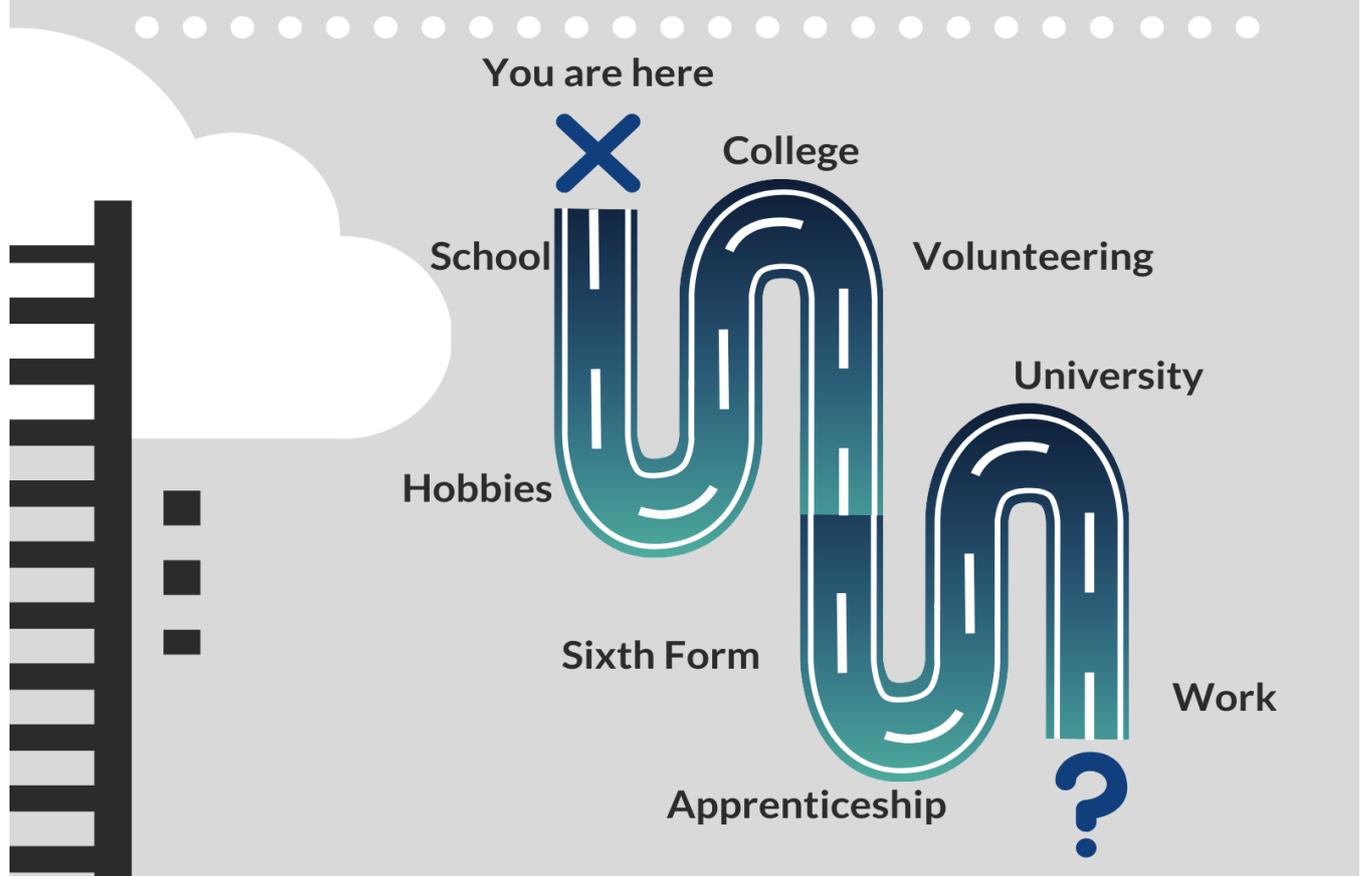




# POST 16 GUIDE

## Post 16 Options How does it all work?



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## Post-16 Education – What are my options?

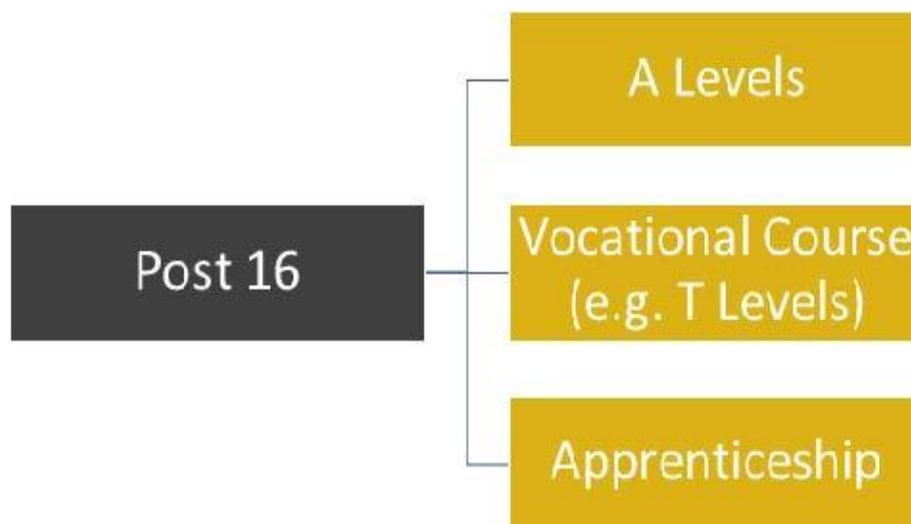
Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

**Full-Time Study** – this could be a qualification taken at a school sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

**Apprenticeships** – this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

**Traineeships** – this is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

**Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering** – this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).





If you are unsure of what options are available to you in the local area, or what is best for you, watch **this video** that discusses the positives of various learning choices.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5X4BsYg8Ck&feature=youtu.be>



## How do I pay for Post-16 education and training?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a **16-19 Bursary Fund** to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - [www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund](http://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund)

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an apprenticeship, they will no longer be considered your dependant and your benefits for them will stop. More information can be found via the **Gingerbread** website:

<https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/information/benefits-tax-credits-and-universal-credit/money-when-your-child-turns-16/>

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!



<http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk/help-information>

<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

## School Sixth Forms

School sixth forms typically focus 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. Students can study:

**Traditional A-Levels** – Subjects like **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art**  
**Alternative A-Levels** – Subjects like **Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science**

**BTEC Level 2 & Level 3 Diplomas** – Some school sixth form colleges offer Level 3 BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels or Level 2 BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside Maths and English GCSE resits. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. 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 and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. Sixth forms may 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 school sixth form usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or 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.





**United Sixth Form**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

*It is our pleasure and privilege to work with you to help REACH your goal!*

*Being a part of United Sixth Form brings with it a whole new range of opportunities and challenges. We have high expectations of you and in return we offer teaching of the highest quality, excellent facilities, a caring and supportive environment as well a comprehensive range of social and enrichment activities. You have a responsibility to work hard, both in lessons and in your own study time and to take an active part in the United Sixth Form community.*

*As well as academically, we aim to help you develop self-confidence and independence so that you can approach your learning with vigour and enthusiasm whilst with us and later in life. Sixth Form Study is undoubtedly one of the most challenging and rewarding academic experiences, and demands resilience, commitment, and determination.*

*We encourage students to work with the United Sixth Form team, including tutors, external agencies, teachers, and our Head of Careers to help you reach your full potential. We want you to be aspirational, to aim for the highest possible outcomes and we will be there to support you along the way. We want to encourage you to be the best that you can be - so be ambitious, be aspirational, fulfil your dreams and prepare for a wonderful future.*

## REACH VALUES

United Sixth Form follows REACH Values

- **Respect** – for ourselves and others in all that we do.
- **Enthusiasm** – to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests.
- **Ambition** – to achieve the best for ourselves and others.
- **Creativity and confidence** – to imagine possibilities and have the courage to take risks.
- **Hard work and determination** – to overcome obstacles to reach success



**Director of USF**  
**Mr. Walter**



**Head of USF**  
**Ms. Little**



**Visit our website:**  
[unitedsixthform.org.uk](http://unitedsixthform.org.uk)

**Apply online**  
[Unitedsixthform.applications.com](http://Unitedsixthform.applications.com)

**Follow us on**  
**Twitter:**  
[@unitedsixth](https://twitter.com/unitedsixth)

**Follow us on**  
**Instagram:**  
[@unitedsixthfrom](https://www.instagram.com/unitedsixthfrom)

## September 2022 Entry Requirements (Grade 4+ in English & Maths plus)

A level Art	Grade 6 in Art
A level Biology	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology and Grade 6 in Mathematics
A level Business	Grade 6 in Business Studies or English Language and Grade 5 in Mathematics
A level Chemistry	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or 6 in Chemistry and Grade 6 in Mathematics
A level English Language	Grade 6 in English Language and English Literature
A level English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language and English Literature
A level Geography	Grade 6 in Geography
A level History	Grade 6 in History
A level Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
A level Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in Mathematics
A level Media	Grade 6 in English and Media (if studied)
A level Music	Grade 6 in Music
A Level Physical Education	Grade 5-6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Biology and Grade 6 in English
A level Physics	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or 6 in Physics and Grade 6 in Mathematics
A level Psychology	Grade 6 in Psychology or a Grade 6 in English, Mathematics and a Science
A level Religious Studies (Ethics)	Grade 6 in Religious Studies or English
A level Sociology	Grade 6 in English or Sociology

- Students who have not had the opportunity to study the required GCSE on entry requirements above will be considered on an individual basis. For example, those whose KS4 school did not allow both Geography and History or those who have studied overseas.

## Option Blocks

A	B	C	D
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Maths
Further Maths			
History	English Literature	English Language	Geography
Business St	Ethics	Psychology	Sociology
Art	Physical Education	Music	Media

AS Level EPQ is also available, which is taught outside of option blocks in Enrichment time.

# Exciting opportunities at USF



## What can USF offer you?

- Work Experience
- Oxbridge Programme
- Business Contacts
- Student Ambassadors
- Student Council
- Journalism and Social Media
- University Links and opportunities to network
- Academic competitions
- TEFL Qualification
- USF Societies
- Guest speakers
- Local charity events and fundraisers
- Academic Trips
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- EOY Trip to London
- Alumni Network
- Prom at the Hilton
- Enrichment programme
- Academic workshops
- Trip to South Africa



**School Sixth Forms in Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole & East Dorset**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Schools in Bournemouth

USF - United Sixth Form - <https://www.unitedsixthform.org.uk/>

Bournemouth School - [www.bournemouth-school.org](http://www.bournemouth-school.org)

Bournemouth School for Girls - <http://bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk/>

St Peters - <http://st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk>

The Bishop of Winchester Academy - [www.tbowa.org](http://www.tbowa.org)

The Bourne Academy - [www.thebourneacademy.com](http://www.thebourneacademy.com)

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Schools in Christchurch

The Grange School - [www.thegrangeschool.com](http://www.thegrangeschool.com)

Twynham School - [www.twynhamschool.com](http://www.twynhamschool.com)

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Schools in Poole

Magna Academy - [www.magna-aspirations.org](http://www.magna-aspirations.org)

Parkstone Grammar School - [www.parkstone.poole.sch.uk](http://www.parkstone.poole.sch.uk)

Poole Grammar School - [www.poolegrammar.com](http://www.poolegrammar.com)

Poole High School - <https://poolehigh.co.uk>

St Edwards School - <http://website.network.st-edwards.poole.sch.uk>

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Schools in East Dorset

Corfe Hills School – [www.corfehills.net](http://www.corfehills.net)

Ferndown Upper School - <http://fernup.dorset.sch.uk>

Highcliffe School - [www.highcliffe.school](http://www.highcliffe.school)

Lytchett Minster School - [www.lytchett.org.uk](http://www.lytchett.org.uk)

Queen Elizabeth School - [www.qe.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.qe.dorset.sch.uk)

The Purbeck School - [www.purbeck.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.purbeck.dorset.sch.uk)

## **Colleges & 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, Computing, Automotive Engineering, Performing Arts, Media and Art & Design.

**Bournemouth and Poole College** – [www.thecollege.co.uk](http://www.thecollege.co.uk)

Some Further Education Colleges also offer both A Levels and vocational courses

**Brockenhurst College** – [www.brock.ac.uk](http://www.brock.ac.uk)

**Weymouth College** – [www.weymouth.ac.uk](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk)

**Specialist FE Colleges/Providers** – Offer specialist courses in one career area or interlinked career areas:

**BAMM** (Bournemouth Academy of Modern Music) - [www.bamodernmusic.com](http://www.bamodernmusic.com) – Delivers L3 Extended Diploma in Music (Performance & Production)

**Kingston Maurward College** – [www.kmc.ac.uk](http://www.kmc.ac.uk) – Delivers a range of agricultural, animal, horticultural and outdoor based courses

**Leaf Studio** - [www.leafstudio.co.uk](http://www.leafstudio.co.uk) – Delivers L3 courses in Performing Arts and Sport.

**Rockley Academy** - <https://www.rockley.org/college> - Delivers BTEC L3 Extended Diploma in Sport & Physical Activity (Outdoors) & BTEC L2 Diploma in Sport (Outdoors)

**SCL** - [www.wearescl.co.uk/afc-bournemouth](http://www.wearescl.co.uk/afc-bournemouth) - Delivers NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Sport

### **Entry Requirements:**

**Entry Level** – Usually requires no qualifications \*

**Level 1** – Usually requires 2 GCSEs at Grade 1 or above require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade) \*

**Level 2** – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3 or above \*

**Level 3** – Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above \*

\* Please check entry requirements as these will vary.

## **Smaller Training Providers**

In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations in the local area that offer a range of vocational courses for students, as well as support with **Maths** and **English** 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:

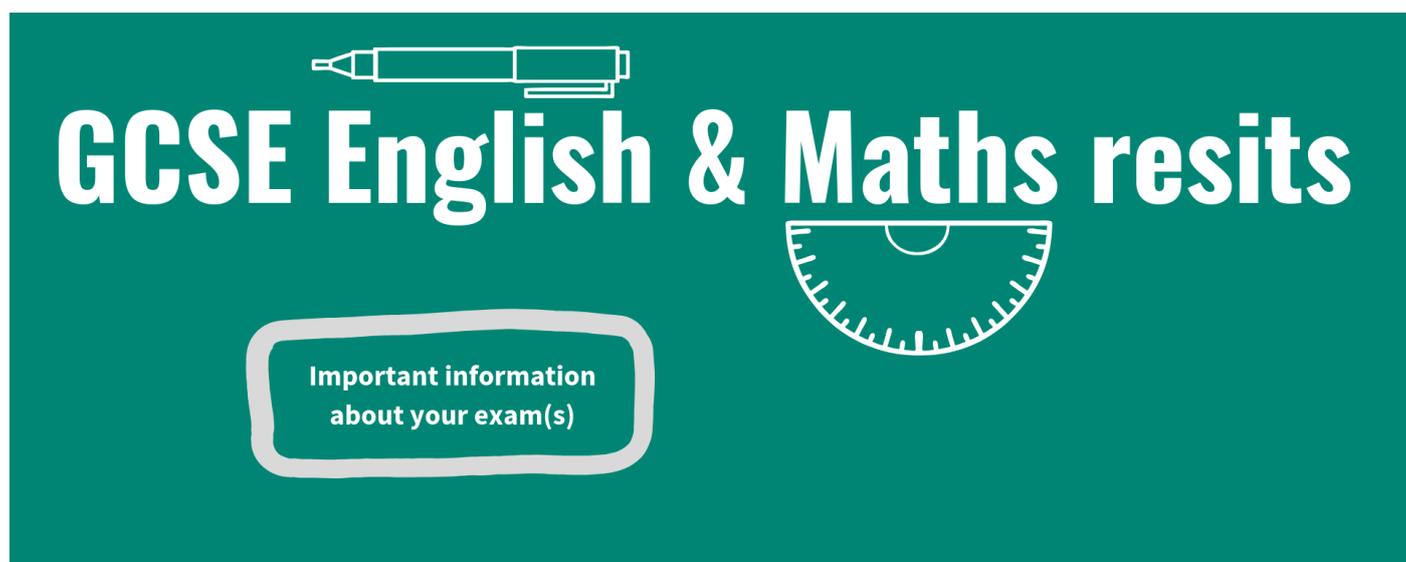
Aspire Training Team - <https://www.aspiretrainingteam.co.uk/employer-information/study-programmes/> - Level 1 Certificate in Childcare with English & Maths

SWRAC - <http://swrac.co.uk/student-training-mentoring-teaching/>

## Maths & English resits – What are the rules?

It is important to remember that if you get lower than a Grade 4 in your GCSE Maths and English exams, you will need to re-sit these qualifications as part of any course you study at college or as part of an apprenticeship.

It is nothing to worry about, as the college or training provider will help you with studying for these qualifications or if necessary, get you to complete an alternative qualification called Functional Skills Maths and English, which is available for any students who achieve lower than a Grade 3 in their GCSE Maths/English.



  
**GCSE English & Maths resits**  
  
Important information  
about your exam(s)

## What are T Levels?



T Levels are new courses which started in September 2020, 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 will 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 link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>

**Please note that there are no Schools or Further Education Colleges offering T-Levels in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole in September 2021.**

## What are T-Levels?



## Apprenticeships & Traineeships

**Apprenticeships** – Involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship). Apprenticeships must be at least one year long and all apprentices must be paid a minimum of £4.15 per hour (although many companies pay more!). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries, including **Engineering, Human Resources, Software Development, Hair and Beauty** and **Catering** (and can be started as soon as an individual turns 16 and has left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand). Apprenticeships come in four different levels:

**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

**Traineeships** – Opportunity for students aged 16-24 who do not have the relevant qualifications, experience or skills to start an apprenticeship but are interested in progressing on to one in the future. **Traineeships** involve a programme of up to six months of study, including a work placement, qualifications in Maths and English and support with finding a job or apprenticeship once the course is completed. Students are not paid for taking part but can apply for a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help with costs.

### Useful Websites:

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

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

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

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships>

## Apprenticeship Providers

### Local Colleges who offer Apprenticeships

<b>Bournemouth and Poole College</b>	Accountancy, Business Services, Care Services, Catering & Hospitality, Construction, Digital & Computing, Engineering and Hair & Beauty. <a href="http://www.thecollege.co.uk">www.thecollege.co.uk</a>
<b>Brockenhurst College</b>	Business Admin & Customer Service, Construction & Marine Engineering, Hospitality & Catering, Management and Retail. <a href="http://www.brock.ac.uk">www.brock.ac.uk</a>
<b>Kingston Maurward College</b>	Agriculture, Animal Conservation & Welfare, Arboriculture, Business & Professional, Countryside Management, Equine Studies, Horticulture, Hospitality and Outdoor Adventure & Sports Coaching – includes niche apprenticeships in Holiday Park Operations & Golf Greenkeeping. <a href="http://www.kmc.ac.uk">www.kmc.ac.uk</a>
<b>Weymouth College</b>	Accountancy, Business & Admin, Carpentry & Joinery, Catering & Hospitality, Construction, Customer Service, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Health, Social Care/Early Years, IT, Teaching Assistant and Team Leading & Management. <a href="http://www.weymouth.ac.uk">www.weymouth.ac.uk</a>



## Apprenticeship Providers

### Local Training Providers who offer Apprenticeships

<b>Aspire Training Team</b>	Business Admin & Customer Service and Early Years/Childcare. <a href="http://www.aspiretrainingteam.co.uk/">www.aspiretrainingteam.co.uk/</a>
<b>CITB</b>	Construction provision excluding Plumbing and Electrical apprenticeships. <a href="http://www.citb.co.uk/courses-and-qualifications/citb-apprenticeships/become-a-citb-apprentice/">www.citb.co.uk/courses-and-qualifications/citb-apprenticeships/become-a-citb-apprentice/</a>
<b>FNTC</b>	Accountancy, Business Admin, Childcare, HR and Digital Marketing. <a href="http://www.fntctraining.co.uk">www.fntctraining.co.uk</a>
<b>Francesco Group</b>	Hair and pre-apprenticeship training. <a href="http://www.francescogroup.co.uk">www.francescogroup.co.uk</a>
<b>HIT Training</b>	Hospitality, Catering and Customer Service. <a href="http://www.hittraining.co.uk">www.hittraining.co.uk</a>
<b>Locomotivation</b>	Active Leisure Aviation, Business, Hospitality and Retail. <a href="http://www.locomotivation.co.uk">www.locomotivation.co.uk</a>
<b>JTL Training</b>	Building Services Engineering, Electrical, Plumbing, Heating & Ventilating, Property Maintenance. <a href="http://www.jtltraining.com/apprenticeships">www.jtltraining.com/apprenticeships</a>
<b>Paragon Skills</b>	Accountancy, Business Admin & Customer Services, Care Services Hair & Beauty, Hospitality, Motor Vehicle and Marine Engineering. <a href="http://www.pgon.co.uk">www.pgon.co.uk</a>
<b>Smart Training</b>	Business Admin, Customer Service, Hospitality & Catering, Health & Social Care and IT <a href="http://www.smarttar.co.uk">www.smarttar.co.uk</a>
<b>Skills and Learning</b>	Business Admin & Customer Services, Care Worker, Hairdressing & Barbering and Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools (Teaching Assistant), <a href="http://www.skillsandlearningace.com">www.skillsandlearningace.com</a>
<b>South West Shared Apprenticeships (SWSA)</b>	Construction Apprenticeships (excluding Plumbing & Electrical) <a href="http://www.swsharedapprenticeships.com">www.swsharedapprenticeships.com</a>

# Apprenticeship Checklist

There are 3 main components for an Apprenticeship to work successfully these are:

<b>You</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Education/Training Provider</b>
------------	-----------------	------------------------------------

**You**  
For an apprenticeship to work you will need to have secured an employer. Before you start applying for any Apprenticeship vacancies you will need an up to date CV. The school Careers Adviser will be happy to help you with this.

**Employer**  
You will then need to consider which employers you might want to work for and decide how far you are willing to travel. Create a list of local employers you can do this by using [www.yell.com](http://www.yell.com) and start contacting employers to ask if they have any apprenticeship vacancies and be sure to include a copy of your CV.

**Education/Training Providers**  
You can then start contacting local education providers to see what apprenticeship areas they offer. You can do this by:

- Obtaining a prospectus, booklet
- Looking on their website
- Contacting your local training provider directly and attending open events

## Apprenticeship Checklist

Activity	Completed 
What type of Apprenticeship would you like to do?	
Visit the below Apprenticeship websites for information and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship">www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk">www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk</a></li> </ul>	
Create a CV tailored towards the apprenticeship vacancy/job sector you are applying to (If you don't have one already). If you are applying to a IT/Digital or Media/Marketing role it is a good idea to have a LinkedIn profile.	
Check your CV with someone you trust such as your School Careers Adviser.	
Create a list of local employers that you would like to work for using <a href="http://www.yell.com">www.yell.com</a>	
Check training provider websites for any information on Apprenticeships they might offer such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bournemouth &amp; Poole College</li> <li>• Paragon</li> </ul>	
Contact the employers and send them your CV (please note that some employers may have a specific recruitment and selection process with strict closing dates for applications. We suggest you contact any employers of interest to check this information out)	
Contact the local education providers to see what apprenticeships are available	
Complete the necessary application forms for each provider	
Keep an up to date list of everyone you have contacted	
Consider applying to a relevant full-time course as a back-up option/PLAN B	

## Applying for Post-16 – How does it work?

Students will begin applying for their post-16 options in Autumn 2020 and the application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year.

### Preparing Your Safety Net

Although many students achieve the grades that they want from their GCSE examinations, it is important to prepare a back-up option in case students change their minds about what subjects they want to study or are unsuccessful in getting the grades required in order to progress on to their college/apprenticeship/course of choice.

The great news is that students can apply and accept offers from as many sixth forms, colleges and training providers as they want and can then make their mind up about which one they want to progress on to in September after visiting the environment, meeting the staff and finding out what GCSE grades they have received in August 2021!

**REMEMBER** – Always prepare your ‘*Safety Net*’!



# 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.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

## Key Points:

- A **Grade 4** is a **Standard Pass**, while a **Grade 5** is a **Strong Pass**
- Only around 2-3% of students will achieve a **Grade 9**, making it a little higher than the old **A\***
- Although the new grades don't exactly match the old grades, colleges will mostly view them as follows:  
**9-7 = A\* - A    6 = B    4-5 = C    3-1 = D and below**
- Vocational qualifications like **BTEC** and **VCERT** match up with GCSEs as follows:  
**L1 = GCSE grades 1-3 (Pass - Distinction)**  
**L2 = GCSE grades 4-9 (Pass - Distinction)**
- Most colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships accept BTEC-type qualifications, as do **95%** of universities, including the Russell Group and Oxford!

## 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. Using the following websites can help you to find the exact entry requirements you need:

## Some useful references:

### Which University – How important are my GCSEs?

<https://www.theuniguide.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

<b>L6</b>	<p><b>University Degree</b> (BA/BSc/BEng)</p>	<p><b>University Degree</b> (BA/BSc/BEng)</p>	<p><b>Degree Apprenticeship</b> (NVQ L5 + L6)</p>
	<p><b>Grades Needed:</b> Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)</p>	<p>Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)</p>	<p>Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)</p>
<b>L5</b>	<p>Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)</p>	<p>HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)</p>	<p><b>Higher/Degree Apprenticeship</b> (NVQ L4 + L5)</p>
		<p>HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)</p>	
<b>L4</b>	<p>Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)</p>	<p>HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)</p>	<p>HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)</p>
		<p>HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)</p>	
<b>Grades Needed:</b>	<p>Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma</p>	<p>Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma</p>	<p>Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma</p>

## How do I make my final decision about Post-16?

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-16, 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. Use websites like the Russell Group's **Informed Choices** (<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>) or **Success at School** (<https://successatschool.org/>) to find out whether the course you choose after Year 11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do or speak with staff at the sixth form, college or apprenticeship you are applying to in order to get further details!

For example:

- If you want to study Dentistry at university, you usually 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 – some ask for 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above while others ask for 2-3 A-Levels
- 
- **What will doing this option be like?** Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you. Why not...
    - Speak to sixth form or college staff and students at one of the many Open Days or Open Evenings that take place throughout the year – the websites for each sixth form or college will have these dates on.
    - Research more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organisation can provide you with while you are studying e.g. help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, assistance from the careers team to help you move on after finishing your course etc. Sixth form and college websites have all the information you need!

## Useful Websites



Search and apply for apprenticeships online – <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>



Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university – <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>



One stop shop website to help with focusing on the future, resilience, career goals and support for students and parents - <https://www.sunoutreach.org/resource-category/flying-start-dorset-wide/>



Improve your employability skills and start recording your experiences in a CV – [www.barclayslifeskills.com](http://www.barclayslifeskills.com)



Learn more about career, learning and training choices – <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>



Free careers software to help you connect your skills, hobbies and subject interests to what you might want to do once you leave school – <https://www.startprofile.com/>



Start volunteering to gain valuable work-related skills and experience – <https://vinspired.com>