Skills Minister Lord Young, a former apprentice, will spend the day meeting and shadowing apprentices at BT’s Primrose Hill Telephone Exchange, London.

As a former apprentice, Lord Young knows all about the great start Apprenticeships can give people in life. To mark the final day of Apprenticeship Week 2009 he is going back to the floor in the industry he began his career to see for himself the vital role apprentices are playing in today’s economy (Friday 27 February).

Lord Young will visit the Primrose Hill Telephone Exchange and shadow BT Openreach apprentices, Christopher Edwards and Joshua Maclean. He will learn about the work they do on the exchange’s main distribution frame and also get the opportunity to meet Nicholas Fan & Sally Gentry, apprentices from BT Operate, along with several other first year apprentices who are onsite during the day.

Commenting on the day, Lord Young said: “For me, an Apprenticeship was the ideal way to learn transferable skills, not only for the industry that I began my career but also for life in general. Spending the day with apprentices at BT is an enriching and encouraging experience as I get to see firsthand how the Government’s commitment to and success in the revival of Apprenticeships and the dedication of employers and apprentices have come together to make things happen.”

To find out more, employers should visit apprenticeships.org.uk or call the Apprenticeships helpline on 08000 150 600.

-ENDS-

Background
Apprenticeship Week activities will take place around the country and involve celebrities, politicians and apprentices. The week is an opportunity to promote the benefits that apprentices bring to businesses and the economy.

Apprenticeships are a blend of on and off the job training that gives the apprentice the skills they need for their chosen career whilst earning a wage.

More than 130,000 employers currently employ apprentices. There are over 180 types of Apprenticeships available in more than 80 sectors of industry and commerce from engineering to boat building, veterinary nursing to accountancy.

Learning and Skills Council:
The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally

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