



# Post 16 Options

## College & 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Consider the difference between course structure; A Levels are exam-based qualifications whilst technical & vocational qualifications include coursework, exams and/or practical assessment of learning. Some providers now offer a variety of T Levels which are industry linked and include a mandatory work placement. 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 6<sup>th</sup> form.

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

## 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 a qualification in a related apprenticeship standard. You will gain knowledge, skills and behaviours to support you in progressing into your chosen career or to a higher or degree apprenticeship. Recommended websites:  
<https://solentapprenticeshiphub.com/>  
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>  
[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

You can create your own account and set it up to get vacancy alerts and to monitor your progress. Research what opportunities are available now locally, this will give you an insight into local employers and key labour market trends.

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

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.

Work experience can support you with gaining contacts in the industry. For further help see your career practitioner, tutor or progress leader.

## 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 hours 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.allaboutschoollavers.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/>

You may also want to consider the Kickstart Scheme, this is available to 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. The scheme offers 6 months paid employment, usually 25 hours per week at national minimum wage. This will give you valuable work experience and access to employability support.  
<https://kickstart.campaign.gov.uk/>  
<https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/government-services/kickstart-scheme/>

## Traineeships

A traineeship is a scheme designed for people who may be looking for an apprenticeship vacancy or who feel that they do not yet have the skills, qualifications and/or experience to start either an apprenticeship or employment with training.

Traineeships are short programmes (lasting between 6 weeks and 1 year (although most will last for less than 6 months). They are designed for 16-24 year olds who are qualified below level 3 or 25 years old with an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan). They help you develop the essential skills that employers look for. This could be numeracy, literacy, work preparation and soft skills such as communication, time management and they do this alongside a work experience placement.

A traineeship may lead to an apprenticeship, further training and qualifications or other full-time work.

You will **NOT** earn a salary from a traineeship; check with the training company if there will be support with travel costs.

Think about the sector that you would like to have experience in - remember that this is your chance to try things and experience new career options. You can find out more about Traineeships via:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeships>  
<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>