

Post 16 Information



An information pack designed for students in Year 11 and their parents and carers, to support them through the process of applying for post-16 education or training from the options available.

Introduction

This pack is to inform Year 11 students and their parents and carers about their next steps following GCSE exams. This is commonly called post-16 education and training or Further Education. Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has meant that young people must be in some form of education or training until they are 18. This can include one of the following options:

Sixth Form

Sixth forms deliver A Levels, BTEC Diplomas and Applied qualifications at **level 3** over a two-year period.

A Levels are graded A* - E and are like GCSEs but look at subjects in a lot more depth. Therefore, it is normal to only choose 3 subjects to focus on.

BTEC and Applied Level 3 qualifications, also two years long, can be taken alone or alongside other A Level subjects depending on the sixth form and how many units the BTEC has (6-unit BTEC – comparable to one A Level, 12-unit BTEC comparable to two A Levels, 18-unit BTEC comparable to three A levels). These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams.

If you have a specific career in mind which requires a degree, please check the entry requirements for individual universities. Some degrees need specific subject combinations.

www.ucas.com or individual university websites will help or ask Mrs Ager or Mrs Talbot for help in looking up information.

Entry Requirements:

Most sixth forms will usually ask students to have 5 x GCSEs at grade 4 or above including maths and English Language. This varies depending on each sixth form and the subject choices, so checking is vitally important. Some will ask for grades 4 or above in both maths and English Language and potentially other subjects depending on subject choices. For example, it is common to be required to have achieved at least a grade 7 at GCSE to be able to take A Level maths.

Colleges and Training Providers

Colleges and training providers offer BTEC and other vocational qualifications at various levels, that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which also relates to a job or career (Vocational means around an area of work). These courses are usually either one or two years long, with progression options for higher level qualifications on completion, in the same or similar area. Examples include: Engineering, Hair and Beauty, Childcare, Construction, Motor Vehicle, Business, IT, Performing Arts and many, many more.

Entry Requirements:

Entry Level/Level 1 – can require anything from no qualifications to up to 4 x GCSEs (any grade) including maths and English language.

Level 2 – usually requires x 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above including either maths and English language at grade 4 or above.

Level 3 – usually requires 5 x GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above including both maths and English language at grade 4 or above. (Some courses will also require a portfolio of work so checking is vital.)

Level 3 Extended Diploma courses are a route into university and are taught for 2 years.

All entry requirements can alter and vary from provider to provider and by course to course.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships involve working for an employer and training with a local training provider to gain qualifications in relation to the job role. Between them they will agree the entry requirements for the job role and the level of training being undertaken.

Apprenticeship levels available for post-16 school leavers include:

Level 2 – Intermediate

Level 3 – Advanced

Higher level apprenticeship (level 4 and 5) and Degree apprenticeships (level 6 and 7) are available to post-18 students and adults and can follow on from any form of Level 3 study or apprenticeships.

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

Pay and conditions - <https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice/pay-and-conditions>

T-Levels

T-Levels are a new qualification starting from September 2020, they are like A Levels but with a mixture of classroom learning and 'on the job learning' experience with an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approx. 45 days)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>

Traineeships

A Traineeship is an unpaid work experience option with no vocational qualifications attached. This is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualification to do so yet. This option can last up to six months and involve maths and English study to help with application for apprenticeships.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships--2>

Making Applications

Students can begin to apply for post-16 courses at colleges and sixth forms from the Autumn of their Year 11 (October 2021) ready for the following September and it is advised that students complete their applications by February Half Term at the latest. This is done online via the provider's website.

A projected timeline:

October – Sixth form and college applications open.

Open days are advertised through provider websites along with booking instructions.

January – Some sixth forms and colleges will close applications. It is worth checking each provider you are interested in and making early applications to avoid disappointment.

December–February – Students are invited to sixth form / college interviews, these virtually or via the telephone.

December - March – Students begin to receive 'conditional offers' (this means based on them gaining the grades required to meet the entry requirements for the specific courses applied for). This will be determined on results day in August.

March–July – Students accept conditional offers received for the different courses they have applied for.

(It is important to remember that students can accept more than one course at different colleges or 6th forms and make their final decision in the summer, when they have received their exam results).

Apprenticeships can begin after the last Friday in June.

August – GCSE Results day

Enrolment onto courses at sixth form, college, or training provider.

NOTE: Apprenticeship applications run throughout the academic year with bigger companies starting their recruitment processes much earlier. Start looking in September/October of Year 11, as some employers have much more detailed application processes and can require CV submission, interviews and in some cases online ability tests and assessment centres.

Support Available

Students can access support with applications or recruitment advice via Mrs Ager (Careers Leader) or Mrs Talbot (Wednesday Only). All year 11 students will be offered a 1:1 personal guidance meeting during the school day, between September and February. Lots of support will be delivered through The Personal Development Curriculum (PHSE), which will include; careers research, CV writing, online applications, interview preparation and other personal guidance requirements including decision making.

Opportunities to access other support include after school drop-in sessions which are advertised to students throughout the year and further 1:1 personal guidance meeting a Wednesday with Entrust Careers Service.

How many colleges and courses can I apply for?

You can apply for and accept as many courses and conditional offers as you would like to. We would advise that you apply for more than one college or sixth form and at different levels of courses where available so you have a backup option in case the entry requirements are not met on results day.

How can I help my child?

All students will be given a login to our online careers resource START. Students can use this website to research study options, research career ideas, record their skills, development and careers related interactions. Have a look at this resource with your child.

Encourage your child to find out about local open days and attend with them or encourage them to attend with friends where this is not possible. Some providers offer virtual open days to making it more accessible which is helpful but not the same as going and getting a feel for the new learning environment.

Show an interest and have discussions with your child about their future plans. Let them figure out what route is best for them.

Every student in year 11 will have a careers meeting with Entrust Careers Service, at which time, an action plan will be agreed for the student to work on to help them develop a plan for their future. If they are still unsure about what to do, please encourage your child to ask for help from Mrs Ager or Mrs Talbot.

For further information and support contact the school's careers leader

Mrs S Ager [_sager@wilnecotehighschool.org](mailto:sager@wilnecotehighschool.org)

Mrs J Talbot careers@wilnecotehighschool.org

Students can log into their careers-related online learning platform **start** via the school website, to access resources to help make informed post-16 decisions:





Labour market information as well as job profiles can be used and researched on the National Careers Service website: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Local Further Education Providers

Further Education Provider	College / Sixth Form / Training Provider	Website
South Staffs College	College	www.southstaffs.ac.uk
Birmingham Metropolitan College	College	www.bmetc.ac.uk
North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College	College	www.nwslc.ac.uk
Stafford College	College	https://nscg.ac.uk/
Walsall College	College	www.walsallcollege.ac.uk
National College for High-Speed Rail	College	http://nchsr.ac.uk/
University College Birmingham	College	www.ucb.ac.u
Burton & Derbyshire College	College	www.bsdc.ac.uk
Birmingham South & City College	College	www.sccb.ac.uk
BO Academy Birmingham	6th Form and Academy	www.boa-academy.com
Landau Forte Academy 6th Form Centre (Tamworth) ·	6th Form and Academy	www.lfatsf.org.uk
Polesworth School 6th Form (Warks)	6th Form and Academy	www.polesworthschool.com
King Edward VI 6th Form Nuneaton (Warks)	6th Form and Academy	https://kecnuneaton.ac.uk
Academy of Music Birmingham	6th Form and Academy	www.academyofmusic.ac.uk
Bishop Vesey 6th Form (Sutton Coldfield)	6th Form and Academy	www.bvgs.co.uk
Netherstowe School 6th Form (Lichfield)	6th Form and Academy	www.netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk
Friary School 6th Form (Lichfield)	6th Form and Academy	www.friaryschool.com
King Edward VI School 6th Form (Lichfield)	6th Form and Academy	www.keslichfield.org.uk

Apprenticeships & Traineeships: L2 Intermediate, L3 Advanced Apprenticeships and Beyond: ·

Apprenticeships COVID times <https://indigo.careers/apprenticeships-is-there-any-good-news/> ·

National Apprenticeships website at www.apprenticeships.org.uk ·

Get my First Job (lots of links) at <https://getmyfirstjob.co.uk> ·

National and regional searches for WBT: www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

Find a Training Company/Provider supporting a specific interest/role:

<https://findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/Courses> ·

Student Guides to Apprenticeships 2021 <https://amazingapprenticeships.com> ·

Lots of apprenticeships are advertised at commercial job sites such as www.indeed.co.uk ·

Also Check out www.findapprenticeships.co.uk · UCAS Guides Apprenticeships | Understanding apprenticeships in the UK (ucas.com) · L2 – L6 Apprenticeships advertised at

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/search/jobs> · To check distance from home to a work location via www.careermap.co.uk ·

The Apprenticeships Guide can be found at <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk>

Apprenticeships: L4 Higher and L6 Degree Focus:

· Useful Higher and Degree Apprenticeship search tool for over 1000 companies:

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships-223/filter/subcats/higher-apprenticeship-228>

· Sector-led outline of what a degree apprentice will undertake and criteria for entry:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/apprenticeships-uk/degree-apprenticeships>

· Options for university graduates to enter apprenticeships at L7 and wider progression routes at

<https://notgoingtouni.co.uk> · <https://careermap.co.uk/degree-apprenticeships/> ·

Scholarships and Degree Apprenticeships see <https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/>

The above is not an exhaustive list information can be found online

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Choosing-somewhere-to-learn/Choosing-a-collegefurther-education.aspx>

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Choosing-somewhere-to-learn/Apprenticeship-or-uni-which-is-best.aspx>