



# Post-16 Options: How does it all work?



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# 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).



## 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 - [www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund](http://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund)

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an apprenticeship, they will no longer be considered your dependant and your benefits for them will stop.

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

**Useful Link:** <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>



# Sixth Form

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (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. Pupils can choose from Fazakerley High School Sixth Form (*more info to follow*), another Local Sixth Form or a Sixth Form College such as Hugh Baird South Sefton Campus.

Students can study:

**Traditional A-Levels** – Subjects like: **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art**

**Alternative A-Levels** – Subjects like: **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) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. 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.

**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 usually 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 **A Levels** to **Hair and Beauty, Childcare** and **Construction**, through to **Business Management, Games Design, Automotive Engineering, Food Technology, Fashion Design, IT, Performing Arts, Photography** and many more:

**Smaller Training Providers** – In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations around the city and further afield that offer a range of vocational courses for students, including **Motor Vehicle, Business Admin, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Construction, Personal Fitness, Hair and Beauty** and **Hospitality and Catering** and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students

**Specific Vocational Colleges** – Offer courses such as **Electrics, Railway Engineering, Construction, Hairdressing, Accountancy** and many more

## **Entry Requirements:**

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

**Level 2** – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3/D or above

**Level 3** – Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above

**You can find a comprehensive list of Colleges and Training Organisations included in this pack**





T Levels are a fairly new courses that started in September 2020, which follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

For more information on T-Levels, check out the link below:

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





# 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 £3.90 per hour (although many companies pay more – some pay over £1000 per month!). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries, including **Engineering, Graphic Design, Software Development, Hair and Beauty** and **Catering** (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.

## **Apprenticeship Information:**

<https://be-more.info/>

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[Priory Apprenticeships - Home](#)



# Applying for post-16 – How does it work?

Students will begin applying for their post-16 options in autumn 2021 and the application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year. Here is a projected timeline for 2021-22:

**October 2021** – Sixth form and college courses for 2022-23 visible on application sites

**January 2022** – Probable closing date for *most* sixth form applications

**NOTE:** Colleges do not have the same deadlines but early applications are still advised!

**December -February 2022** – Students are invited to sixth form/college interviews

**March 2022** – Students begin to receive offers from sixth forms and colleges

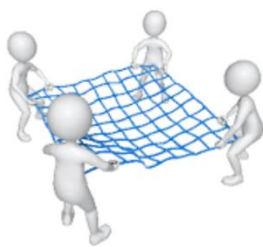
**March-July 2022** – Students accept or reject offers for different courses

**September 2022** – Applications for 2022/23 close

**NOTE:** **Apprenticeship and Traineeship applications run throughout the academic year** with bigger companies starting the recruitment process much earlier – start looking in September 2021 for the big companies! Apprenticeships have a much more detailed application process than sixth form or college and require the completion of an application / submission of CV / Interview and in some cases an online ability test / assessment centre.

Applications for College / Sixth form can be submitted online on the respective websites – support is available in school if required.

# Preparing Your Safety Net



The great news is that you can apply and accept offers from as many sixth forms, colleges and training providers as you want and can then make your mind up about which one you want to progress on to in September after visiting the environment, meeting the staff and finding out what GCSE grades you have received in August 2022!





# Entry Requirements – What do I need to get in?

The recent changes to the GCSE grading system have confused some people, so take a look at the information below to make sure you know what grades you might need to get at GCSE in order to move on to your chosen destination after Year 11:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

## Key Points:

- A **Grade 4** is a **Standard Pass**, while a **Grade 5** is a **Strong Pass**
- Only around 2-3% of students will achieve a **Grade 9**, making it a little higher than the old **A\***
- Although the new grades don't exactly match the old grades, colleges will mostly view them as follows:

**9-7 = A\*- A    6 = B    4-5 = C    3-1 = D and below**

- Vocational qualifications like **BTEC** and **VCERT** match up with GCSEs as follows:  
**L1** = GCSE grades 1-3 (Pass - Distinction)  
**L2** = GCSE grades 4-9 (Pass – Distinction)
- Most colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships accept BTEC-type qualifications, as do **95%** of universities, including the Russell Group and Oxford!

## **Do your research!**

No matter what you read online, it is important to check all information carefully. Although the Department for Education have stated that a Grade 4 will be considered the official 'Pass Mark' for students (<https://www.tes.com/news/new-gcse-pass-lowered-grade-5-4-dfe-u-turn>), not all colleges or universities may agree with this. For example, Kings College London and UCL both now ask for a Grade 5 at GCSE in English and Maths as part of their entry requirements, but Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool (all Russell Group universities) still consider Grade 4 the equivalent to a C.

## **Use ALL the information available!**

As stated above, different post-16 and post-18 pathways may ask for different entry requirements depending on the course and/or college. For example, some apprenticeships require only GCSE English and Maths at Grade 3 (D) and above, while some sixth form colleges ask for a Grade 5/6 (high C/B) in the subject students are wanting to take up from GCSE to A-Level.

## **Some useful references:**

### **Which University – How important are my GCSEs?**

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-my-gcse-grades>

**Ofqual** - <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/02/gcse-9-to-1-grades-a-brief-guide-for-parents/>

**The Student Room** - <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/gcse/exams/new-gcse-grades-explained>



# Qualification Levels Guide – GCSE to Degree Level

<b>L6</b>	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 + L6)
	<b>Grades Needed:</b> Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)
<b>L5</b>	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)	Higher/Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 + L5)
<b>L4</b>	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	
<b>Grades Needed:</b>	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma
<b>L3</b>	A-Levels	L3 Diploma / Extended Diploma (BTEC or other) / Access to HE courses	Advanced Apprenticeship (NVQ L3)
	<b>Entry Grades Needed:</b> Usually 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher, including Maths and English	5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually at least 3-5 GCSEs (but sometimes no formal qualifications)
<b>L2</b>	GCSEs (grades 9-4)	L2 National / BTEC Diploma / Functional Skills	Intermediate Apprenticeship (NVQ L2)
	<b>Entry Grades Needed:</b> None	3-4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually none, although sometimes GCSE Maths and English and a skills test
<b>L1</b>	GCSEs (grades 3-1)	L1 Diploma / Functional Skills	Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)
	<b>Entry Grades Needed:</b> None	None (sometimes basic Maths and English)	None
<b>Entry Level 3</b>	Key Stage 3	E3 Diploma (Foundation)	–
	<b>Entry Grades Needed:</b> None	None	-
	School / 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	College / Further Education	Apprenticeships

# How do I make my final decision about post-16?

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 the Russell Group's **Informed Choices** (<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>) or **Success at School** (<https://successatschool.org/>) to find out whether the course you choose after Y11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do or speak with staff at the sixth form, college or apprenticeship you are applying to in order to get further details!
  - **If you want to study Dentistry 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**
  
- **What will doing this option be like?** Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you. Why not...
  - **Speak to sixth form or college staff and students** at one of the many Open Days or Open Evenings that take place throughout the year – the websites for each sixth form or college will have these dates on but you can also use <https://www.opendays.com/> to help make your search easier! Y11 students will also have a chance to speak to providers at an event at the school in autumn!
  - **LiNCHigher** have an events page <https://linchigher.co.uk/events> from which visitors can access an array of events and activities across Lincolnshire. Traditionally these events have included Open Days for the Colleges and Universities in our region.
  - **Research** more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organisation can provide you with while you are studying e.g. help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, etc. Sixth form and college websites have all the information you need!



# Want to get prepared?



Search and apply for apprenticeships online –

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



Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university – <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>



Free careers software to help you connect your skills, hobbies and subject interests to what you might want to do once you leave school – <https://www.startprofile.com/>



Start volunteering to gain valuable work-related skills and experience – <https://vinspired.com>



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

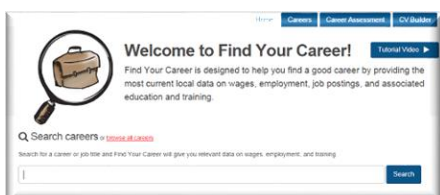


Use Informed Choices digital tool to help you understand which A Level and BTEC subjects open up different degrees, particularly at Russell Group universities - <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/> You can also use UCAS.com



**CareerOmeter** – This useful tool is available on the school website and allows the comparison of salaries/demand for different careers in a simple to use format. Available on the school website

<https://www.priorypembroke.co.uk/page/?title=Pembroke+Careers+Programme&pid=99>



**Career Coach** is a useful program. Career Quiz / Search Careers & CV Builder.

**Notes Page:**



## Careers Team at Pembroke

Careers Leader: Mrs Doughty

Careers and Future You Co-ordinator: Miss Romain

We will be working with year 11 to support them now and with their next steps. You can email [adoughty@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:adoughty@prioryacademies.co.uk) or [hromain@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:hromain@prioryacademies.co.uk) with any questions!


**Don't forget** – the Pembroke Academy website has links to all of the websites above and lots more on the subject of Careers!

<https://www.priorypembroke.co.uk/page/?title=Pembroke+Careers+Programme&pid=99>



## Further Education — Local Sixth Forms and Colleges

	<p>Lincoln Christ's Hospital School                  Wragby Road, Lincoln, LN2 4PN                  Tel: 01522 881144                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:education@lchs.eu">education@lchs.eu</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>William Farr School                  Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincoln, LN2 3JB                  Tel: 01673 866900                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk">wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>North Kesteven School                  Moor Lane, Lincoln LN6 9AG                  Tel: 01522 881010                  Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@nkschool.lincs.sch.uk">enquiries@nkschool.lincs.sch.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Branston Community Academy                  Station Rd, Branston, Lincoln LN4 1L-H                  Tel: 01522 880400                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:enquiries@branstonca.lincs.sch.uk">enquiries@branstonca.lincs.sch.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Sir Robert Pattinson Academy                  Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9AF                  Tel: 01522 882020                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:enquiries@srpa.co.uk">enquiries@srpa.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>De Aston School                  Willingham Road, Market Rasen, Lincoln LN8 3RF                  Tel: 01673 843415 E-mail: <a href="mailto:enquiries@de-aston.lincs.sch.uk">enquiries@de-aston.lincs.sch.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Lincoln UTC                  Lindum Road, Lincoln, LN2 1PF                  Tel: 01522 775990 Email: <a href="mailto:admissions@lincolnutc.co.uk">admissions@lincolnutc.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>

	<p>Lincoln College          Monks Rd, Lincoln LN2 51-1Q          Tel: 01522 876000          E-mail: <a href="mailto:enquiries@lincolncollege.ac.uk">enquiries@lincolncollege.ac.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Riseholme College (Bishop Burton College)          Riseholme Park, Riseholme, Lincoln LN2 2LG          Tel: 01522 304600          Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@riseholme.ac.uk">enquiries@riseholme.ac.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Access (digital Media and Music)          32 Clasketgate, Lincoln, LN2 1JS          Tel: 01522589684          Email: <a href="mailto:admissions@accesscreative.ac.uk">admissions@accesscreative.ac.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Priory Witham          De Wint Ave, Lincoln LN6 7DT          Tel: 01522 882900          Email: <a href="mailto:generalenquiries@priorywitham.co.uk">generalenquiries@priorywitham.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Priory City          Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 0EP          Tel: 01522 882880          Email: <a href="mailto:generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk">generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>Priory LSST          Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW          Tel: 01522 889977          Email: <a href="mailto:generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk">generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>
	<p>The Keyworth Centre (Construction and Motor Vehicle) &amp;          Priory Training (Apprenticeships)          Skellingthorpe Road Lincoln, Lincoln LN6 0EP          Tel: 01522 882880          Email: <a href="mailto:generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk">generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For Open Evening date check website</b></p>