

POST-16
OPTIONS:

WHAT ARE MY CHOICES?



E-ACT



This is an exciting time albeit a bit daunting for some, but there are loads of great options for you to consider and lots of friendly advice and information to help you.

Make sure you have a look at all the options available to you and work out which choice works for you and your hopes and goals for the future.

It's an exciting time to make decisions about your future learning.

Making a decision about where to go after Year 11 can be tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams, so it is important to consider the following factors that might help with decision making:

Where can this option take me in the future?

If you are thinking about a destination after post-18, such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress on to these pathways.

For example:

- If you want to study Dentistry at university, you need to take A- Levels in Chemistry and Biology/Maths/Physics.
- Some universities do not accept BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (although 95% do!)
- Apprenticeships have varying entry requirements depending on the level you are applying for.

Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least two years, so it is important that you know that whatever route you choose that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you.

On results day the Careers Team will be available to support should you need it.

Sixth Form

Sixth form typically focuses on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Pupils can choose to study at Ousedale, or another Local School or college Sixth Form.

Students can study:

Traditional A-Levels – Subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Music, Art, Economics, Business Studies and Computer Science

Alternative A-Levels – Subjects like Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, and Sports Science

BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) L3 Diplomas – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. They focus on developing a range of practical knowledge and skills to help learners progress in their career. Subjects can include Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form. Sixth forms also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

Entry Requirements

Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or 5 and above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A-Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

Sixth Form (continued)

The vast majority of Universities accept applications with both BTEC and A-Level qualifications, but if you've got your mind set on going to University, you should look at potential courses and locations, and check the entry requirements.

For A levels and BTECs offered at Ousedale along with entry requirements please refer to the school prospectus and website.

Colleges and Training Providers

Colleges and training providers usually offer BTECs or other vocational qualifications that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which can include:

General FE Colleges – Offer everything from Hair and Beauty, Childcare and Construction, through to Business Management, Games Design, Automotive Engineering, Food Technology, Fashion Design, IT, Performing Arts, Photography and many more.

Milton Keynes College - <https://www.mkcollege.ac.uk/>

MoultonCollege – <https://www.moulton.ac.uk/>

Bedford College – <https://www.bedfordcollegegroup.co.uk/>

Northampton College - <https://www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk/>

Smaller Training Providers – In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations around the city and further afield that offer a range of vocational courses for students, including Motor Vehicle, Business Admin, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Construction, Personal Fitness, Hair and Beauty and Hospitality and Catering and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students.

Colleges and Training Providers (continued)

For example, Silverstone University Technical College (UTC) runs a programme into university for young people wanting to break into the specialist fields of High Performance Engineering and Business with Events Management. For more information visit <https://www.utc-silverstone.co.uk/>

Entry Requirements:

- Entry Level/Level 1 – Can require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade)
- Level 2 – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3/D or above
- Level 3 – Usually requires 4 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above

T Levels - are relatively new courses which follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

For more information on T- Levels, check out the website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular and are an ideal option if you have a clear idea of the career path you want to follow and would prefer a more practical and work-related approach to learning.

Apprenticeships allow you to combine work and study by mixing on-the-job training with classroom learning. You'll be employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification, usually for one day a week either at a college or a training centre. There are no student fees – your training costs are funded by the government and by your employer. By the end of your apprenticeship, you'll have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in your chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level.

There are many different apprenticeships available across a wide range of industries, from childcare to construction, from hospitality to law, and banking. There are opportunities available in both small and large companies, from local organisations to large national brands, such as Network Rail and Santander.

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16 living in England and have no upper age limit. They can take between one and six years to complete, depending on which apprenticeship you choose and what level it's at:

Intermediate/Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Maths/English at GCSE

Advanced/Level 3 (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+

Higher/Level 4-5 (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires L3 or A- Levels

Degree/Level 6-7 (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar

Useful Apprenticeship Resources & Links



The Amazing Apprenticeships website is fantastic and provides lots of information and resources including a parent information pack:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com>

The following apprenticeship sites are also very useful when trying to research and explore Apprenticeship opportunities;

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships>

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-england>

<https://careermap.co.uk/careermag/>

Higher and degree apprenticeships:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships> - Provides a guide on Higher and Degree apprenticeship as well as a list of current vacancies.

It is also a good idea to use Job search sites like Indeed to research opportunities and look directly on employer websites linked to your sector of interest. Social media and LinkedIn are increasingly being used to recruit new apprentices and staff members. The Institute of Apprenticeship standards list all the apprenticeship standards available, including Apprenticeships which are currently in development.

Applying for post-16 How does it work?

Students will begin applying for their post-16 options in autumn and the application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year. Here is a projected timeline: Please note this does vary per school/college provider so please see their websites for more details.

October – Sixth form and college courses are released along with open day/open evening dates and times. You can explore upcoming open days on their websites and we will send them via email when we receive them.

January – March Open Day Events throughout this period Probable closing date for sixth form applications will be March however this will vary at each school so please check on their website.

NOTE: Colleges do not have the same deadlines but early applications are still advised!

December-February – Students are invited to sixth form/college interviews.

March – Students begin to receive offers from sixth forms and colleges

March-July – Students accept or reject offers for different courses

NOTE: Apprenticeship applications run throughout the academic year with bigger companies starting the recruitment process much earlier. Apprenticeships have a much more detailed application process than sixth form or college and require the completion of an application / submission of CV / Interview and in some cases an online ability test / assessment centre.

Applications for College / Sixth form can be submitted online on the respective websites – support is available in school if required by the Careers Team.

Labour Market Information (LMI)

At Ousedale School the Careers Department uses Labour Market Information to help students plan their career path.

What is Labour Market information (LMI)?

Labour market information is information relating to the world of work, employment trends, job roles and job availability. It includes a wide variety of data and analysis related to employment and the workforce.

How can Labour Market Information (LMI) be used?

You can use this information to find out about different job roles and the sectors that these roles are in. It will allow you to identify the skills and qualifications that are required for particular job roles, so you can plan your career path.

Why is it important?

Looking at LMI is an important way for you to develop your knowledge of different job roles that are available and the career paths that can be taken. From this information you will develop an awareness of the local and national job growth sectors, allowing you to make informed decisions about your future aspirations. By using LMI you will be able to plan realistic goals relating to your choice of career and aspirations.

Where you can find Labour Market Information

There is a wide variety of resources where you can find Labour Market Information, such as:-

- Websites such as LMI for All, National Careers Service, Careers Pilot and ICould.com
- South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) provide a detailed report on the local area and also have Careers Explorer embedded into their website to allow you to search for local opportunities.
<https://www.semlep.com/school-labour-market-information/>
- Unifrog - OusedaleSchool Student Career Portal that all students are registered on.
- Ousedale School website Careers page and Facebook page.
- Ousenews
- Local and National news shows and newspapers highlight developments and job opportunities.

Results Day

In the summer you will receive your exam results, don't panic if things don't go to plan. This isn't the end of the world, even if it feels like it. You have a number of options and paths open to you:

GCSE resits

If you don't achieve at a grade 4/5 or above in your maths and English GCSEs, you will have to re-sit these to proceed to A-level (or other) study. Remember you can re-sit these alongside College courses as well.

Appealing a GCSE grade

If you want to query a grade – perhaps one is unusually low compared with others or you've narrowly missed a grade boundary – speak to your subject teacher or head of year. They can contact the necessary exam body on your behalf and an EAR (Enquiry About Results) can be made.

Changing subjects or courses

If you have not achieved the grades needed to do the course you wanted, speak to the education provider (college, sixth form) as soon as possible to find out if they will still accept you. If they won't accept you to the original courses you applied to, find out about similar courses they offer.

Changing sixth form or college

If the college or sixth form you applied to will not accept you on the course(s) you applied for and they don't offer any similar courses you're interested in, look around at other nearby education providers. These might have lower entry requirements or a wider range of courses to consider.

Preparing your Safety Net

The great news is that you can apply and accept offers from as many sixth forms, colleges and training providers as you want and can then make your mind up about which one you want to progress on to in September after finding out what GCSE grades you have received.

Entry Requirements **What do I need to get in?**

The recent changes to the GCSE grading system have confused some people, so take a look at the information below to make sure you know what grades you might need to get at GCSE in order to move on to your chosen destination after Year 11:

Do your research!

No matter what you read online, it is important to check all information carefully. Although the Department for Education have stated that a Grade 4 will be considered the official 'Pass Mark' for students (<https://www.tes.com/news/new-gcse-pass-lowered-grade-5-4-dfe-u-turn>), not all colleges or universities may agree with this. For example, Kings College London and UCL both now ask for a Grade 5 at GCSE in English and Maths as part of their entry requirements, but Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool (all Russell Group universities) still consider Grade 4 the equivalent to a C.

Use ALL the information available!

As stated above, different post-16 and post-18 pathways may ask for different entry requirements depending on the course and/or college. For example, some apprenticeships require only GCSE English and Maths at Grade 3 (D) and above, while some sixth form colleges ask for a Grade 5/6 (high C/B) in the subject students are wanting to take up from GCSE to A-Level.

Some useful references:

Which University – How important are my GCSEs?

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-my-gcse-grades>

Ofqual - <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/02/gcse-9-to-1-grades-a-brief-guide-for-parents/>

The Student Room -

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/gcse/exams/new-gcse-grades-explained>

Qualification Levels Guide GCSE to Degree Level

Please note – entry requirements are different for each education provider. Please ensure you check these carefully for each College and Sixth Form.

L6	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)		Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 & L6)
Grades needed	Usually GCSE Math/English at Grade 4/5 and 2-3 A levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma – check first!		
L5	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)	HND (Higher National Diploma) L5	Higher/Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 & L5)
L4		HNC (Higher National Diploma) L4	
Grades needed	Usually GCSE Math/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A Levels/L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma – Check first!		
L3	A Levels – Sixth Form	L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma (BTEC or other) / Access to HE courses/ College	Advanced Apprenticeship (NVQ L3)
Grades needed	Usually 4 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including Math and English – Check first!		Usually 3-5 or more GCSEs but sometimes no formal qualifications – Check first!
L2	GCSEs (Grade 9-4)	L2 National Diploma/BTEC Diploma/ Functional Skills	Intermediate Apprenticeship (NVQ L2)
Grades needed	None	3-4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher (usually including Math and English) – Check first!	Usually none, although sometimes GCSE Math and English and a skills test – Check first!
L1	GCSEs (grade 3-1)	L1 Diploma/Functional Skills	Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)
Graded needed	None	None (sometimes basic Math and English)	None
Entry Level 1-3	Key stage 3	E3 Diploma (Foundation)	-
Grades needed	None	None	-
	School/Sixth Form	College/Further Education	Apprenticeship