

## **Post 16 Choices – Your Options after Year 11**

### **FURTHER EDUCATION: Making Choices. Choosing College/6th Form. Things to consider**

- What GCSE grades will I need to study at the different sixth forms or colleges I am considering applying to? *Generally level 3 or advanced courses require a minimum of five GCSE passes, at grade 4 or above, including maths and English Language*
- Level 2 courses are available for those who do not meet the entry requirements above - speak with individual colleges, sixth forms, your teachers, a careers adviser. \*\* If you do not achieve a grade 4 or above at GCSE grade 4 in both maths and English Language, your sixth form or college or work place (if an apprenticeship) will build maths and English into your study programme \*\*
- What subjects do they offer?
- Do they meet my needs?
- What support will I get? *Support can be support for learning; support with personal or pastoral needs and also support with career planning, such as applications to university or apprenticeships. There is more about applying for apprenticeships below*
- Where do their students' go/ progress after their course is completed? By this, we mean, do they 1) successfully complete their course, 2) go on to higher education and university OR 3) into employment or training and apprenticeships?
- **Choosing subjects. General advice** - Choose options you will 1) enjoy, 2) those you will do well in and 3) those that will help you to achieve your career goals. **Finally**, if you choose subjects that are **NEW** i.e. you have never studied them before – find out what the subject is about! Don't just choose it because 'it sounds good'; 'because your friends are all doing it' or because you think it will be 'easy'. These are not good reasons to choose something you have never studied before!
- Find out more, about all your options, that way, you will be prepared and you will be more likely to succeed ☺
- Choosing between A' levels; T levels and BTEC qualifications

\*\* From 2020, a new set of qualifications T-Levels were introduced\*\*

You can find out more about **T-Levels** here [What are T Levels? \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/what-are-t-levels/)

### **The Basics:**

- T Levels are technical qualifications equivalent to 3 A' levels or a BTEC EXTended Diploma
- You will still need similar entry requirements for level 3, as explained above
- The course length is two years, the same length as it takes to study A' levels
- To achieve the qualification, you will follow this study method - 80% study, 20% work: 45-day over 2 years with an employer, that's 315 hours.\*\* **YOU need to be fully committed to completing this work experience to achieve/ pass the qualification \*\***

As explained above, they will combine classroom learning and on-the-job experience. At the moment, not all colleges in all areas are offering this new style of qualification and learning. More info - [T Level subjects | T Levels](#)  
You can find out which colleges are offering courses here [Find a T Level | T Levels](#)

**Choosing your A' levels for university** [Pick a route | Informed Choices](#) The subjects you study after your GCSEs may affect your options at university and your future career.

Speak with your school's Careers Adviser - Mrs Fardoe is based on the Student Services corridor, through the double doors, just after F1.

## APPRENTICESHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT: Making Choices. Choosing Workplace Learning.

Ask yourself the following questions . . .

- Do you know what job sector you want to work in? Are you ready for the world of work?
- Do you have the right skills, qualifications, personal qualities and attitude for the job you are applying for?  
Can you travel independently and get to work on time, every day?
- Do you have work experience or transferable skills? Look back though your Work Experience logbook, if you were able to do work experience **OR** consider things you may do outside of school? Good examples of this are Duke of Edinburgh Awards, being a member of a club or team or being a Cadet **OR** have you signed up for The National Citizen Service programme, which offers volunteering opportunities after you have completed GCSE studies. *If you're 16 or 17, you can take part in NCS. Visit [NCS | No We Can | National Citizen Service \(wearencs.com\)](https://www.nationalcitizenservice.com/)*
- Complete your job/ apprenticeship application and give examples of your achievements  
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2022/11/Your-step-by-step-guide-to-applying-for-an-apprenticeship.pdf>
- Are you enthusiastic about the job role and can you demonstrate this to potential employers?

What do the different levels of Apprenticeship mean?

NAME	LEVEL	EQUIVALENT
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Please visit - [Apprenticeship levels explained \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeship-levels-explained/)

To search and apply [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/find-an-apprenticeship); [Vacancies | Be More \(be-more.info\)](https://www.be-more.info/); [GetMyFirstJob | Apprenticeships, Degree Apprenticeships, Work Experience & Graduate Jobs](https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/); [Apprenticeships, School Leaver Jobs & Reviews | RateMyApprenticeship](https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/); [Discover Jobs for School & College Leavers in the UK | NGTU \(notgoingtouni.co.uk\)](https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/)

**You will need to create an account. You may be diverted to an employer website. Other things you can do to increase your chances of finding an apprenticeship –**

1. Talk to friends and family who may have contacts to help you
2. Follow social media accounts of employers you are interested in working for e.g. through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram. Many employers use social media to advertise their opportunities
3. Talk to / attend colleges and universities to find out what they offer. In many cases, they will have dedicated apprenticeship teams, who are working with employers
4. Have a backup - Plan 'B' at college or sixth form - just in case!

Access your Unifrog account here [Start - Apprenticeships - Student - Unifrog](https://www.unifrog.co.uk/start-apprenticeships-student-unifrog)

If you leave school and become NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training, please visit [Services Archive - Career Connect](https://www.servicesarchive.co.uk/) OR [Careers helpline for teenagers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/careers-helpline)

Please update Mrs Fardoe on your plans for after Year 11 [carol.fardoe@coopacademies.co.uk](mailto:carol.fardoe@coopacademies.co.uk)