



CORE
EDUCATION
TRUST

Parent Post-16 & Careers Advice Booklet



Education

6th form, Colleges and Training providers all offer some form of education to enable progression onto University, Paid Employment or an Apprenticeship. Some careers require the education route to have entry to university or next level qualifications for Training and Apprenticeship.

A Levels taken at a 6th form or College

- These are good studying academic subjects that you like and want to study further.
- Courses Studied over 2-year
- Courses with exams.
- These usually lead onto university or a level 3/4 Apprenticeship

BTECs and Certificates

- Combines hands on, practical learning with study and technical skills.
- Specialist courses which relate to job roles, sectors, such as IT and Business.
- These are 1- or 2-year courses with less exams, but more course work such as assignments.
- Some 6th Forms and Colleges will allow you to study A Levels and BTECs at the same time. This is a good way to have a balance of learning.

Apprenticeship - if you are very hands on and enjoy learning through work, this allows you to work and earn a salary at the same time.

- You must be 16 years or over
- Entry requirements vary depending on starting level.

- Apprenticeships start at level 2 and can all the way up to level 7.
- General offer for a level 2 apprenticeship is 4 x level 4+ including Maths and English. Some Apprenticeships may allow you to have a level 3 in Maths and English (grade D) but passing English and Mathematics is so important we always recommend getting a level 4. If this is not the case, you will be allowed to re-sit this alongside your main qualification.
- If you start at Level 3, you will need to achieve at least 5 x level 4+ including English and Mathematics

ENTRY REQUIRMENTS AND COURSE LEVELS

Level of course	Type of course	Entry requirements	Progression from this course
ENTRY LEVEL For those with no qualifications	Certificate	No formal qualifications. Will complete maths and English assessment	Level 1 Apprenticeship course
LEVEL 1 Start to gain skills in area of qualification or work	BTEC Introductory Diploma	Must have completed secondary education. GCSE's (grades 1-2)	Level 2 course Apprenticeship Job with training

<p>LEVEL 2</p> <p>Ideal route into a career or provides you the opportunity to go onto complete higher qualifications</p>	<p>BTEC Diploma Intermediate</p>	<p>4 GCSE's at 4+ grade including Maths and English. (Always check, some grades may vary).</p>	<p>Level 3 course Apprenticeship L3 Job with training</p>
<p>LEVEL 3</p> <p>Studying at this level can be challenging. It can provide a solid preparation for a career and for further Degree level studies.</p>	<p>A Levels BTEC Extended Diploma</p>	<p>5 GCSE's at grade 4-9 (including Maths and English)</p> <p>A Level subjects may require grade 5, 6 or 7 for specific subjects such as Science and Maths..</p>	<p>University Employment Higher or Degree Apprenticeships</p>

What is best for your child?

The table on the next page explains the differences between 3 very popular pathways for young people.

	T LEVELS	TRAINEESHIPS	APPRENTICESHIPS
Description	A mainly classroom based technical qualification (80%) plus work placement included (20%)	A skills development programme to support individuals with their employability skills through a mix of classroom based and workplace delivery.	Full time paid employment while gaining qualifications in the chosen field. Mainly based in the workplace with 20% off-the-job training.
Age range	16 - 19	16-24* (*25 with a EHC)	16+ (no upper age limit)
Duration	2 years	6 weeks – 12 months	12 months + depending on the level, the experience of the apprentice, the delivery model
When can you start?	Usually September	Throughout the year	Throughout the year
Level	Equivalent to a L3 qualification or 3 A Levels	Typically contains qualifications at level 1 or 2	Includes levels 2 through to level 7 (master's)
English, Maths and Digital Skills	If grade 4 gcse has not been achieved, then functional skills will be put into place whilst on the course, also exceptions for students who hold an ECHP.	If grade 4 has not been achieved in maths and English they will continue to be on the programme, but they will not be required to sit the exams.	If grade 4 at GCSE has not been achieved, then functional skills at the appropriate level will be incorporated into the apprenticeship
Additional Skills Gained	Industry recognised certification and workplace experience.	Employability skills and workplace experience.	Industry knowledge, skills and behaviours, plus sector recognised certification.
Work Experience	Minimum of 315 hours industry placement unpaid	A high-quality work placement of at least 70 hours	Full time paid employment (with paid off-the-job time too)
How they are assessed?	All elements of the T Level are assessed and graded by the training provider. All elements must be passed for the student to receive their overall grade.	At the end of the traineeship the trainee will have an 'interview experience'. Strengths and development areas are identified to help them progress. Observations, discussions, and assessments will be carried out throughout the programme.	The apprentice will be observed, hold discussions and complete written work for the training provider who will grade the work. At the end of the apprenticeships the apprentice will be required to complete an End Point Assessment.
How are they graded?	Pass, Merit Distinction Distinction* If not all elements are met, they will receive a statement of achievement	They are not graded at the end.	Pass, Merit Distinction
Salary	Unpaid	Unpaid	Paid at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices
Additional Information	The provider may provide discretionary financial support.	Maybe eligible for travel, meal, and childcare costs	Apprentice would receive the company's rewards and annual leave
Are they included on the UCAS tariff?	Yes	No	It will depend on the qualifications included within the apprenticeship standard.
Next steps/progression	The provider may provide discretionary financial support.	Apprenticeships or employment	Higher/degree apprenticeships, professional quals' and employment.
How to find a.....	https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/	https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship	https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Each Apprenticeship provider will train for a specific sector, i.e. Customer Service, Business Administration, Retail, Childcare ,Construction, Hairdressing and many more. Always research the Apprenticeship vacancy and find out what the progression route is after you complete to see where you can go next.

Completing an Apprenticeship is a great way to find out whether you really like the career choice chosen before starting A levels and University. You can still achieve going to University by going down the Apprenticeship route (Level 3). You just need to research thoroughly the career route whilst in year 11.

Apprenticeships Levels

Traineeship	Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher & Degree Apprenticeship
Entry to Apprenticeship	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 - Certificate or Diploma Level 5 - Foundation Degree Level 6 - Bachelor's Degree Level 7 - Master's Degree
2 / 3 Months	12 – 18 months	18 – 48 months	24 months +

This a route to a level 2 Apprenticeship	Equivalent to 5 GCSEs	Equivalent to 2 A Levels	Equivalent to foundation degree level +
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If you feel you would like to attend College or 6th Form, the best way to make the right choice is to research and attend all Open Day Events.

- Go along to as many as you can and ask questions about what interests you.
- Look at websites to find the days and times or ask your careers advisor. (Sometimes you may have to book them online, which literally takes seconds).
- Attending Open Days will give you an insight into what is on offer.
- Collect as much information as you can.
- Look at which courses you would like to do and look at the grade criteria to ensure you are able to apply.
- Give yourself plenty of time to apply but keep in contact regularly to ask about your progress.
- Ask others who have attended college or 6th form and collect feedback.
- The application is usually completed online. If you need help ask a Teacher, Careers advisor or a family member.
- Always relate the application to your strengths, skills and experience. (Give examples).
- You can always save your application before submitting it if you would like to get it checked.
- Once you have applied you will receive a message to attend an interview.
- Before attending an interview ensure you have knowledge of the course and ask lots of questions. (Take a list of questions with you if you need to).

1. Start to apply at the start of Year 11 for College and 6th form places.
2. Identify where you would like to study, consider travel times.
3. Visit Websites and Open days. Most open days take place in October/November and then again March the following year. (Check Websites for accurate information or talk to your careers advisor).
4. Check you have all the correct grades.
5. Complete all sections of an application form, do not leave any gaps. You can apply on-line or complete a paper application form to post.
6. Apply by December/January by the latest.
7. Always apply for 3-4 different places, colleges, 6th forms, Apprenticeship (you can only apply for an apprenticeship once you have received your GCSE grades).

IF YOU DO NOT APPLY , YOU WILL NOT HAVE A PLACE

September	October /November	December	January /February /March /April	August /September
Have made a few decisions on a career choice and started to research, what qualifications needed	Visit websites and look at open days	Completed all College/6thform application forms	Interviews and course offers	Exam results College/6 th form and Apprenticeship, Traineeship enrolment days

As long as you are in some kind of education or training you are allowed to work.

- Students can look for a job whilst studying. Look for a company that is willing to employ and train at the same time. They may be able to help gain more qualifications such as ICT, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and many more qualifications.
- Could volunteer and gain lots of employability skills to help you gain confidence when in the work place.

- Employers like to see a great attitude towards working, so any kind of experience looks great on a CV, and when applying to University.
- You can also work part time alongside studies at 6th form or College, but do not let work take over your studies. Try and achieve a good balance of working hours to study hours.

Mental and Physical Health is Important

www.nationalcareerservice.direct.gov.uk Job role information and CV and covering letters information

www.ucas.com Post 16 careers information and University guidance www.apprenticeships.gov.uk Live apprenticeship vacancies

www.getingofar Apprenticeship vacancies/advice on applying

www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk Helpful tips around job skills and employers www.healthcareers.nhs.uk NHS careers information

www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles research every type of career/job and entry requirements.

<http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk/apprenticeshipstraining/higher-apprenticeship>

CONTACT

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