure
- whether family, friends or local contacts may know relevant employers that could support a placement or future opportunity

The college or school will need to check and approve any placement. However, sharing possible employer contacts early can sometimes help open up opportunities.

The aim is not to organise the placement for them. It is to help them start the placement calm, prepared and ready to take responsibility.

WHAT EMPLOYERS WILL EXPECT

Employers are not expecting your young person to know everything. They are looking for the right attitude. This includes:

- turning up on time
- listening carefully and following instructions
- working safely and asking for help if unsure
- using their phone only when allowed
- communicating respectfully
- accepting feedback and taking tasks seriously

Small behaviours can make a big difference. Employers are likely to remember whether a student was reliable, polite, interested and willing to learn.

IF THEY ARE WORRIED OR NOT READY

Some students feel nervous before placement, especially if they are travelling independently or entering a workplace for the first time.

They do not need to feel completely confident before they start, but they do need to understand what to expect and know where to get help.

Encourage them to speak to their college or school contact early if they are worried about travel, timing, confidence, safety, communication, attendance, PPE, equipment or workplace expectations.

The college or school should support students to build readiness over time. If you have concerns before or during the placement, use the college or school contact details provided. Raising concerns early usually makes it easier to agree any extra preparation or support that may be needed before placement starts.

A Building Services Engineering placement is more than a course requirement. It is an important step towards the world of work. Your support can help your young person make that transition with confidence, building independence, responsibility and the habits that will help them succeed in their T Level, future career and adult life.

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