

Berkshire Skills Bootcamps

Winter 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the second Berkshire Skills Bootcamps newsletter. This quarter we're celebrating the success stories of one of our standout Skills Bootcamps, providing updates on new sectors, welcoming new team members and looking into the future of Skills Bootcamps in Berkshire in 2026.

Since the publication of the last newsletter back in August...

142

more Skills Bootcamp graduates have been invited to **job interviews**, or upskilled with a clear **action plan to implement into their own business**



56

more participants have either secured a **job offer** or have **secured new contracts or clients**

These achievements are a testament to the hard work of the learners and support from our delivery providers. We are very proud of the impact they're making on the local economy. More outcomes are expected until September 2026, six months after the end of Bootcamp delivery.

We are also thrilled to announce some new partnerships in the Transport and Logistics sectors, as well as a growing collection of available Skills Bootcamps. We hope you enjoy the read and feel inspired by the progress and possibilities that lie ahead for Berkshire Skills Bootcamps.

Upcoming Skills Bootcamps

As the current Skills Bootcamp funding year ends in March, now is the perfect time to register your interest and secure your place. Head to our website - skillsandbusinesshub.org - to register your interest and sign up for the upcoming Skills Bootcamps...

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming & New Skills Bootcamps

Job Fair Tips

Skills Bootcamps Team Updates

Sector Deep Dive - Construction

What's Ahead in 2026...

To access Berkshire Skills Bootcamps and the programmes [click here](#)



Follow [The Skills and Business Hub](#) on LinkedIn for all the latest news and updates.



Bus Driving



Project Management



Commercial Ventilation



Utilities



SEND Education TA



Construction



Cyber Security



Green Skills & Retrofit



Professional Certificate in Data Analytics & AI

New Skills Bootcamps



We're excited to announce an expanded range of Skills Bootcamps designed to meet local needs and drive economic growth. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, you can click through to the Delivery Provider's website via our website skillsandbusinesshub.org or email us directly at berkshireskillsbootcamps@skillsandbusinesshub.org for more information.

ATS has launched a new Skills Bootcamp in Utilities!

- This Skills Bootcamp offers training in the Utilities sector, with pathways tailored to roles in telecommunications, civils, and highways.
- Learning is delivered across 4 weeks, full time and in-person. There is a blend of both classroom and practical training. Training includes both theory and practical assessments to support a well-rounded understanding of the sector and pathway selected.
- For full course details, upcoming start dates, and to register, please visit ATS's website.



Reading Transport LTD is now delivering a Bus Driving Skills Bootcamp for those looking to start their bus driving career!

- This bootcamp offers a supportive and inclusive learning environment designed to build confidence and prepare learners for a professional bus driving career including those with no bus driving experience
- Training combines classroom sessions, hands-on practice, and modern tools like simulators to cover both theory and practical skills.
- Learners receive tailored instruction, regular feedback, and access to resources such as mock tests and CPC training.
- After completing the Skills Bootcamp, learners will then go on to buddy up with other driver who will shadow them for their initial in-service drives.
- For more information on this Bus Driving Skills Bootcamp, email our Skills Bootcamp Team at berkshireskillsbootcamps@skillsandbusinesshub.org



PDT Fleet is now delivering HGV Driving Skills Bootcamps!

(Pathways A, B, & D)

- This Skills Bootcamp is structured around a comprehensive set of modules that take learners from initial preparation through to employment.
- It begins with a driver medical assessment and online theory training, followed by a tutor-led introduction to the logistics sector and career pathways. Learners receive full support for theory test preparation and then move on to practical Category C or C+E driver training. Learners must have a Full UK Driving License.
- Delivered through a blended approach, this Skills Bootcamp combines remote learning, classroom-based sessions, and hands-on practical training. Practical driver training and familiarisation activities take place in real-world training environments using industry-standard vehicles and equipment. The course includes the official DVSA theory and practical driving tests for the Category C or C+E licence, as well as the Driver CPC qualification.
- For full course details, upcoming start dates, and to register, please visit PDT Fleet Training Solution's website.



Are you starting your job hunt journey? Confused as to where to start? Here are a few tips to consider when heading down to job fairs to make the most out of these opportunities.

Before the Job Fair

Research the Employers and Companies

- Job Fair organisers often provide a list of attending companies.
- Review this list, learn about the organisations you're interested in and what skills they are looking for.
- If you've found some jobs you're interested in, but don't currently possess the required skills, **head over to the Skills Bootcamp team when you arrive to discuss your upskilling opportunities.**



Update Your CV

- Employers at job fairs are often hiring. Print several copies of your CV and bring them along so you can leave a lasting impression with the companies you want to work for.



During the Job Fair

Actively Network

- Approach employers confidently and start building connections.
- Introduce yourself and take the time to learn about their organisation.

Ask Questions

- Job fairs are a great opportunity to speak face-to-face with potential employers.
- They'll want to know about you, but don't forget to ask questions that matter to you. This is your chance to find out if the company is the right fit for you.

Take Notes

- You'll likely speak to many people during the event, and sometimes it can be hard to keep track.
- After each conversation, jot down notes about the employers and company to make follow-ups easier.

After the Job Fair

Connect on LinkedIn

- If you met employers in person, send a connection request on LinkedIn. This helps you stay in touch and learn about future opportunities.

Apply Online

- If you discover roles that interest you, apply through the company's website or through job search websites.
- If you're interested in **upskilling and fast tracking to employment, head over to The Skills and Business Hub's Skills Bootcamp website to register for the Skills Bootcamps** you'd like to apply to.

Follow Up

- Don't hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions or want more details about a role or company.
- Here at The Skills and Business Hub we always welcome questions if you need further information.

Get in touch with us via email at:

berkshireskillsbootcamps@skillsandbusinesshub.org

Skills Bootcamp Team Updates

Over the summer, the Skills Bootcamp Team have been engaging with communities across Berkshire, attending job fairs and local events to raise awareness of the opportunities Berkshire Skills Bootcamps have to offer.

Our aim at these events is to connect with individuals who are seeking to upskill, change careers, or take their first steps into employment, and we've had the privilege of meeting many inspiring people along the way. These events are a perfect opportunity to inspire, answer questions and encourage new participant to take advantage of the funded, flexible training available through Skills Bootcamps.

If you're heading to a local job fair in Berkshire, keep an eye out for the Skills Bootcamp team as we may be there! We're always excited to meet new people, answer your questions and provide all the information you need to partner with The Skills and Business Hub to future-proof Berkshire's workforce.



Meet The Team

As the Skills Bootcamp programme continues to grow, so does our team. We are delighted to introduce our new Skills Bootcamps Operations Manager and Employer Engagement Manager.



Gemma Welburn
Skills Bootcamps
Operations Manager



"Hello, I'm Gemma, and I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new Skills Bootcamp Operations Manager within the Skills and Business Hub. I provide operational oversight of the Skills Bootcamp programme, ensuring delivery is consistent, compliant, and on track to meet performance targets. This includes monitoring programme updates, addressing performance challenges, and supporting our Account Managers with the guidance and insights they need to effectively manage their delivery partners."



Sarah Wallace
Employer Engagement
Manager



"Hello, I'm Sarah, and I'm delighted to have joined the Skills and Business Hub as the Employer Engagement Manager. In my role, I focus on developing and strengthening strategic partnerships that support the growth and impact of the Hub. I work closely with the Skills Bootcamp team to engage employers and secure progression opportunities for learners, helping to drive the success of our programmes. I'm excited to collaborate with our existing employer partners and build meaningful relationships with new stakeholders. I'm passionate about relationship-building, problem-solving, and working closely with both employers and training providers to ensure our programmes deliver real value."

One of our most successful Skills Bootcamps, Construction - delivered by ATS - has now supported 7 cohorts of learners since the start of Wave 6 in April 2025, with 100 participants already taking part.

Participants include both experience construction workers aiming to broaden their skillsets and beginners pursuing this new career path. The flexibility of ATS's training allows learners to tailor their course to match their specific goals, whether that's specialising in excavations, groundworks, fork-lift operations, or other key areas of the industry.

Read Nick's story below as a standout example of how the Construction Skills Bootcamp can transform lives, offering practical training, qualifications and clear pathways into employment.

Nick's Skills Bootcamp Journey

After a decade of experience in the construction sector, Nick found himself unemployed. With qualifications and previous experience, he decided to re-enter the industry through ATS's Construction Skills Bootcamp.



Developed soft skills, improving on communication and teamwork, whilst receiving wrap-around support and guidance through sessions with ATS on **interview techniques, CV tailoring, job searching and application support** to open doors to new opportunities.



Employment success as **Nick was offered the position with higher salary** than originally advertised after **recognising his skills and experience**.



Nick **re-entered the workforce** through tailored support and mentoring whilst **BMS gained a highly skilled, motivated candidate**. A **win-win outcome** showcasing Skills Bootcamps' real impact

Joined Skills Bootcamp & **refreshed skills and gained multiple qualifications:**

- Blue CSCS Card
- L1 Health & Safety Awareness
- Traffic Marshal
- Abrasive Wheels
- Fire Marshal
- Cable Avoidance (CAT & Genny)
- Environmental Awareness
- Manual Handling
- Asbestos Awareness
- Crane Lifting Supervisor
- Slinger Signaller

ATS shared Nick's CV with BMS who went onto offer him an **interview for Trainee Busbar Installation Engineer** role.



BMS continued investing in Nick's training as he received a discounted course through ATS to support progression and continuing his professional development. This showcases the **strong partnership between provider and employer** and **ongoing support for the participant**.



If the Construction industry is something you're interested in, or if you're an employer hoping to upskill your workforce with the latest industry qualifications, now's the perfect time to explore our Construction Skills Bootcamp, with new cohorts starting in February! Visit our website to learn more and click through to ATS's site to register your interest and take the next step.

Employer Investment

The Skills and Business Hub will support your staff through Skills Bootcamps. If you are an employer, hoping to **upskill your existing workforce**, you can **pay just 10% (SME organisations) to 30% (large organisations) your staff's training costs** and the Department for Education will cover the rest of the funding. This makes Skills Bootcamps a **cost-effective way for employers to upskill their staff through high-quality, industry-relevant training**.

Skills Bootcamps are designed not only to help individuals gain new skills and progress into employment, but also to support businesses in developing their existing workforce. By giving employers the opportunity to invest in their staff, organisations can address internal skills gaps and strengthen their teams.

Employers across a wide range of sectors are taking advantage of employer-supported Skills Bootcamps to upskill their teams. From AI for Business and Digital Marketing to Engineering and Utilities. **Choose from a wide range of Skills Bootcamps to meet your staff's specific needs**, and providers are ready to discuss employer investment opportunities to make workforce development more accessible and cost-effective. **Browse the options on our website, and get in touch with providers to start registering your staff today.**

Have questions? Let's Talk.

Our programme team here at The Skills and Business Hub are here to support you with any questions about funding, how you can use Skills Bootcamps to upskill your teams, outcomes and anything else programme related.

Get in touch via email at
berkshireskillsbootcamps@skillsandbusinesshub.org



As we move forwards through 2026, we are excited to continue working with our new and existing partnerships and to engage with our growing community of learner and employers. Our commitment to delivering a range of successful Skills Bootcamps remains strong, to open doors to new opportunities for individuals and businesses across Berkshire. Stay connected with us as we showcase more success stories and drive even greater impact in the year ahead!

Skills Bootcamp Delivery Team, The Skills and Business Hub