



newsupdate

A Social Enterprise serving Young People in their Community

WELCOME TO THE 4YP NEWSLETTER WHICH WE HOPE WILL GIVE STUDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF AND PARENT'S LOTS OF USEFUL INFORMATION TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE CAREERS OF THE NEXT GENERATION. THIS EDITION TARGETS SIXTH FORMERS AND WILL EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER A-LEVEL OR LEVEL 3 STUDIES. IT EXPLORES WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING 'NEXT STEP' DECISIONS AND PROVIDES A LIST OF USEFUL WEBSITES AND INFORMATION SOURCES TO SUPPORT THE RESEARCHING OF OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Introducing alternative options to university for sixth form students.

Students in years 13 or 14 completing level 3 studies have a wide range of 'next step' options to consider. Some students will explore UCAS and the range of full-time university options. However, there are alternatives that may just suit you and your ideas better!



Is university right for you?

You may or may not have applied to UCAS already. You may find yourself with more time to think about what is right for you... But do you really know what the alternatives are?

First thoughts:

1. Do I have a career interest? If I do, what are ALL the pathways into that career?
Do I have to go to university, or can I be successful in that career by following a different pathway?
2. For my career idea, can I gain qualifications at degree level without completing a full-time University course, paid for by myself?
3. Am I ready or do I have any career ideas currently?
Do I want to do something different?
If so, what positive alternative options are there?

You can see more information about us here www.4ypuk.com



My range of options at a glance

- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
- Entry Level Jobs (School leaver programmes)
- Sponsored Degree
- Foundation Degree or HND
- Self-Employment
- Employment
- Gap Year

What the experts say

'The fact remains that university isn't for everyone. Even those who do have their sights set on higher education have at some point asked themselves "is university worth it?"'

Of course, the answer will be different for everyone, but for those who have decided they are not going to university, the next question should be "what are the alternatives?"'

www.successatschool.org

'University isn't the only option...there are some other options that will allow you to gain valuable on-the-job experience and work towards a qualification at the same time

...it certainly doesn't hurt to explore other options, particularly if you are daunted about the cost of higher education'.

www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk

'If the prospect of student debt and full-time study doesn't sound appealing, you've many options when it comes to deciding what to do instead

As you consider what to do after your A-levels, it's worth noting that some employers offer training programmes aimed at school and college leavers...No matter what the programme is called, you'll find numerous benefits that make them excellent alternatives to university'.

www.prospects.ac.uk

Some top sites to explore alternative opportunities

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/> This site literally provides information on hundreds of companies and opportunities (established and new) including school leaver programmes for sixth formers, higher and degree apprenticeships and gap year opportunities.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> This site provides a live list of higher and degree apprenticeships throughout the country

<https://www.gapyear.com/> This is one of many websites dedicated to gap year options, destinations and essential advice.

<https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business> The Princes Trust provides information, advice and guidance for young people who are considering starting up a business



My range of main options in more detail

Higher Apprenticeships:

Lasting between one and five years, higher apprenticeships are at Level 4 and above on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). These qualifications are available across more than 1,500 roles, in subjects ranging from accounting and banking, to engineering and manufacturing, the media and marketing.

Entry Level Jobs (School leaver programmes)

These jobs don't require applicants to hold a relevant professional qualification and are therefore available to school or college leavers. Viewed as the entry-point into a specific vocation, some entry-level jobs don't even require applicants to have work experience in the field - as skills will

often be developed through on-the-job training... Examples include bookkeeping (accountancy), marketing and teaching (as assistants), and web development or business analysis (information technology).

Sponsored Degree / Degree Apprenticeships

University can be expensive, and a sponsored degree can help to meet the cost. This involves a company supporting you while you study - either with annual bursaries or a full salary. They will often cover your tuition fees, meaning you leave university with no student debt! Many of these courses are now referred to as degree apprenticeships, with sponsored degrees mainly available in practical subjects such as science and engineering - although some leading employers also offer them in accountancy, finance, and IT.

Foundation Degree or HND:

Focused on building the skills employers look for, foundation degrees provide a strong platform for those looking to enter the workplace. The equivalent of two-thirds of a full honour's degree, they are usually offered by universities and further education colleges working in partnership with employers. If courses are studied full time, they usually last two years. Part-time programmes take three or four years to complete.



Self-Employment:

If you have got a great idea, a sharp business mind and a determination to succeed then going it alone might be the route for you. Up to the age of 25 you can get help with funding and launching your business from the Princes Trust, see here <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/programmes#start-your-business>

Gap Year:

Taking a gap year allows you some thinking time before moving into work or further study. The phrase 'gap year' traditionally meant a period of time taken out by students after leaving college and before starting university. However, gap years can now happen at any stage.

Find out more: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/alternatives-to-university>

Employment

Finally, once you have reached the age of 18, you don't have to stay in education or training. Some leavers may seek employment, for example, taking on more hours from their current part-time job. This option may be suitable if you feel that you need a rest from learning or you wish to consider further what to do next, in the longer term. Or you may secure a job as a trainee with an employer who will train you themselves but without formal qualifications.



Your Career Journey

Yes, many students will decide on the university route because that is what is best for them; or a particular career requires a specific degree such as medicine or veterinary science.

However, for many careers including accountancy, health, science, law and engineering there are alternative routes. For example, many large companies and organisations will recruit successful A-level or level 3 students immediately after sixth form. For the right candidates, amazing

opportunities may well lie ahead! Many employer-led programmes offer professional and/or degree or degree level qualifications as well as day-to-day work experience.

OR you may wish to do something completely different such as travelling via a gap year or starting up a business! The key thing is to research your options. You may like to speak to a careers adviser about your choices first – if so, please email apg@4ypuk.com. Whatever you decide, be happy with your choice and be aware of its benefits and how it can help you in your longer-term career journey!

Useful websites for further information

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/alternatives-higher-education>

In this section, UCAS explores the alternative to higher education including apprenticeships and school leavers programmes

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/alternatives-to-university>

Prospects provide information on all the main alternative options including apprenticeships, self-employment and gap years.

<https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/articles/article/56/alternatives-to-university>

This article focuses on higher and degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes.

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/574/Not-Going-to-University:-What-Other-Options-Do-You-Have%3F>

This section explores what to do and what to consider if you have or are deciding about not going to University.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships>

The complete guide and detailed information about higher and degree apprenticeships

Need any more help? Contact a career adviser by emailing

apg@4ypuk.com

Would you like a careers interview over the phone or via video?



Do you go to one of the schools/colleges listed below? Are you considering your next steps?

You will be able to talk with a qualified Careers Adviser for an impartial, 1-1 session to help make decisions on your next steps - that could be getting advice on what to study, careers guidance, making applications, writing CVs or searching for that dream job!

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS/COLLEGES

All Saints Academy ● The Academy of Central Bedfordshire
Central Bedfordshire College ● Harlington Upper School
Manshead CE Academy ● Priory Academy ● Queensbury Academy
Redborne Upper School ● Samuel Whitbread Academy
Stratton Upper School ● Vandyke Upper School ● Etonbury Academy

Funded by our school partners and our research project with The Careers Enterprise Company

Do stay in touch and let us know what you want to read about... and remember, you can always contact us to arrange a careers guidance appointment over the phone / video call!

Email us on apg@4ypuk.com

