



Year 11 Next Steps

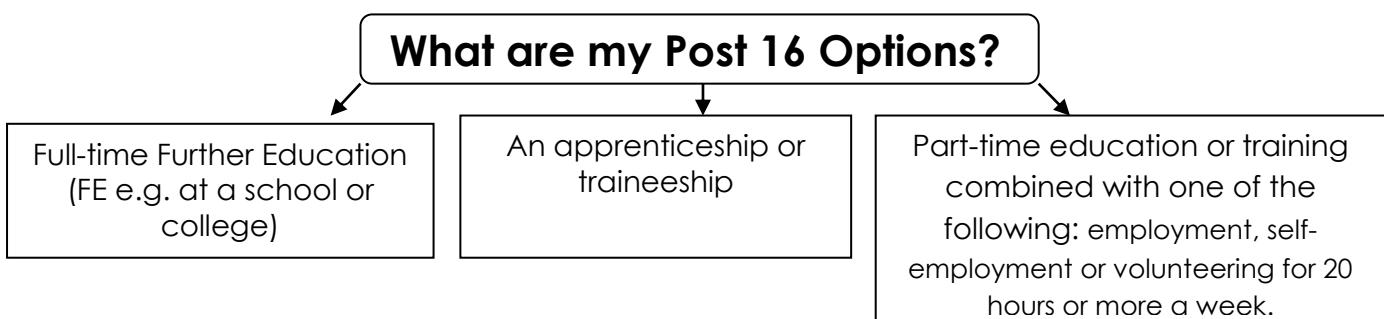
A guide for Pupils, Parents & Carers



This guidance booklet has been put together to help you understand the options available to you when you leave school and to inform you of the processes of applying and gaining a place in further education or training.

Raising the Participation Age

From September 2015, young people are required to stay in education or training up to the age of **18**. Gaining more qualifications, recognised by employers will increase your earning power and improve your life chances. We all know that our own and the world economy is changing. Today, more **jobs require higher levels of skills** than in the past. Young people without qualifications are at a disadvantage. If young people are disadvantaged, then so is our economy as we need to compete with other countries for jobs.



1. Further Education

A Levels (Advanced levels) are the traditional qualifications offered to **16-19 year olds**. They are highly valued by universities and employers and focus on **academic** subjects. Some are called '**Applied**' making them more work-related. With the A level reforms many subjects will now be taught as a two-year linear course with exams at the end of the 2nd year. You are usually offered **3** subjects, however, some able pupils may do 4. There is a wide range of subjects to choose from (see Appendix A). You are usually required to obtain at least **5 GCSEs at grades 4 or above** including English and Maths grade 4/5. Some providers require **two grade 6s**. For some subjects such as Maths and Science you might be required to get at least grade 6 in that GCSE to continue on into the A level. You will need to check with individual providers as to what their entry requirements are, that is why it is best to aim as high as you can to give yourself the best choices.

BTEC qualifications are vocational (job or work-related) qualifications. They're designed for people interested in a particular sector or industry. These qualifications accommodate the needs of employers as well as allowing progression to university. They provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a theoretical background. They offer a mixture of theory and practice. Emphasis is on coursework, on-going assessment, work-based assignments and some include exams. There is also an element of work experience.

There are providers that will allow you to do a combination of both A levels and BTEC subjects.

Foundation Learning/Access to Further Education are courses for those who have few or no formal qualifications or are unsure about which educational or career route they want to follow. The Access to FE or Pathways courses enables you to achieve qualifications whilst keeping your options open. This course can lead onto Level 1 or Level 2 courses, training programmes or employment along with developing your skills in English and Maths. Some of these courses offer 5 'faster' subjects to help you decide what you want to specialise in after completion.

2. Apprenticeships/Traineeships

An **Apprenticeship** is a real job with contract and training which allows you to earn while you learn, whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and cover 1500 job roles in a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing. Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and beyond. The current minimum starting wage is £3.70 per hour. This increases the older you get and as you complete the course. The average weekly wage is £160, depending on the company it can be a lot higher.

A **traineeship** is an education and training programme with work experience that usually lasts from 6 weeks to 6 months unlocking the great potential of young people by helping them to become 'work ready' helping them to secure an apprenticeship or employment.

During **National Apprenticeships Week** 4th-8th March 2019 there will information going out during form time. On Friday 8th March there will be a year 11 assembly to find out how more and how to apply. If this is something you are interested in you should do some research in the meantime. Please see www.getingofar.gov.uk/ or search vacancies on www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch talk to the colleges too, as many of them offer apprenticeships.

There is a Live Vacancies report in **studentcommon>Careers>Apprenticeships** area of all the apprenticeship and traineeships in Birmingham and Solihull. Keep a look out! Please note the start dates as you won't be able to start until July 2019, after your exams.

Please note some large companies have earlier deadlines such as JaguarLandRover in December. https://www.jaguarlandrovercareers.com/go/Apprentice-Programmes/3202701/?locale=en_GB

3. Work and part-time study

If you are not in full time further education or training, you will be required to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of employment or volunteering whilst studying part time.

Where can I find out more?

Attend 'Post 16 Options' evening Tuesday 9th October 2018

Representatives from the local colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeship providers and The Birmingham Careers Service will be in school to talk to you about your options. Year 11 pupils, parents and carers are invited into school starting at 5.30pm.

Go to Open Day events

Visit the colleges to see their facilities first hand and speak to the specialist subject tutors and their existing students. Please be aware that for some open days you will need to pre-register on the colleges' website and some require you to be accompanied by an adult. You will find a full list of dates enclosed with this booklet (Appendix B).

Collect Prospectuses

Gather as much information about as many colleges you are interested in. Try to find out their latest results and the destinations of their students to gage how successful they are. You can compare the attainment on this website. <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools?for=16to18>

www.ucasprogress.com

You can search for the courses you are interested in or go directly on the providers' websites. <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/16-18-choices/getting-started/what-are-my-options/what-qualifications-are-there-for-16-18>

There are some good videos that explains the different types of courses.

Search for courses now!

Where do you want to search?

Optional: How far away do you want to search?
 This area only 1 mile 5 10 20 40 miles

Optional: Which learning provider do you want to study at?
If you know the name of a school, college, academy or work-based training provider enter it here, or leave it blank to search all providers

Optional: Which courses or subjects do you want to look at?
If you know the name of courses, subjects or other types of learning opportunities enter them here, or leave it blank to search all courses

Search

Kudos Careers Matcher

If you would like to get some ideas of what you could be *most suited* to do in the future, complete the online questions to generate a tailored list of matches. It only takes about 20 minutes. See the mini guide included of how to get started. This is a great place to do up to date careers research, even if you know exactly what you want to do in the future take a look at the accompanying videos. There is also a great **CV builder** if you're looking for work experience or part time jobs whilst studying after your GCSEs. www.cascaid.co.uk/kudos licence code - **b280aa** (Appendix C)

MyFuture

How do you feel about... 

Think carefully before answering these questions. Your MyFuture career ideas are based on these answers so try to be as clear as possible.

Working with babies, children or teenagers 	 Dislike Very Much	 Dislike	 Does Not Matter	 Like	 Like Very Much
Working outdoors in any weather 	 Dislike Very Much	 Dislike	 Does Not Matter	 Like	 Like Very Much
Working in an office 	 Dislike Very Much	 Dislike	 Does Not Matter	 Like	 Like Very Much

The National Careers Service

You can search current **Labour Market Information** (this shows you the predictions of jobs available in the future) and view the **Job Profiles**. The Job Profiles include the skills and qualifications needed along with the typical salary you would expect to earn. You can also speak to one of their advisors on 0800 100 900 or chat online at <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

Birmingham Careers Service 1-to-1 Careers Meetings

All Year 11 pupils are offered a 30 minute careers guidance meeting, please ensure you attend this. This is your opportunity to receive impartial Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) about careers, colleges, apprenticeships, universities or anything you may need support with. This is with an independent advisor from the Birmingham Careers Service, Eileen Hughes. If you would like to make an appointment to be seen sooner rather than later, please either see Miss Homer or make a request on your Grofar profile. You will then receive an appointment slip in your register a few days before and an email notification from Grofar. Note down the time and date and any questions you might have in your planner/phone. Following this you will be given a personalised **Careers Action Plan** as a record of your discussion and to help you understand what your next steps are.

King Edwards Camp Hill Boys and Girls Sixth Form Talks

For those pupils who may be hoping to achieve grades 6 and above in 5 or more subjects including English and maths, who may consider going to a grammar sixth form. They are invited to run a lunchtime talk on Friday 19th October starting at 1.35pm- 2.15pm.

The Application Process

How do I choose which subjects to take?

Enjoyment Many of you will be studying these subjects for the next 2 years, so choosing ones you actually enjoy will keep you motivated and help you achieve the best grades possible. Unless the subject is an entry requirement for your degree, or necessary to other future plans you may have, there's no point signing up for it if you don't look forward to lessons.

Strengths and recommendations Which subjects do you excel in and why? Talking to your teachers will give you an accurate idea of where your strengths and weaknesses lie, and guide you toward the subjects that may suit you better than others.

Parents and teachers Speak to your family too. Speak to people you know and visiting employers like at the Careers Fair in January about their career journeys.

Meet Employers and Post 16 Providers There will be events in school over the coming year where you will get to speak to a range of people including the Post 16 Evening, Aimhigher Assembly (3rd November) and Careers Fair (16th January).

Remember you shouldn't feel pushed into a subject you don't feel comfortable with. You're the one that has to complete the exams, or practical work for it, pick subjects you are confident in.

Research Take a look at the syllabus or course content for the subjects you are considering, especially if they were not available to you at GCSE level, such as Politics or Psychology. Some students take subjects they think will interest them, but quickly become disappointed when

they find it's not what they were expecting. Also see the Cadbury Career Pathways lists (Appendix D)

Future Career Plans If you're considering going to university you need to check the entry requirements for the course(s) you are considering. There are a significant number of subjects where at least one particular A level is compulsory. See www.ucas.com for higher education degrees and courses.

Not going to university? Try to pick subjects that will be valuable to potential employers, and useful in the real world. For example, Mathematics has applications in many industries, as does Biology, Economics and Business Studies.

"Soft" subjects Some top universities in the UK have A level "blacklists", made up of subjects they feel do not prepare students for a degree as well as more traditional ones such as Chemistry, Mathematics and History. If you're planning to apply to a prestigious or "red brick" university, make sure you're not going to put yourself at a disadvantage by choosing an A level in Media Studies, Photography or Sociology. Russell Group universities recommend you choose at least 2 traditional subjects to ensure you will be considered by their admissions tutors. If you're still uncertain, phone or email the university admissions team and ask for their advice.

Options Not sure what you want to do after sixth form or college? Or no career path in mind? No worries. If you want to go travelling for a while or get full time/temporary/ part-time job while you think about your next step, pick subjects that keep your options open. Go for ones you find interesting and are good at, especially if they are traditional subjects. This means you're likely to achieve high grades, and still go to a good university if you choose to apply later on.

Application Forms

Once you know where you want to apply to, you need to complete your online application forms. You should submit a **minimum of 2 applications** giving you a first choice and a back-up option. You can submit more but remember you will need to go to all of the interviews. Support applications will be available during the week beginning Mon 19th November. If you are a pupil who is projected to obtain 5 or more grades 6s you may want to consider a grammar school 6th form or The University of Birmingham School. For those who want to make applications for apprenticeships they are usually made from May onwards via the apprenticeships.org.uk website.

Personal Statements

Some application forms ask for a personal statement or further detailed information about you. Please see the template of what you could include (Appendix E).

References

Form Tutors will be completing your references by 17th November. Your **punctuality, attendance, projected grades** will be noted as well as comments on your **attitude to learning**. Please note most colleges will be expecting you to have at least 95% attendance or higher, unless there has been a genuine reason for your absence.

End of January Deadline

Applications should ideally be submitted by December allowing you to fully focus on your Mock exams. Post 16 providers do have various deadline dates please be aware of this so you do not leave it too late. You can make adjustments to your choices if necessary in writing an email to the provider.

Confirmation

You should receive an email, letter or text from the post 16 provider to say they have received your application. If you do not receive any confirmation you may need to check it has been received. The provider will then request a reference form from the school.

Interviews

Some colleges will start their interview process quickly and some in the new year, depending on how soon you apply. If this is during school time you **must** show the letter/text/email **to reception** when you sign in or out of school. Some colleges will have a new online booking system allowing you to choose a convenient time. If for any reason you cannot attend it is courteous to let the college know in order for them to give that time to interviewing somebody else. Politely inform them with a call or email explaining who you are and when your interview is. It will reflect badly on yourself and the school if you don't 'show up'. For further guidance please see the 'Advice for Post 16 Interviews' sheet (Appendix F).

Joseph Chamberlain College interviews will take place in school in January (date tbc).

Conditional Place

If a college offers you a conditional place (based on particular predicted grades) that's great, but do accept **all** offers so that you can make a decision in the Summer of which college you would prefer to go to and just in case for any reason you do not get the grades you expected or you change your mind.

Please let Miss Homer know when you have accepted your offers so she can ensure all pupils have secured a place for September.

Recording your intended destinations

Once you have an offer you need to let Miss Homer know. You can do this on Grofar

Further support

Careers Noticeboard

Keep an eye out for updates in the Canteen notice board. The careers area in The Library also has lots of college and university prospectuses, books & magazines for you to view.

Community/Voluntary Work

In order to build on your skills and experience and to have extra evidence of your CV, once you have completed your GCSE exams why not join 'The Challenge' (they will be in school 6th November at parents evening and there will be an assembly in the new year to tell you more). This is a summer programme inspiring and connecting people in order to strengthen your local community www.the-challenge.org

www.vinspired.com Search for local volunteering opportunities.

www.icould.com is a good place to look for inspirational careers articles and videos.

www.careersbox.co.uk online library of careers related films, news and information.

If you need extra help

If you need any assistance or any prospectuses (available from 10th October) please see Miss Homer in the Room 24 Careers Office.