

CAREERS HUB LUTON



A PARENTS' GUIDE TO OPTIONS AFTER YEAR 11

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Staying in “learning” after 16, gaining qualifications and skills is considered essential if young people are to progress and have the best chance of making the most of the opportunities available to them. It is considered so important that all young people are required to stay in learning until they are 18.

It’s important to remember that “learning” can take place in school, college or work with training – so there should be a route to suit everyone.

Whatever route they choose, it’s important to aim for a Level 2 qualification in math's and English. This could be a GCSE or a Functional Skills qualification. This means that young people must continue to study these subjects if they don’t get a GCSE at Grade 4 or above.

[The Ofqual Blog: GCSE 9 to 1 grades: a brief guide for parents](#)



GCSE GRADING CHANGED A FEW YEARS AGO. ALL GCSE'S ARE NOW GRADED 9-1

OLD GRADES	NEW GRADES
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
C	5 (Strong Pass)
D	4 (Standard Pass)
E	3
F	2
G	1
U	U

LEARNING ROUTES & QUALIFICATIONS

GCSE'S OR OTHER QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED	TYPE OF QUALIFICATION TO TAKE NEXT	HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?
At least 4 GCSEs at grade 4 and above or equivalent though some will ask for higher grades.	Level 3 AS/A Level, Applied and vocational L3 courses (e.g. BTEC), T-Levels, Apprenticeships	2 Years
At least 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or equivalent	Level 2 Applied and vocational Level2 courses, Apprenticeships	1 Year
Some GCSEs at grade1 or 2 or equivalent	Level 1 Vocational Level 1 courses, Traineeships	1- 2 Years
No GCSE Grades	Entry Level Foundation/Supported Learning, traineeships	1 - 3 Years



LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT ROUTES

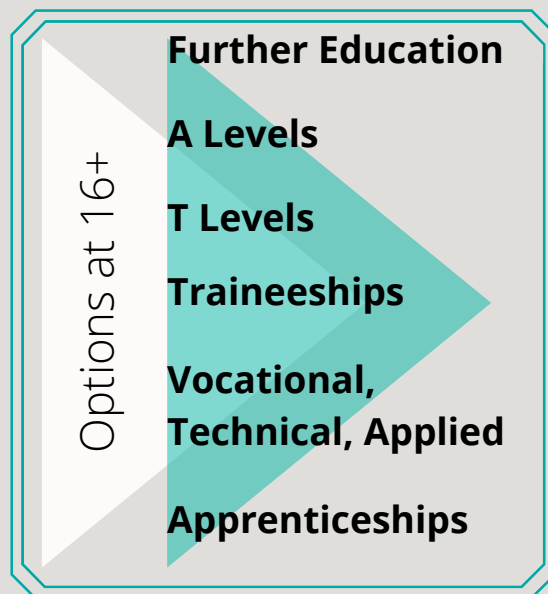


A Levels

► A two-year course post 16, subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work.

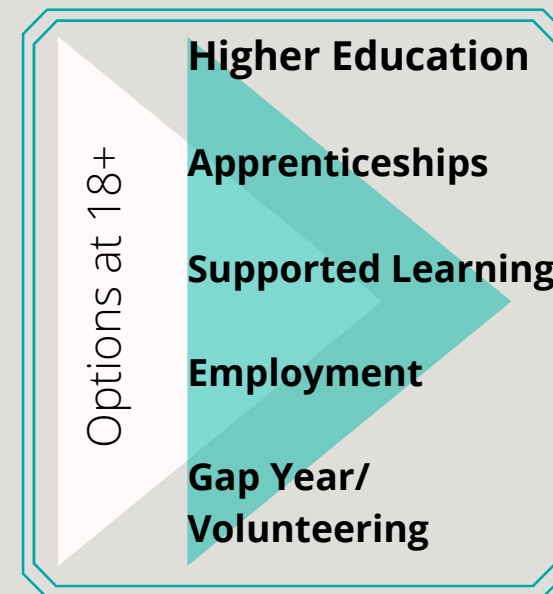
T Levels

► A two-year technical course which is equivalent to 3 A-Levels



Traineeships

► These qualifications teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and the role you want to do. Courses can be BTEC, CACHE etc. These can be at a variety of levels from entry to level 3



Apprenticeships

► Apprenticeships offer training for a job while working with an employer, alongside study for an associated qualification. You get paid while working. They are available in a variety of levels: intermediate, advanced, higher and degree

Vocational, Technical, Applied

► Qualifications with an emphasis on developing practical skills for employment which may allow access to Higher Education if taken at Level 3

ONE YEAR PLAN

By the end of Year 11 your child/ young person will need to make some decisions about their next steps after Year 11.

They often change their mind during the year – or can't decide between two or more options - and often don't have a clue!

Applying for more than one course or place can be a good idea to keep their options open.

It's important to remind them that whilst these decisions are important, they don't need to have the rest of their lives mapped out. Just encourage them to find something they enjoy so that they carry on learning and developing skills they will need for the future.

All schools should have access to a careers adviser who will be able to help them talk through their concerns, the options available and support them to make a plan.

Encourage them to talk to the school's careers adviser as soon as possible. Their name should be on the school website.

September - December

- ▶ Encourage your child/young person to see the school's career adviser and ask tutors and teachers for more information or advice.
- ▶ Explore the range of options in employment, training, sixth forms and further education colleges.
- ▶ Consider pathways that fit around their skills, interests and predicted grades.
- ▶ Weigh up all the pros and cons of different options.
- ▶ Visit these websites to help with your research: [Luton Council Youth Advice Team](#) and [Central Bedfordshire Council Find Your Future](#)
- ▶ Check out school, college and training provider websites for more information and go to college and sixth form open days. Most have virtual tours on their websites.
- ▶ There are deadlines for making applications – ensure that your child/young person is aware of these dates; don't let them leave everything until the last minute!
- ▶ Remember that some courses are very popular so avoid disappointment by submitting an early application.
- ▶ College and sixth form interviews begin. Some of these may be online.
- ▶ Contact colleges/sixth forms if your child/young person is likely to need additional support. If they have an EHCP (Education, Health Care Plan), they should be getting support from school through a Moving into Adulthood Plan.

ONE YEAR PLAN

January - March

- ▶ Application forms for school or college ideally need to be completed by the end of January. Offers for a place are likely to be “conditional” – depending on exam results.
- ▶ If your child/young person is looking for work with training or apprenticeships, they need to start contacting training providers and employers; they might also need a back-up plan such as a full-time college course.

April - June

- ▶ Exams start in May: some schools have study leave.
- ▶ Check the costs of books, field trips, uniforms and equipment for post 16 options. Most courses will be free for 16-19 year olds.
- ▶ Discuss with student advisers if there are any bursaries for travel or equipment.
- ▶ Young people need to continue applying for jobs and apprenticeships, make sure they have an up-to-date CV ready. Use the National Career Service website <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/cv-sections>
- ▶ If looking for training, register with the [Apprenticeship Service](#) and keep an eye on vacancies.
- ▶ National Insurance numbers should have been issued by now but if not call 0300 2003500 or [apply online](#).

July - August

- ▶ Your child/young person needs to enrol at college if they have applied for a course starting in September.
- ▶ Colleges and Sixth forms may have induction sessions after exam results.
- ▶ Options might need to be considered once they have received exam results. School careers advisers and staff at sixth forms, colleges, training providers can all give help and advice. There is nearly always an alternative course on offer.
- ▶ If your child/young person is looking for apprenticeships, they need to update their CV with exam results.
- ▶ Child benefit should still be payable if your teenager is continuing in full time education, for more information visit www.gov.uk/child-benefit or call 0300 200 3100

Please don't panic if your child doesn't get the results they were expecting. There is always help on hand, talk to your schools' Career Leader who will provide lots of information and support

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Speak to careers teachers or advisers or tutors in school or college or contact the National Careers Service:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> or telephone them on 0800 100 900.

Keeping in touch

Luton and Central Bedfordshire Council has a duty to follow up all young people to find out what education, employment or training they are in. We are required to collect information about what young people do for the two years after Year 11 and to offer them support.

If they are not in education, employment or training, we might contact you during this time by email, phone call, letter or text or ask you to give us information about where your child/young person is studying or working.

The council may share basic information about young people with local organisations that can help with their future (e.g., a college or training provider with courses that might interest them). We are careful about what we share and only authorised people will access the information when they need it to do their jobs. The only time we will share information without your permission is if the law requires us to do so.

Useful websites

- ▶ [Choices, financial support and sources of help:](#)
- ▶ [Higher Education courses: www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- ▶ [Luton Council website for young people:](#)
- ▶ [Central Bedfordshire Council website for young people](#)
- ▶ [Help with transport: Luton](#)
- ▶ [Help with transport: Central Bedfordshire](#)
- ▶ [Create a CV with ICanBeA CV Builder](#)
- ▶ [Create a quick CV using the National Career Service](#)
- ▶ [Information about the types of jobs available in the Bedfordshire region:](#)
<https://www.semlep.com/school-labour-market-information/>

Help and Support from Luton Council & Central Bedfordshire Council

- Luton Council Youth Advice Service and Central Bedfordshire Council's Youth Support Services are available for young people aged 16-18, who have not found the right option by the time they leave school or have dropped out in Year 12 or 13.
- You can contact your local office by looking here – Luton Council Youth Advice Service
https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Education_and_learning/youth/advice/Pages/Luton-Youth-Advice.aspx?redirectToMobile=True
- Central Bedfordshire Council's Youth Support Services
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/17/youth_support_service/143/youth_support_service

For young people with an EHCP, there should be lots of help from school, college and other agencies. This should all form part of their Moving Into Adulthood plan that should have begun in Year 10. For more information contact the school's SENCo or the Local Offer from [Luton Council](#) and [Central Bedfordshire Council Local Offer](#)

For more information about these areas of work, how to get into them and which local companies are looking for young people to get into their industry go to <https://www.semlep.com/school-labour-market-information/>

Manufacturing

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Applications

- ▶ What GCSE grades do they need?
- ▶ Do they need grades in specific subjects?
- ▶ What happens if they don't get the right grades?
- ▶ What happens if not enough people apply for the course?
- ▶ Will they be invited to an interview?
- ▶ How long will they have to wait to hear if they have a place?

Course Content

- ▶ What is the balance between taught lessons and independent study?
- ▶ How much will be taught online or face to face?
- ▶ What is the usual class size?
- ▶ What days of the week do students attend?
- ▶ What opportunities are there for work experience?
- ▶ Will this be virtual or in person? Is this mandatory or optional?
- ▶ Will there be help to find a placement?
- ▶ What happens if they don't get GCSE Grade 4 in maths and/or English?

Financial

- ▶ Are there extras costs for equipment, visits, uniform, books?
- ▶ What financial help is available?

Transport

- ▶ How will they get there?
- ▶ Is there help with the cost of transport?
- ▶ Does the transport fit in with the timetable?

Progression

- ▶ What is the pass rate for this course?
- ▶ What do students go on to to do next?
- ▶ If applying for a one year course – what are the progression routes from this course?
- ▶ What careers guidance is available?

Support

- ▶ What support do they get to make new friends?
- ▶ What support can they expect to receive? This could be learning support, pastoral support (e.g. a tutor), specialist support (counselling, mental health), or personal support.
- ▶ Who can they speak to if they are struggling?
- ▶ What support do they get if they decide to leave?

Students with additional needs or concerns

- ▶ Can they come and visit and meet the tutors before they start?
- ▶ How will they be supported at college?
- ▶ Are there quiet places to go during the day?

Parent/Carer Contact

- ▶ What contact will there be about their progress once they have started? Will I be informed about attendance and progress?
- ▶ Who can I speak to if I am worried?

Leisure

- ▶ What other things can they get involved in? e.g. sport, drama, charity events, clubs