



Post 16 Options

College & Sixth Form

The main qualifications after Year 11 are:

- **A Levels** which are exam-based qualifications.
- **Technical & Vocational qualifications** which include coursework, exams and/or practical assessment of learning.
- **T Levels** which are industry linked and include a mandatory work placement.

Consider the difference between course structure and learning style.

Understanding the difference between qualifications will help you to make an informed choice.

Aim to visit as many places as possible. Understanding the differences between establishments helps to inform your choice.

Think about the level you are working at, and what is the realistic next level for you. The level you study at in college is largely based on what grades you achieve in your GCSEs. Aim to have a back-up plan which could involve applying to more than one college or 6th form.

If you have a career in mind, research what options are best linked to that career and which college offers these courses. If you're not sure, keep options open and seek advice from your career practitioner or teacher. To learn more use:

- <https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16> - learn more about your post 16 options.
- <https://futurefinder.yourlife.org.uk/> - identify possible career paths linking A levels & career paths.

Apprenticeships

There are opportunities for apprenticeships at all ages. As an apprentice you would be employed to do a job and would continue your studies towards achieving a related apprenticeship standard (which may include a qualification). You will gain knowledge, skills and behaviours to support you in progressing into your chosen career or to a higher or degree apprenticeship.

- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>
- <http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.theapprenticeshiphub.com/>

Research what opportunities are available now locally, this will give you an insight into local employers and key labour market trends. Learn about the companies you would want to work for and be able to explain why.

You will need to know what career area(s) you are interested in, for example, hair & beauty, construction, hospitality & catering, engineering etc.

Learn about yourself, your skills and write your CV, consider a day in the life of that career/job and whether it would suit you.

Consider an alternative – apprenticeships are competitive and not all applicants will be offered a place. Success requires a certain amount of preparation, and luck! It is useful to have a backup plan such as applying for college.

Understand the process; training providers/ colleges will support the process, but you are likely to be required to find your own employer. Consider testing out your interest through work experience.

For further help see your career practitioner, tutor etc.

Employment with Accredited Training

Another option is to go into full time paid employment, self-employment or volunteering for a minimum of 20 hours each week. If you are under 18, this must also include accredited training. An example of this would be working in retail and completing an NVQ in customer service alongside. The training aspect must equate to 280 Guided Learning Hours per annum and be a nationally recognised qualification.

Looking for work can take time, commitment and organisation. You can look for vacancies online, through word of mouth, on company websites and via social media. It's a good idea to prepare a CV that you amend for each job accordingly. Recommended websites:

- <https://www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk/>
- <https://uk.indeed.com/>
- <https://www.hants.gov.uk/jobs>

To research regulated qualifications that you could take alongside your full-time employment or volunteering look at:

- <https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

Traineeships: A traineeship is a course that includes a work experience placement and helps young people prepare for employment or an apprenticeship. Check with local colleges and training providers whether they offer this option.

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