



Post 16 Options

College & Sixth 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 6th 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.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>
<http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/>
<https://www.theapprenticeshiphub.com/>

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.allaboutschoollleavers.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/>

Traineeships Traineeships, through the national traineeships programme, ended on 1 August 2023. We are waiting further information about what may be offered locally as alternatives.