



# EXPLORING POST-16 PATHWAYS

**Post-16 education is compulsory and can take place in multiple forms but must include some sort of training or educational programme. Post-16 takes place after your GCSE's and includes anything such as college courses, 6th form, apprenticeships, employment with training, or anything with some type of learning attached to it.**

You may be thinking about going to university after your post-16 education, so it is important to keep this in mind when planning your next steps.

## SIXTH FORM

- Most Sixth Forms offer both A Level and BTEC courses.
- You can study 1 BTEC course, or choose up to 4 A Levels.
- Depending on the subject you choose, assessments may be a mixture of coursework, exams, and practical assessments.
- You may be required to be in school 5 days per week, but depending on how many subjects you are studying this might include free periods for independent study.
- Some schools require Sixth Formers to wear a uniform, this could be business wear.
- If you are transitioning into the Sixth Form attached to your current school then you will be familiar with the staff and environment, however you can also move to a different school Sixth Form too.
- Staff in Sixth Form will support you to apply for university.



## COLLEGE

- Colleges offer both A Level and BTEC courses, alongside a wide range of vocational courses that includes; Child Care, Engineering, Hospitality, and Beauty Therapy. It is important to do your research.
- Depending on the course and subjects you chose, you can study full-time or part-time.
- Assessments will be a mixture of coursework, exams, and practical assessments, depending on the course.
- Moving to college is a great opportunity to meet new people, increase your independence, and build confidence.
- There are specialist colleges for students who want to study art, performing arts, sports, agricultural studies, and many more!
- Your college will support you with applying to university. There may also be an opportunity to progress into university level studies whilst still in college.





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## TRAINEESHIP

- A traineeship is a course that includes a work experience placement, it can last from 6 weeks up to 6 months.
- Traineeships are available to people aged 16 to 24 years old.
- It includes work experience, work preparation guidance delivered by the training provider, and maths and English support if needed.
- A Traineeship can act as a gateway into an apprenticeship if you don't have the skills required already.
- You won't be paid whilst completing a Traineeship, but you may be given expenses for things like travel and meals.



## APPRENTICESHIP

- An Apprenticeship might be right for you if you already know what job or career you want to progress into.
- You will gain a nationally recognised qualification alongside earning a wage whilst working full-time. Typically 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday structured working week.
- There are different levels of apprenticeships that you can access, depending on your age, what qualifications you have, and the type of apprenticeship.
- Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2) lasts 12–18 months and is equivalent to 5 GCSEs.
- Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3) lasts 18–48 months and is equivalent to 2 A-levels.
- Wages will be different depending on the industry, location, and type of apprenticeship. The minimum wage for Apprentices aged 16-18 is currently £3.70 per hour.



## USEFUL RESOURCES



**INTRO TO  
APPRENTICESHIPS**



**MAKING DECISIONS  
WORKSHEET**

