

ADA PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2019



ada



National
College for
Digital
Skills



The nights are starting to draw in, the autumn term has begun, and Ada is busy ushering in the latest cohort of Sixth Formers and preparing for the new cohort of Apprentices joining us this month. It is the perfect time to reflect on the past year and all the achievements we have made in tech education and to celebrate the hard work of Ada students and staff. In the last year, Ada has undergone its first Ofsted inspection, our students have had some amazing results, we've introduced a new apprenticeship pathway, and continued working with our fantastic industry partners.

Take a look at some of the highlights from the last year...

SIXTH FORM

Results Day

This summer saw the graduation of our second cohort of sixth form students. A quarter of our Year 13 students received the top A*-A grade, 37% achieved between A*-B, and an incredible 100% passed their rigorous computer science qualification. But they didn't just pass: Ada students achieved between 16% - 19% higher than the national average, making us the top institution in the country for the computer science qualification.

These exceptional results, and Ada's unique industry focused education, have empowered our students to move on to fantastic destinations with the skill sets, mindsets and networks they need to flourish. For instance, over 20% of our sixth form students will join us back at Ada in the Autumn on our digital degree apprenticeship programmes with a range of leading employers and almost 15% of our students will be joining Russell Group universities. We are tremendously excited to see our students now accessing fulfilling futures within the technology sector including over 90% of our female students going to their first-choice destinations, whether that be digital apprenticeships or university placements.



Angel, Janet, Daisy, and Bhavya celebrate their excellent exam results; they are all going on to study digital design subjects at their first choice universities

"What's great about Ada is that you get to meet a lot of people from the industry; hearing from their perspective, how their career works, and how they got there. I always felt like there were so many different routes and opportunities open to me; apprenticeships at loads of cool places, as well as university."

-Lucasz, Ada Sixth Form graduate, Class of 2019.

Spotlight on: MozFest 2018

MozFest is the world's leading festival for the open internet movement. MozFest 2018 saw over 30 of our students attend and 2 groups of Ada students lead and present their own projects in response to MozFest's theme 'Your Data & You'. Their projects interactively showed how third-party developers might use Internet of Things (IoT devices) within their apps to gather data and build up a personal profile of a user. Upon the success of last year, MozFest 2019 will see over 50 Ada students attend with our own Student President, Andrea Rodrigues, leading her own session.



SIXTH FORM STAT SHEET

STUDENT MAKEUP 2019

Female: 18%

BAME: 49%

IDACI 1-3: 62%

SEN: 22%

OFSTED

This year, we've undergone our first Ofsted inspection which fell, fittingly, on Ada Lovelace Day. We are very proud that after only two years, we've received a 'Good with Outstanding features' rating. The report highlights the quality of our teaching, our meaningful engagement with employers, the excellent careers guidance our students receive, and our successes in our social mission to recruit more girls and those from low income backgrounds into tech.

On our aim of being a centre of excellence for the teaching and learning of digital skills, the report says our "learners and apprentices make good progress, quickly learn new skills in computer science and acquire a good breadth of knowledge of the digital technology industries." It goes on to say that our "teachers are highly experienced and enthusiastic and use their industry knowledge to motivate learners and provide valuable insights into the world of work."

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On our ambition to become an engine for social mobility, the report specifies that "Governors and senior leaders have successfully focused on raising participation rates among women and those from deprived backgrounds in digital skills training." It further adds that "learners receive excellent careers guidance and a very high proportion of learners who complete their course successfully move on to the next level of education, training or jobs in the sector."

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With our apprenticeship programme, we have a goal to be an aspirational alternative to university offering digital apprenticeships with some of the biggest names in industry. The Ofsted report says we "have been highly successful in involving a wide range of employers in designing the curriculum and in providing work placements and professional coaches to learners, to ensure that the programmes comprehensively address the needs of industry."

We have more to do, but these early successes show that it is possible to be a centre of excellence and an engine of social mobility. Seeing is believing.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Update

Our Apprenticeship programme has had a whirlwind of a year, which has seen our very first cohort of apprentices graduate this summer. After an influx of new students, we decided to move our Apprenticeship programme to a new campus in Whitechapel. Located in bustling central London, we are now just a stone's throw away from many of our apprentices' place of work including Salesforce Tower, Google HQ, and Deloitte HQ. Alongside this move, our Dean, Tom, has taken on a new role spearheading growth of apprenticeship programmes including how we can do more to boost direct recruitment of diverse talent. Our 193 apprentices will be joined this month by an extra 95, working with over 30 employers (24 of which are totally new to digital apprenticeships). An amazing 100% of our apprentices are on track to complete their BSc or foundation degrees.

APPRENTICESHIP STAT SHEET

LEARNER MAKEUP 2019

Female: 30% *

BME: 28% *

Low income households: 29%

SEN: 13%*

*Higher than national apprenticeship average



Ada's first Apprenticeship Graduation:
Manasseh receives her diploma

Spotlight On: New Apprenticeship Pathway

Perhaps the most exciting development of our apprenticeship programme this past year has been the launch of a brand-new apprenticeship pathway. We now offer Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships, meaning that our apprentices can study alongside their work and gain a full bachelor's degree, completely debt-free. Apprentices can choose from three programmes: Software Developer, Data Analyst, and our brand-new programme, Tech Consultant. Just like our Level 4 programmes, these pathways have been designed to reflect the not only the constantly evolving world of technology, but also the ever-changing ways industry harness that technology.

In summary

It is always a bittersweet moment, saying goodbye to our students who we have eagerly watched grow and learn but it is in the knowledge that they will be going on to bright, fulfilling futures in the tech sector; whether that be a graduated Ada apprentice who is continuing their full-time employment, or a sixth former who is due to begin an Ada apprenticeship. At Ada, we are exceedingly proud of the number of young people whom we have helped get on the path to success, many of those who would not have had the opportunity otherwise. This has been down to our fantastic staff, our dedicated industry partners, and of course, the hard work of our wonderful students. We are excited for our next year to bring even more successes to even more young people. Watch this space!

"Deloitte are delighted to partner with Ada in developing the next generation of technology talent. Ada have built a fantastic programme that combines a unique learning experience anchored around creative, entrepreneurial digital skills coupled with practical, relevant industry knowledge. Our apprentices are on an exciting journey that will help them accelerate their tech careers at Deloitte."

- Lucinda Clements,
Partner, Deloitte



Thank you to all of Ada's supporting partners, without whom none of our work would be possible.

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