

# Post 16

# Options Booklet



## Post-16 Education – What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

### **Full-Time Study**

This could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

### **Apprenticeships**

This involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

### **Traineeships**

This is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

### **Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering**

This could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

### **Entry Requirements**

**Entry Level/Level 1** – Can require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade)

**Level 2 (GCES or equivalent)** – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3/D or above

**Level 3 (A level or equivalent)** – Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above (including maths and English)

## Qualification Levels Guide – GCSE to Degree Level

	School/ 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	College/ Further Education	Apprenticeships
<b>Entry Level 3</b>	Key Stage 3	E3 Diploma (Foundation)	
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None	
<b>Level 1</b>	GCSEs (Grades 3-1)	L1 Diploma/ Functional Skills	Traineeship (Apprenticeship preparation)
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None <i>(Basic Maths and English may be necessary)</i>	None
<b>Level 2</b>	GCSEs (Grades 9-4)	L2 National/ BTEC Diploma/ Functional Skills	Intermediate Apprenticeships (NVQ L2)
Entry Grades Needed:	None	3-4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or higher <i>(with preference of Maths and English)</i>	None <i>(Occasionally require Maths and English and a Skills Test)</i>
<b>Level 3</b>	A-Levels	L3 Diploma/ Extended Diploma (BTEC or Other)/ Access to HE Courses	Advanced Apprenticeships (NVQ L2)
Entry Grades Needed:	5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or higher with Maths and English	3-4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or higher <i>(with preference of Maths and English)</i>	Minimum of 3-5 GCSEs sometimes <i>(occasionally no qualification expectant)</i>
<b>Level 5</b>	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)	HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)	Higher/ Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 + L5)
<b>Level 4</b>		HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	
Grades Needed:	GCSE Maths English at Grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/ Extended Diploma	GCSE Maths English at Grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/ Extended Diploma	GCSE Maths English at Grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/ Extended Diploma
<b>Level 6</b>	University Degree (BA/ BSc/ BEng)	University Degree (BA/ BSc/ BEng)	Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 + L6)
Grades Needed:	GCSE Maths English at Grade 4/ 5 and 2-3 A-Levels/ BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (Check requirements)	GCSE Maths English at Grade 4/ 5 and 2-3 A-Levels/ BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (Check requirements)	GCSE Maths English at Grade 4/ 5 and 2-3 A-Levels/ BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (Check requirements)

## Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges typically focus on **A-Levels** (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A\*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study for example:

**Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art, Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science.**

**BTEC L3 Diplomas** – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades). Some Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university. A-Level courses require a minimum of a 4 in Maths and English.

**Entry Requirements** – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

## Colleges and Training Providers

Colleges and training providers can offer BTECs or other vocational qualifications that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which can include:

**General FE Colleges** – Offer everything from Hair and Beauty, Childcare, Construction, Business Management, Games Design, Automotive Engineering, Food Technology, Fashion Design, Performing Arts and Photography:

**Wakefield College** – <http://www.wakefield.ac.uk/>

**Bradford College** – <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/>

**Kirklees College** – <https://www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/>

**Craven College** - <https://www.craven-college.ac.uk/>

**Elliott Hudson College** – <https://www.elliottHUDSONcollege.ac.uk/>

**Leeds City College Sixth Form** - <https://www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk/leeds-sixth-form/>

**Notre Dame Sixth Form College** – Based near the University and offer a mixture of A-Level and BTEC qualifications, like EHC - <http://www.notredamecoll.ac.uk/>

**Leeds Arts University** – Art and Design courses, including Foundation and Extended Diplomas - <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/study/further-education-courses/>

**Leeds College of Building** – Specialise in Construction and Built Environment courses, including Multi-Skilled Trades and Civil Engineering - <https://www.lcb.ac.uk/>

**Army Foundation College, Harrogate** – Junior Soldier training and other pathways - <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/our-schools-and-colleges/afc-harrogate/>

**Askham Bryan College, York** – Courses in Animal Care, Agriculture, Equine Studies, Horticulture and Engineering - <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/>

**UTC Leeds** – Specialise in Engineering and also offer A-Levels - <https://www.utcleeds.com/>

**White Rose Beauty College** – Specialise in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy courses – <https://www.whiterosebeautycolleges.co.uk/our-colleges/leeds>

**CAPA College** – Specialise in Dance/Drama/Performing Arts - <http://www.capa.college/>

## Apprenticeships and Traineeships

**Apprenticeships** – Involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship).

Apprenticeships must be at least one year long and all apprentices must be paid a minimum of £3.70 per hour (although many companies pay more!). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in almost every industry (and can be started as soon as an individual turns 16 and has left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand).

Apprenticeships come in four different levels:

- **Intermediate/Level 2** (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Maths/English at GCSE
- **Advanced/Level 3** (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+
- **Higher/Level 4-5** (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires L3 or A-Levels
- **Degree/Level 6-7** (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar

**Traineeships** – Opportunity for students aged 16-24 who do not have the relevant qualifications, experience or skills to start an apprenticeship but are interested in progressing on to one in the future. **Traineeships** involve a programme of up to six months of study, including a work placement, qualifications in Maths and English and support with finding a job or apprenticeship once the course is completed. Students are not paid for taking part but can apply for a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help with costs.

### Local Apprenticeship Information:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-job-opportunities/becoming-an-apprentice>

<http://www.theapprenticefinder.co.uk/>

<http://absolute-apprenticeships.co.uk/leeds/>

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/leedspathways/apprenticeships>

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

<https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/traineeships>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships>

## Decisions

Making a decision about where to go after Year 11 can be tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams, so it is important to consider the following factors that might help with decision making:

- **Where can this option take me in the future?** If you are thinking about a destination after post-16, such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress on to these pathways. Use websites like **Which University** (<https://university.which.co.uk/>) or **Success at School** (<https://successatschool.org/>) to find out whether the course you want to do after Year 11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do afterwards.

For example:

- If you want to study to become a Doctor at University, you usually need to take A-Levels in Chemistry and Biology/Maths/Physics.
- Some universities do not accept BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (although 95% do!)
- Apprenticeships have varying entry requirements – some ask for 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above while others ask for 2-3 A-Levels

## How do I pay for post-16 education and training?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11

- Students who currently receive free school meals automatically qualify for a bursary.
- Students with a household income of less than £25,000 will be eligible to apply for financial assistance to help cover their expenses whilst in sixth form.

## Useful Websites:

Search for courses and careers you are interested in doing after Year 11 and check the entry requirements

<http://www.startinleeds.com/>

Search and apply for apprenticeships online

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/>

Improve your employability skills and start recording your experiences in a CV – [www.barclayslifeskills.com](http://www.barclayslifeskills.com)

Tailor your CV by looking at templates

<https://www.cv-library.co.uk/career-advice/cv/cv-templates/>

Learn More about a Career in Leeds

<https://futuregoals.co.uk/about-us/>