

Pathways: Post 16

Use this leaflet to:

- Find out what providers are available
- Find out what courses are available
- Find out what you need to think about when making your decision and who can help.

During Year 11 you will need to make a decision about your next steps into education, employment or training. The main options available to you include:

- **Sixth Form School/ Sixth Form College** – Most Sixth Forms offer A-levels, with some offering you the option to take BTEC's, or A-levels combined with BTEC's.
- **Further Education College** – At college, you are more likely to have to choose between a vocational course (practical skills and technical knowledge needed for a particular career), like a BTEC or A-levels.
- **Apprenticeships** – After Year 11 there are two types of Apprenticeship that are available to you, Level 2: Intermediate (equivalent of 5 GCSEs) and Level 3: Advanced (equivalent of 2 A-levels). The Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships are only eligible to you if you have a Level 3 qualification already.
- **Training Provision** – Local training provision is offered mainly by Independent Providers and is available at all Levels – from Entry Level to Level 3. Options include Study Programmes and Traineeships. Some providers also lead on the delivery of apprenticeships.

Raising Participation Age: The government has increased the age to which all young people must continue in education and training to 18. This doesn't mean that you have to stay in school and it doesn't mean that you can't get a job. It does mean that you must continue in some form of learning until at least your 18th birthday. You can stay in education, go on an Apprenticeship, or get a job but there must be some training with the job. In real day-to-day terms this doesn't really restrict your choices at all.

Key points that you may want to consider:

- What subjects do I need to get the job I want in the future?
- Am I going on to university and if so, what subjects do I need to access the course that I want to do?
- What subjects am I good at and what do I enjoy?
- What is my learning style? Is an academic route (A-levels) or a more vocational/technical route (BTECs, Cambridge Technical) right for me?
- Do I have the grades I need? Do I have a contingency plan if I don't meet my entry requirements?

Key things that you may want to do:

- Have a discussion with your careers advisor.
- Have a discussion with your parent/carer – what do they think?
- Attend some College/Sixth Form Open Days.
- Attend local careers events.
- Investigate apprenticeships available in the area.



QUALIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DURATION	ASSESSMENT	LEVEL OF STUDY	AWARD UCAS POINTS	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	WORK EXPERIENCE	WHAT DOES IT LEAD TO
A-LEVELS	An academic qualification, similar style to GCSEs that prepares you for further study	2 years	Mostly exams at the end of the course	3	Yes	For individual school and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above, may require higher grades for specific subjects)	No	University, College, Apprenticeships, Work
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL APPLIED	Qualifications that teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and the role you want to do	Course dependant	Course dependent (coursework and exams)	1, 2, 3	Yes	Course dependent (coursework and exams)	Course dependent	University, College, Apprenticeships, Work
APPRENTICESHIPS	A real job with training and a salary	1 year minimum	Apprenticeship dependent (includes demonstrations, presentation and/or exams)	2 & 3 with possibility to progress to higher & degree apprenticeships	Yes (For Level 3 and above, dependent on qualification taken)	Employer dependent. Age16+. Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Yes (paid job with at least 20% off the job training)	Higher level or degree apprenticeship, University/ College, Work
TRAINEESHIPS	A focused study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work	6 weeks – 6 months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework and exams are course dependant	N/A	No	Have little to no work experience and qualification below a Level 3	Yes	Apprenticeship/ Work
T LEVELS	A technical study programme, equivalent to 3 A-levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course. T levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need	2 years	Exams, projects and practical assignments	3	Yes	Set by each school and college	Yes (80% classroom, 20% work)	University, College, Apprenticeships, Work
ENTREPRENEURSHIP	Setting up your own business as either a freelance service, a registered company or a sole trader	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Industry dependent	Recommended before setting up your business	Self-employment. Funded support for research and development. Product or service development and collaborations