

DAILY Mirror JOBS

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KNOW HOW RETURN TO WORK

Whether you have been out of employment for one year or 10, returning to work is always daunting, even for the most confident and capable. We've teamed up with Fish4Jobs for tips to make a smooth return...

- ROLE** The first thing to consider is the type of work you want to do. A similar role, or a fresh start? Identify your transferable skills and experience that will work in your desired role.
- OPTIONS** There is far more variety to working arrangements than Monday to Friday 9-5. Think about what you want to get out of work and research the best options. If you're looking to get into a new sector, maybe consider volunteering first, or if you want more flexibility, try freelancing.
- SKILLS** The biggest challenge can be dealing with changes during your absence. Take advantage of free online courses and industry blogs to get up to speed with new developments.
- NETWORK** Link up with and follow industry groups and events on social media.
- TRANSPARENT** Address your work break on your CV, while acknowledging any significant skills, achievements or experience you gained in that period.
- STORY** Interviewers will ask about your break. You'll need a career break story with three clear acts: what you did before the break, what you did during your time off, and what you want to do now. Be honest and confident, and never apologise for your break. Gaps are only a problem if they're not properly explained.

Now I'm cleaning

Emma revitalised by her hotel role

PICKING UP a copy of the Daily Mirror at the start of the year Emma Harding, out of work and desperate to find a job, read about a mum who found a great job with Travelodge.

The hotel chain was looking to help parents back to work and Emma, 33, suddenly felt hopeful. Inspired by the uplifting story, the mum-of-three from Solihull clicked on the link applied for a job and started on her road to success.

What are you doing?
I'm a housekeeping supervisor at Solihull Travelodge. I love my job and my team are fantastic. Many are working mums so we have each other's back when one of us needs time off for school activities and the like.

How come you were out of work?

I left school and had my first child when I was 18 and became a stay-at-home mum. Seven years ago when my youngest was three I started an office cleaning job but found the hours really tough to juggle with raising a family.

Even so, I stuck it out for nearly seven years but was suddenly made redundant. Then it was impossible to find a job that worked around the children.

What changed?

After months of being rejected time after time, I felt exhausted. I was about to give up when I spotted an interesting story in the Daily Mirror in January this year about Travelodge helping unemployed parents back into work. The article was inspiring and it gave a website address, so I quickly went



THANKS MIRROR
Emma got job via this paper

I put in 101% and now I've been made supervisor

online and found lots of information on the company and the different jobs it offers. I liked what I was reading so I applied and was over the moon to be invited for an interview at a hotel near to where I live.

How did you cope with the interview?

I was really nervous but the manager who interviewed me was lovely. She was a working mum and totally understood the challenges of working, raising a family and looking after a household. She reassured me that my determination and attitude to wanting a job was enough for her as she was going to give me the training to help me do my job. She said passion goes a long way and

she wasn't wrong. The interview went so well that I was offered the job as a housekeeping team member on the spot for a brand-new hotel that was opening in Solihull, close to home.

What was the reality of working like?

The first few weeks were hectic with managing the children and a new job, but I soon got a routine going at home and everything fell into place. I didn't realise how much I would enjoy working in the hotel sector.

How did you get promoted so quickly?

I put 101% effort and determination

JOBS BOARD

Looking for work? Look no further as our Get Britain Working campaign finds 46,255 vacancies up for grabs this week. We've scoured the UK to find out who has vacancies and where to help you head in the right direction for work. We've also teamed up with our brilliant website Fish4Jobs to create a one-stop jobs shop on our website. Visit mirror.co.uk/jobs for lots more guidance and work.

Dobbies
500 jobs

The garden centre chain is recruiting kind and jolly Santas and elves to entertain children in its grottos. Plus hundreds of other vacancies including department managers, customer and operations advisors, chefs, kitchen porters, baristas and more. <https://careers.dobbies.com>

London Southend Airport 200 jobs

The Essex airport has permanent, full time, part time and zero hour opportunities available across a range of roles, including security, cleaning, car parks, SKYLIFE Lounge, fire, fuel, airside operations and air traffic engineering. A recruitment event for these roles is being held today, September 12 from 4pm till 7pm in the main terminal building. <https://southendairport.com/about/careers>

Hospitality
jobs 28,610

See above for jobs in hospitality that could suit parents needing flexible hours.

Fish4Jobs
16,285 jobs

Engineers needed in Cornwall, customer service advisers in Nottingham and police officers in London.

Dunelm
160 jobs

Vacancies across 170 stores for staff including team leaders and sales assistants in a range of departments from trading and service to stock and delivery. Staff must be flexible and able to work overtime in return for benefits including discounts, childcare vouchers and birthday days off. dunelmcareers.com

Job fairs
500+ jobs

Three fairs o the Oxford C The King's C till 2pm, North Fair at The G 10am till 1pm, two-day Milto Show at Cent from 10am till Saturday 11am September 18 at Swansea's L 10am till 1pm. corn/thejobfair.mkiobstrow.co

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