



Post 16 Information

An information pack designed for students in Year 10 and year 11 and their parents and carers, to support them through the process of applying for post-16 education or training from the options available.

Introduction

This pack is to inform Year 10 students and their parents and carers about their next steps following GCSE exams. This is commonly called post-16 education and training or Further Education. Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has meant that young people must be in some form of education or training until they are 18. This can include one of the following options:

Sixth Form

Sixth forms deliver A Levels, BTEC Diplomas and Applied qualifications at **level 3** over a two-year period.

A Levels are graded A* - E and are similar to GCSEs but look at subjects in a lot more depth. This is why it is normal to only choose 3 subjects to focus on.

BTEC and Applied Level 3 qualifications, also two years long, can be taken alone or alongside other A Level subjects depending on the sixth form and how many units the BTEC has (6-unit BTEC – comparable to one A Level, 12-unit BTEC comparable to two A Levels, 18-unit BTEC comparable to three A levels). These are usually made up of several separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams.

Entry Requirements:

Most sixth forms will usually ask students to have 5 x GCSEs at grade 4 or above including maths and English Language. This varies depending on each sixth form and the subject choices, so checking is vitally important. Some will ask for grades 4 or above in both maths and English Language and potentially other subjects depending on subject choices. For example, it is common to be required to have achieved at least a grade 7 at GCSE to be able to study A Level maths.

Colleges and Training Providers

Colleges and training providers offer BTEC and other vocational qualifications at different levels that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which also relates to a job or career. Vocational means around an area of work. These courses are usually either one or two years long, with progression options for higher level qualifications on completion, in the same or similar area. Examples include: Engineering, Hair and Beauty, Childcare, Construction, Motor Vehicle, Business, IT, Performing Arts and many more.

Entry Requirements:

Entry Level/Level 1 – can require anything from no qualifications to up to 4 x GCSEs (at any grade) including maths and English language.

Level 2 – usually requires x 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above including either maths and English language at grade 4 or above.

Level 3 – usually requires 5 x GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above including both maths and English language at grade 4 or above. (Some courses will also require a portfolio of work so checking is vital)

Level 3 Extended Diploma courses are a route into university and are taught for 2 years.

All entry requirements can alter and vary from provider to provider and by course to course.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships involve working for an employer and training with a local training provider to gain qualifications in relation to the job role. Between them they will agree the entry requirements for the job role and the level of training being undertaken.

Apprenticeship levels available for post-16 school leavers include: Level 2 – Intermediate

Level 3 – Advanced

Higher level apprenticeship (level 4 and 5) and Degree apprenticeships (level 6 and 7) are available to post-18 students and adults and can follow on from any form of Level 3 study or apprenticeships.

Apprenticeship vacancy search - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Pay and conditions - <https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice/pay-and-conditions>

T-Levels

T-Levels (Technical) were a new qualification from September 2020, they are similar to A Levels but with a mixture of classroom learning and 'on the job learning' experience with an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approx. 45 days)

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

Traineeships

A Traineeship is an unpaid work experience option with no vocational qualifications attached. This is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualification to do so yet. This option can last up to six months and involve maths and English study to help with application for apprenticeships.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships--2>

Making Applications

Students can begin to apply for post-16 courses at colleges and sixth forms from the Autumn of their Year 11 (**October 2022**) ready for the following September and it is advised that students complete their applications by Christmas. This is done online via the provider's website (with the exception of Brackenhurst College and a few 6th forms - Application forms can be collected from Miss Blyth or found in the careers section of the school library.

A projected timeline:

October – Sixth form and college applications open.

Open days are advertised through provider websites along with booking instructions. Miss Blyth will also advertise these in school.

January – Some sixth forms and colleges will close applications. It is worth checking each provider you are interested in and making early applications to avoid disappointment.

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

Students begin to receive 'conditional offers' (this means based on them gaining the grades required to meet the entry requirements for the specific courses applied for). This will be determined on results day in August.

March–July – Students accept conditional offers received for the courses they have applied for.

(It is important to remember, students can accept more than one course option and make their final decision in the summer, when they have received their exam results).

April onwards – A lot more apprenticeship vacancies will start to be advertised on The **National Apprenticeship Service** website. Students can start apprenticeships after the last Friday in June.

August – GCSE Results day

Enrolment onto courses at sixth form, college, or training provider.

NOTE: Apprenticeship applications run throughout the academic year with bigger companies starting their recruitment processes much earlier. Start looking in September/October of Year 11, as some employers have much more detailed application processes and can require CV submission, interviews and in some cases online ability tests and assessment centres.

Support Available

Students can access support with applications or recruitment advice via Miss Blyth, The Wells Academies Careers Leader. **All year 11 students will be offered a 1:1 personal guidance meeting during the school day, between September and April.** Lots of support will be delivered through The Wells academies Personal Development Curriculum (PDC) and Tutor time, to include; careers research, post 16 and post 18 research, online applications, interview preparation and other personal guidance requirements.

Opportunities to access other support include after school drop-in sessions which are advertised to students throughout the year and further 1:1 personal guidance meetings on request through tutors.

How many colleges and courses can students apply for?

Students can apply for and accept as many courses and conditional offers as they would like to. We would advise that they apply for more than one college or sixth form and at different levels of courses, where available, so they have a backup option in case the entry requirements are not met on results day.

How can I help my child?

Encourage your child to find out about local open days and attend with them or encourage them to attend with friends. Some providers offer virtual open days to make them more accessible, which is helpful but not the same as going and getting a feel for the new learning environment.

Some 6th forms only have one open event, these can be very early in the academic year – Please remember to check the education providers websites. Miss Blyth will also advertise these in school.

Show an interest and have discussions with your child about their future plans. Let them figure out what route is best for them.

Every student in year 11 will have a careers meeting with Miss Blyth, at which time, an action plan will be agreed, for the student to work on to help them develop a plan for their future. If they are still unsure about what to do, please encourage your child to make a referral to see Miss Blyth for a 1:1 personal guidance meeting.

For further information and support contact the school's careers leader

Miss Blyth – cblyth@thewellsacademy.org

Students can research different career sectors and job roles using Unifrog our online careers platform, the Prospects website and National Careers Service website.



The Unifrog platform supports learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations.

PROSPECTS

Looking for that perfect career?
We guide millions of students to make the right choice.
Match your skills and personality to 400+ job profiles.



Labour market information as well as job profiles can be used and researched on the National Careers Service website: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>



Use the UCAS website to find out everything you need to know about studying at university. From researching different higher education courses, gaining information about apprenticeships, to finding out how the UCAS tariff system works.

Local Further Education Providers

Further Education Provider	College / Sixth Form / Training Provider	Level of Courses	Website
Access Training		Level 1 & 2	https://www.atem.co.uk/
Bluecoat Academy	Sixth Form	Level 2 & Level 3	Home - Bluecoat Sixth Form
Bilborough College	Sixth Form	Level 3	https://bilborough.ac.uk/
Brackenhurst College	College	Level 2 & 3	https://www.ntu.ac.uk/c/virtual-open-day/brackenhurst-college-courses
Confetti College	College	Level 1, 2 & 3	https://confetti.ac.uk/
Inspire Learning	Training Provider	Level 1 & 2	https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/16-24-year-olds/
Nottingham College	College / Sixth Form	Level 1, 2 & 3	https://www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/
Nottingham Greenwood Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Level 3	Nottingham Greenwood - Sixth Form (nottinghamacademy.org)
Nottingham Girls Academy Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Level 3	Nottingham Girls' Academy - Sixth Form (nottinghamgirlsacademy.org)
NUAST	Sixth Form	Level 3	Sixth Form NUAST
Rushcliffe Spencer Academy	Sith Form	Level 3	info@rushcliffespencer.com
Sports Gateway	Training Provider	Level 2 & 3	https://www.sportsgateway.co.uk/our-courses/
The Carlton Academy	Sixth Form	Level 3	http://www.theacademycarlton.org.uk/sixth-form-0
The Nottingham Emmanuel Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Level 3	admin@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk
Vision West Notts College	College / Sixth Form	Level 1, 2 & 3	https://www.wnc.ac.uk/

The above is not an exhaustive list.

A full list of Further Education providers can be found and compared using the following websites:

Nottinghamshire:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=891&la-name=nottinghamshire&geographic=la&for=16to18>

Nottingham:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=892&la-name=nottingham&geographic=la&for=16to18>