



Understanding  
your Post-16  
choices



# Possible options....

Every student in the UK must stay in full time education or training until they are 18. You have the choice as to whether you pursue vocational qualifications or more traditional qualifications. These will often be linked to the career path you wish to follow. It is important that you research the options available to you and make an informed choice.

**T-Levels**  
(Level 3)

**A-Levels**  
(Level 3)

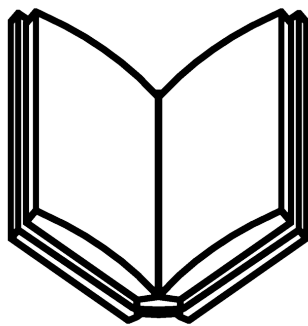
**Apprenticeships**  
(Level 2 - Intermediate)  
(Level 3 - Advanced)

**Applied, Vocational &  
Technical  
Qualifications**  
(Level 1, Level 2 & Level 3)

**Traineeships/  
Supported  
Internships**

A-levels are level 3 subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training or work. You will have the option of choosing between three or four subjects. People often take a mix of new subjects and ones they did well in at GCSE. Course entry requirements, teaching and assessment depend on the subject. Choose subjects you will enjoy and think you will do well in, combined with subjects that could be relevant to your future choice. If you have a particular university course in mind, it is vital you check the entry requirements beforehand as you may need to study specific subjects.

**Typical entry requirements: 5 GCSEs grade 9-4 (usually including English and maths)**



**Duration: 2 years**

**Assessment method: Most courses are assessed by 100% exam.**

# T-Levels

T-levels are a 2-year level 3 qualification that have been designed with leading businesses and employers, to prepare you for the workplace. You'll spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement with an employer, to give you the skills and knowledge companies look for. Your industry placement gives you the chance to learn what a real career is like while you continue your studies.

When and how you complete it depends on the T-level, school or college, and employer.

When you pass your T-level, you will get a nationally recognised certificate showing the overall grade you achieved - pass, merit, distinction or distinction\*. It will also give details of what you learned on the course to help you move into skilled employment or a higher apprenticeship. Your T-level will be worth UCAS points (a T-level Distinction\* is worth the same as 3 A-levels at A\*) and will be recognised by universities and other education providers, so you can choose to continue studying if you wish.

**T-LEVELS**



# Applied, Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Applied, vocational and technical courses combine practical learning with subject and theory content. They teach the practical skills and knowledge for a particular area of employment. They can prepare you for a broad employment sector, like engineering or travel and tourism, or for a specific job like a chef or a hairdresser. These qualifications have various levels depending on GCSE grades and experience in the sector.

## Typical Entry Requirements:

**Level 1 Qualifications:** 5 GCSEs at grade 3-1, with at least two at grade 3

**Level 2 Qualifications:** A minimum 5 GCSE grade 9-2 with at least two at grade 4 or a qualifying Level 1 qualification

**Level 3 Qualifications:** A minimum of 5 GCSE grade 9-4 or/and a qualifying Level 2 qualification

Northampton  
COLLEGE

(Booth Lane, Lower  
Mounts, Daventry)



Moulton  
COLLEGE

(Moulton and Higham  
Ferrers)



MK

(Milton Keynes  
College)



# Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships have become a popular career route for school leavers, with opportunities ranging from floristry to law. Apprenticeships offer you the chance to work for an employer, earn a salary and gain qualifications, combining hands-on training with off-site education. They can take between one and five years to complete, depending on the role. All apprenticeships are paid the apprentice rate of £6.40/hour or above (correct as of April 2024).

There are different levels of apprenticeship you can start at:

Intermediate (Level 2 - equivalent to 5 GCSE passes)

Typical entry requirements: 4 GCSEs grade 9-3

Advanced (Level 3 - equivalent to 2 A-level passes)

Typical entry requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade 9-4 OR a level 2 qualification

You can then progress onto a higher apprenticeship (level 4) or a degree apprenticeship (level 6/7), which is equivalent to a degree and post-graduate degree.



*Earn*  
**LEARN**  
**QUALIFY**

Applying for apprenticeships is different to applying for college or university. Employers will often ask for similar qualifications to a college course at the same level, however entry requirements will differ depending on the provider. Employers are also interested in employability skills, such as communication, teamwork, and reliability as well as formal qualifications. Apprenticeships can be advertised at various times of the year so keep your eyes peeled!

# Traineeship/ Supported Internship/ Prince's Trust

A traineeship is a skills development programme that includes a work placement. Traineeships help 16 to 24-year-olds with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) to get ready for an apprenticeship or job if they don't yet have the skills or experience needed. Traineeships can help you to get real work experience, job skills and improve your English and Maths skills, giving your career prospects a real jump-start.

Traineeships can give you the confidence and skills to take the first steps to gaining employment. Most students are offered an interview at the end of their experience, either for a role (if one is available) or an exit interview which will provide feedback to help them secure their next employment

The Prince's Trust offers a range of programmes for young people aged between 16 and 25 to help build confidence before progressing onto education, training or employment.

**Typical entry requirements:** You need to be aged between 16 and 24 or up to 25 with an Education Health and Care Plan, with no higher than a level 3 qualification

**Duration:** It can last from 6 weeks up to 1 year (although most will last for less than 6 months).

**Assessment method:** Mostly coursework and project based.



# Helpful Post 16 Links

Government  
Apprenticeship Portal



UCAS



NGTU

NOT GOING TO UNI



RUSSELL  
GROUP



Amazing  
Apprenticeships



Apprentivia



Springpod 



RAF Apprenticeships



Army Apprenticeships

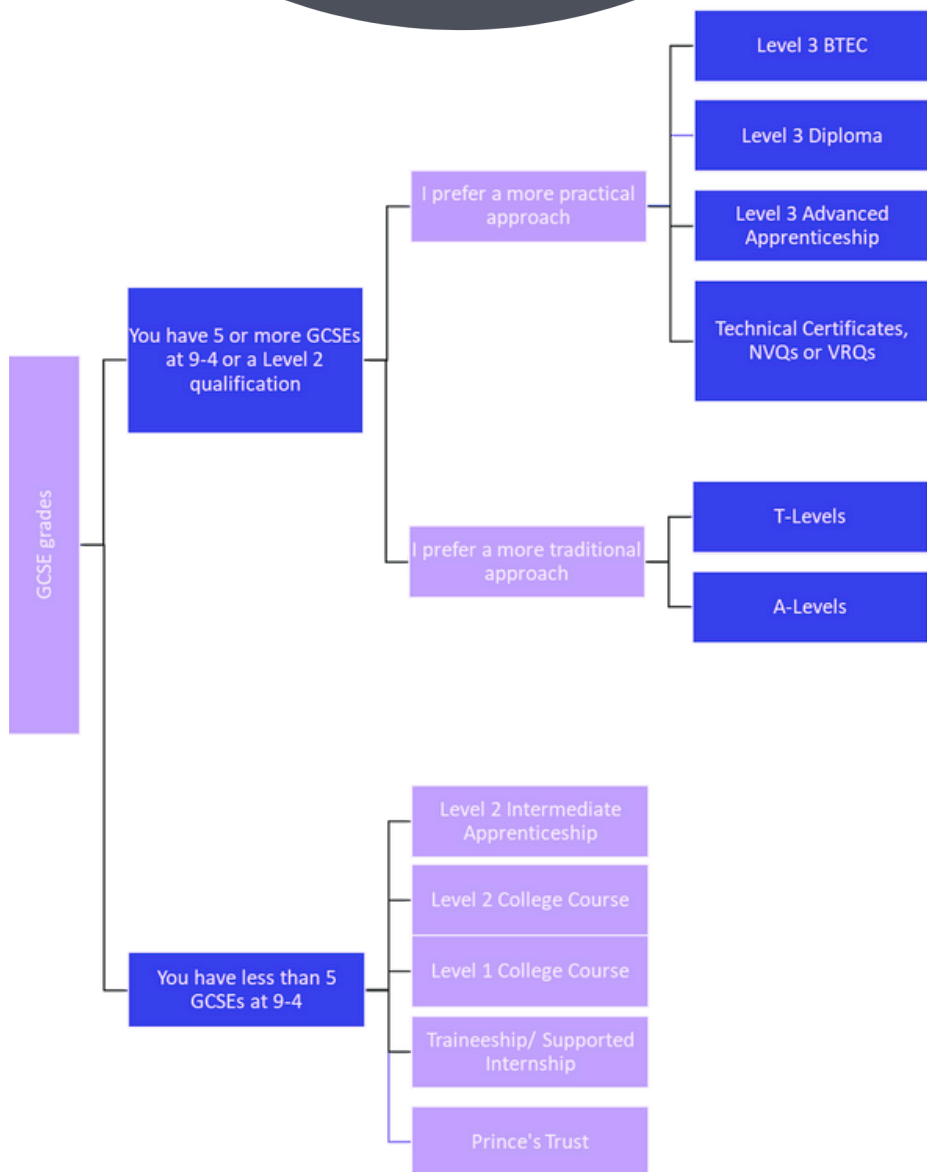


Navy Apprenticeships





# Which Pathway is Right for Me?



# Making My Decision

Deciding where to go after Year 11 can be scary, stressful, and just plain difficult. There are so many choices available to you and it can often be overwhelming. Here are some things you can do that might help with your decision making:

**Research** – Explore the courses available to you at the local colleges and sixth form and make a list of any that appeal to you. Read a bit more about what the course covers and how it is assessed to see if that appeals.

**Attend an open evening** – Sixth forms and colleges hold open days for students to visit the campus and learn more about their courses. This is a great way to get a taster of what the course will be like and ask any questions you may have.

**Backup plan** – It is always advisable to have alternative options ready. We recommend that you consider more than one application, to open up your options & make a final decision in the summer.

**Attend your careers interview** – The adviser will guide you towards courses that may interest you, based on your ideas & future plans. They can provide resources to help you make an informed decision about your future.

**Be proactive** – Opportunities are not going to find you! You need to search & apply for them. This is going to involve spending time on websites and talking to people. You will also need to ask for help if you need it, rather than staying silent.

**Speak to Someone** – Talk to your friends & family about the courses you are interested in. Get their opinions and guidance – sometimes they think about things that you haven't.

Applications for post-16 options open in the first term of Year 11 and continue throughout the year. Most sixth forms locally have application deadlines of around February, so it is worth keeping your eyes peeled on the school's website. You may be invited to an interview to explain why you want to attend that sixth form, and there will be an induction programme, once you have finished your GCSEs.

## Applying for Post-16 Pathways



Colleges do not have the same deadlines, but it is recommended that you submit your applications as early as possible (ideally before the Christmas holidays). You may be asked to attend a telephone interview or a face-to-face interview prior to an offer being given. These are just an opportunity for you to explain why you want to study the course you have applied for.

Once you have received your offers from the different colleges/sixth forms, you will need to consider which you want to continue with. It is ok to accept all the offers you receive and then make a final decision once you have your GCSE results.

There is a lot to consider, but we recommend starting your search as soon as possible. Ideally, you want to have your applications submitted by February half term (or Easter at the very latest) so that you can focus all your attention on your GCSEs.



The QR codes in this book do not show all the possible options. Research your areas of interest to find other providers not listed.

*good luck*

# Post-16 Options Checklist

		<u>Notes</u>
I have browsed college/sixth form courses online and have made a list of interesting ones.	✓	
I have attended a college/sixth form open day		
I have attended my 1-1 careers meeting		
I have spoken to my friends/ family/ teachers about the pathways I am interested in and have got their opinions.		
I have narrowed down my choices and checked the entry requirements for my chosen pathways.		
I have applied to MORE THAN ONE pathway, so that I have a backup plan		
I have accepted my offers (and will make a firm decision when I have my results in August)		

Please feel free to email any questions to  
[admin@watling.academy](mailto:admin@watling.academy)