

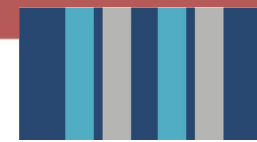


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Making Post 16 Decisions

With
Anna Finlason
Trust Careers Adviser



Post-16 choices

1) In England - all young people are legally required to be in some form of education or training until they are... **18 years old**

2) The 3 main options after Year 11 are... **F.E. college, sixth form, or apprenticeship**

3) Ways to research about post Year 11 options:

A few suggestions:

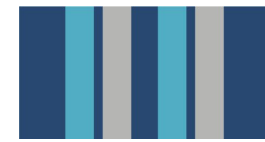
- UNIFROG
- school/college/company/apprenticeship websites
- Attendance at sixth form & college open events
- Attendance at Trust F.E./H.E. Fair
- Attendance at Trust / local school Careers Fair...

The benefits of preparation...



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- ✓ **Time** to do **important research & explore options**
- ✓ **Increased confidence** (for students, parents, and guardians)
- ✓ Ability to make an ***informed decision***
- ✓ Fewer surprises + avoids disappointment (e.g. missed deadlines)
- ✓ **Ready** for exciting unplanned opportunities! (e.g. apprenticeship opportunities, etc.)
- ✓ **Less panic!**



When do Year 11 students need to start **applying** for Sixth forms, colleges & apprenticeships to start after Year 11?



**Autumn Term
of
Year 11!
(from October)**



Things to consider – post 16 options:



- Individual needs (including learning preferences, Special Educational Needs (SEN), EHCP, etc.)
- Future plans – some post 18 routes may require certain subjects / courses
- GCSE grades (predicted and actual)
- Type of provision / entry requirements



Education Levels



Level 3	A-Levels	BTEC Extended Diploma (= X3 A-Levels) T-Level (= x3 A-Levels)	BTEC Diploma (= 1.5 - 2 A=Levels)	BTEC Extended Certificate (= 1 A-Level)	Advanced Apprenticeship
Level 2	GCSE Grades 4-9	BTEC <u>Level 2</u>, NVQ (National <u>Vocational Qualification</u>)			Intermediate Apprenticeship or Traineeship
Level 1	GCSE Grades 1-3	Level 1 Award, Certificate, Diploma + Level 1 in ESOL, Essential Skills, Functional Skills, NVQ, and Music (grades 1-3)			Traineeship
Entry Level	Tier 3 – <small>Including GCSE English / Maths</small> Tier 2 Tier 1	Entry Level Award, Certificate (ELC), Diploma + Entry Level in ESOL, (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Essential Skills Functional Skills, and Skills for Life			Traineeship

GCSE grades explained

How the new grades compare with old ones



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Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 Strong Pass
	4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-48993830>



BTEC grades explained

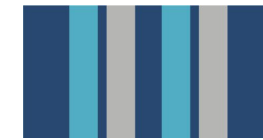


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BTEC Level 1/2 Firsts	BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Awards	BTEC Level 2 Technicals	BTEC Level 3 Nationals BTEC (QCF) qualifications
Level 2 Distinction (D)	Level 2 Distinction (L2D)	Distinction (D)	Distinction (D)
Level 2 Merit (M)	Level 2 Merit (L2M)	Merit (M)	Merit (M)
Level 2 Pass (P)	Level 2 Pass (L2P)	Pass (P)	Pass (P)
Level 1 Pass (L1)	Level 1 Distinction (L1D)		Near Pass (N)
	Level 1 Merit (L1M)		
	Level 1 Pass (L1)		

<https://careermap.co.uk/career-advice/school-leavers/btec-results-day>





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[Home](#) > [Education and learning](#) > [Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work](#)

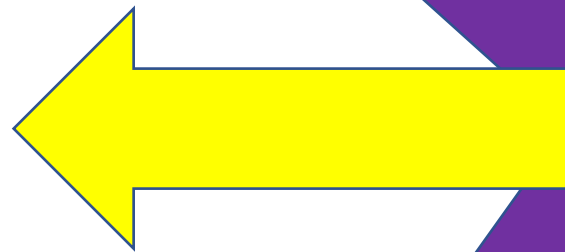
What qualification levels mean

Contents

- [Overview](#)
- [England, Wales and Northern Ireland](#)
- [Other countries](#)

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

There are 9 qualification levels.



Related content

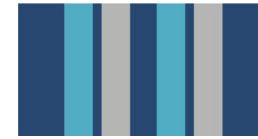
- [Further education courses and funding](#)
- [Higher education courses: find and apply](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>



Post 16 qualifications – consider GCSE grades, career ideas/plans, next steps post 18

LEVEL 3	<u>A and AS Levels</u> +	<u>T Levels</u> +	<u>Advanced Apprenticeship</u> +
	<u>International Baccalaureate</u> +	<u>Vocational Level 3 - e.g. BTEC, OCR, City and Guilds, Diploma</u> +	<u>NVQ Level 3</u> +
	<u>Open University Access Modules</u> +		
LEVEL 2	<u>GCSE Grades 4- 9</u> +	<u>Transition Year (to get ready for T Levels and other voc quals)</u> +	<u>Intermediate Apprenticeship</u> +
	<u>Maths/English/IT Functional Skills courses</u> +	<u>Vocational qualifications - eg Level 2 - BTEC Certificate/ Diploma, OCR/ City and Guilds</u> +	<u>NVQ Level 2</u> +
LEVEL 1	<u>GCSE Grades 1- 3</u> +	<u>Vocational qualifications - eg Level 1 - BTEC Certificate/ Diploma, OCR/ City and Guilds</u> +	<u>NVQ Level 1</u> +
	<u>Maths/English/IT Functional Skills courses</u> +		
ENTRY LEVEL	<u>Entry Level</u>		+



- ✓ A-Levels are **Advanced Level, Level 3** qualifications
- ✓ Students usually take x3 A-Levels **OR** sometimes 4
- ✓ Students can also **mix** A-Levels with taking an Applied Level/s or BTECs / CTECs (Extended Certificates OR diplomas) - usually choose x3 subjects.
- ✓ **Grading** – A-E
Each Grade equivalent to points (known as UCAS points):
A*=56, A= 48, B=40, C=32, D=24, E=16.

**Some
facts!**





- Accounting, Africaans, Ancient History, **Art and Design**, Arabic, Archaeology.
- Bengali, Biblical Hebrew, **Biology**, **Business**.
- **Chemistry**, Chinese, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, **Computer Science**, Criminology.
- Dance, **Design & Technology**, Design & Textiles, Digital Media & Design, Digital Technology, Divinty, Drama, **Drama & Theatre**.
- **Economics**, Electronics, **English Language**, English Language & Literature, **English Literature**, Environmental Science, Environmental Technology.
- **Fashion & textiles**, **Film Studies**, **French**, **Further Mathematics**.
- **Geography**, **German**, Greek, Gujarati.
- Health & Social Care, Hindi, Hinduism, **History**, History of Art.
- Irish, Islamic Studies, Italian.
- Japanese, Journalism.
- Latin, **Law**, Life and Health Sciences.
- Marine Science, **Mathematics**, Media Studies, Modern Hebrew, Moving Image Arts, **Music**, Music Technology.
- Nutrition and Food Science.
- Punjabi, Persian, Philosophy, **Photography**, **Physical Education**, **Physics**, Polish, Politics, Portuguese, **Product Design**, **Psychology**.
- Religious Studies, Russian.
- **Sociology**, Software Systems Development, **Spanish**, Sport Science, Statistics.
- Tamil, Telugu, Technology & Design, **Theatre Studies**, Thinking Skills, Turkish, Travel & Tourism.
- Urdu.
- Welsh.

• **Subjects offered at
Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form**

Tools you can use to help you choose A-Level subjects:

1. Search the **Careers library** and **Subjects library** using your three favourite subjects at school, and work back from there.
2. Use your **Interests profile** and **Personality profile** to search the Careers library or Subjects library, and work back from there.

Careers library

✓ Careers favourited

Go to tool >

Subjects library

✓ Subjects favourited

Go to tool >

Interests profile

✓ Quiz completed: C and A and S

Start >

Personality profile

✓ Quiz completed: ESFJ and ESFP

Start >

unifrog

unifrog

BTECS – Busting myths

What are BTECs?

- A BTEC is practical-based, vocational qualification. They are a great alternative to other qualifications, like A-Levels, if you want less classroom-based learning.
- There are over 2000 BTECs available across 16 sectors, so BTECs can open up doors to careers in STEM, construction, business and many more.
- You can take BTECs and other qualifications, like GCSEs, A-Levels and Highers, alongside each other.
- BTECs are fantastic courses – some may be replaced by T-Levels.

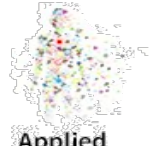
You can study more subjects at BTEC level than you think!



Agriculture



Animal Management



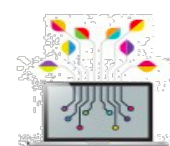
Applied Human Biology



Applied Science



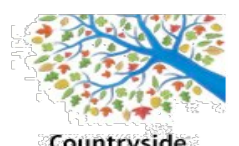
Children's Play Learning and Development



Computing



Construction



Countryside Management



Applied Psychology



Applied Law



Art and Design



Business



Creative Digital Media Production



Engineering



Enterprise and Entrepreneurship



Equine Management



Information Technology



Music



Music Technology



Performing Arts



Forestry and Arboriculture



Forensic and Criminal Investigation



Health and Social Care



Horticulture



Uniformed Protective Service



Sport



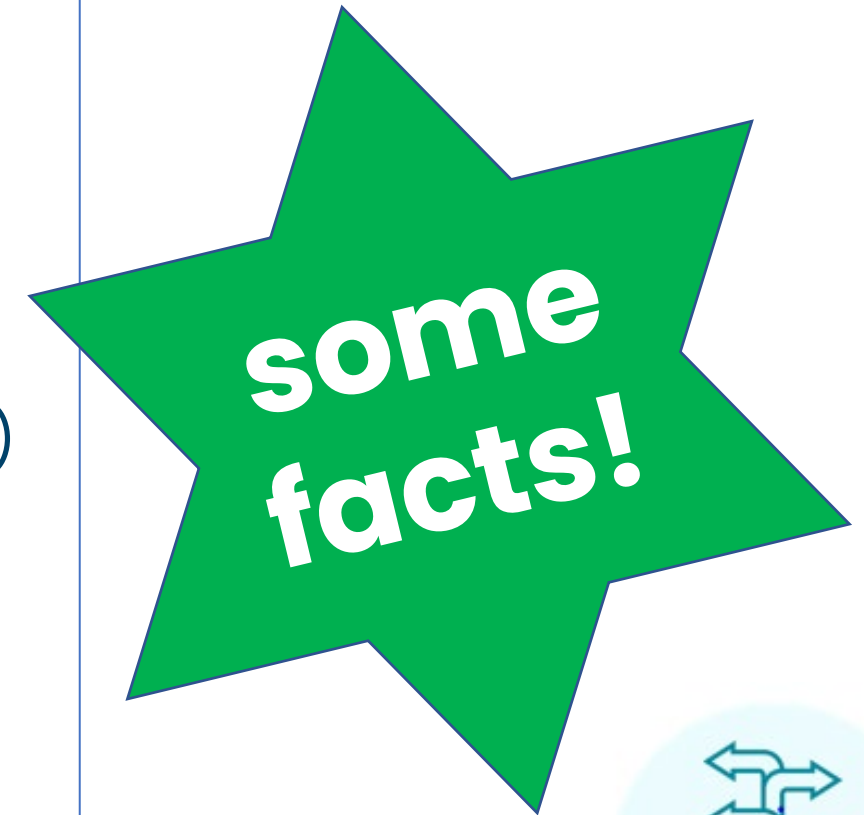
Sport and Exercise Science



Travel and Tourism



- ✓ Broadly **equivalent to** x3 A-Levels.
- ✓ **Level 3** qualification.
- ✓ Lasts **2 years**.
- ✓ **Technical** qualification with **industry placement** with employer (minimum 45 days)
- ✓ **Transition programme at level 2** available – lasting x1 year (if you do not achieve required GCSE grades).
- ✓ **Grading** – Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* for UCAS grades see: www.ucas.com / www.gov.uk





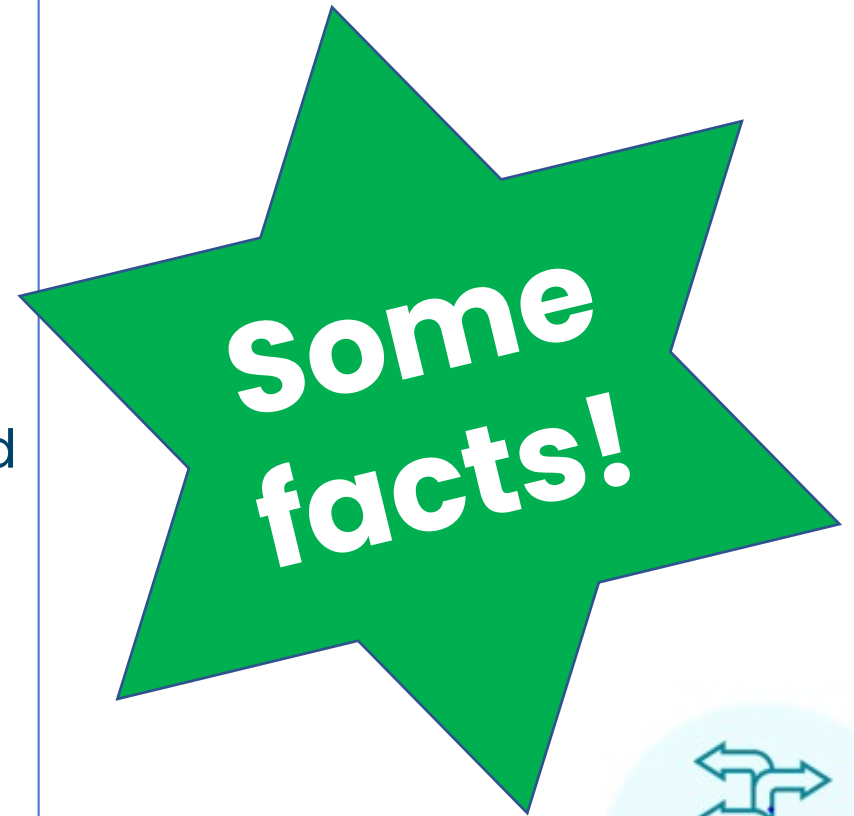
- Design, surveying and planning for construction
- Digital production, design and development
- Education and early years
- Building services engineering for construction
- Digital business services
- Health
- Healthcare science
- Onsite construction
- Science
- Accounting
- Design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- Finance
- Maintenance, installation and repair or engineering and manufacturing
- Management and administration
- Agriculture, land management and production
- Legal services
- Animal care and management
- Craft and Design
- Hair, beauty and aesthetics
- Media, broadcast and production

**Gradually being
rolled out.
Offered by some,
not all F.E. colleges.**





- ✓ **Applied Levels** are growing in popularity/variety of subjects on offer.
- ✓ Also known as '**Extended Certificates**'.
- ✓ **Combine** coursework & exams (approximately 50:50)
- ✓ Students can **combine** A-Levels with taking Applied Level/s (Extended Certificates) OR BTEC - usually choose x3 subjects in total.
- ✓ Not offered by all sixth forms / F.E. colleges.
- ✓ **Some universities** may require at least x1 A-Level alongside Applied Levels.
- ✓ For UCAS grades see www.ucas.com



Applied Levels (Extended Certificates)



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A levels: 3 courses over 2 years (Level 3)	Applied 'A levels': Typically combined with A levels	Extended Diploma: Fulltime specialist course over 2 years (Level 3)
Assessment: Mainly exam-based	Assessment: 50/50 assignment & exam <small>End of Year 1 = Certificate End of Year 2 = Extended Certificate</small>	Assessment: Mainly assignment-based
3 A grades = 144 UCAS points	3 A or Distinction grades = 144 UCAS points	Triple Distinction = 144 UCAS points
Progression: Higher Education / Employment	Progression: Higher Education / Employment	Progression: Higher Education / Employment

- Applied Criminology
- Applied Engineering
- Applied Games Production
- Applied Human Biology
- Applied I.T.
- Applied Law
- Applied Marketing
- Applied Production Arts
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Public Services
- Applied Sport & Fitness
- Applied Sport & Exercise Science
- Applied Travel & Tourism
- + more





Exploring the 3 Main post 16 options:

- Further Education College
- Sixth Form
- Apprenticeship



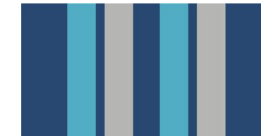


Definition:

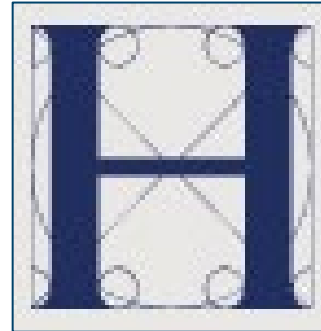
Further education – often abbreviated to F.E. – includes any study after Year 11 (secondary school level) that is not part of higher education (e.g. degree level). Includes education from age 16–18/19 (+ any courses at Levels 3 or lower taken by adults).



Local F.E. colleges



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*New Meaning is a specialist, alternative provision for students with an ECHP – offer Sport and Construction courses



A brief overview of courses / opportunities at local F.E. colleges

Activate Learning: Reading College

A-levels, T-levels, Applied Levels +
BTEC

* Specialist courses – e.g. in
Construction (bricklaying, plumbing,
etc.) Hair & Beauty, Vehicle
Maintenance, Professional Culinary
Arts (Chef training)

Activate Learning: Bracknell & Wokingham College (Bracknell)

A-Levels, T-levels, Applied Levels +
BTEC

*Specialist courses – e.g. in
Construction (basic construction
skills, Electrical Installation, etc.)
Hair & Beauty, Vehicle
Maintenance

BCA (Maidenhead):

BTEC / Technical qualifications only

*Specialist courses – Agriculture (Farming), Animal Management,
Equine Studies, Outdoor Education, Vehicle Maintenance

- Has Academy of Sport in Football, Netball and Rugby (all require Try-outs)



Further
Education
(F.E.)
College

Henley College:

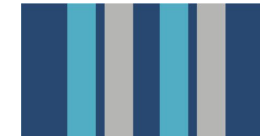
Wide range of A-levels, BTEC, Applied Levels, T-
Levels

* Has Elite Sports Programmes in Basketball,
Football, Rowing, Rugby Union - (all require try-
outs)

Most colleges offer courses in Applied Science, Art & Design, Business, Childcare, Creative Media Production, Health and Social Care, Engineering, IT, Performing Arts, Public Services, Travel & Tourism, and Sport related studies.

You can also explore colleges further afield – e.g. Newbury, Slough, Oxford, etc. – consider distance. Football Academies also at John Madejski Academy & Procision – Newbury College + Football Coaching at Piggott School

A list of local F.E. colleges



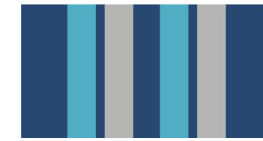
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F.E. college	Website
BCA, Maidenhead	Vocational, Technical, & Higher Education BCA
BCoT (Basingstoke College of Technology)	Basingstoke College of Technology (bcot.ac.uk)
Bracknell & Wokingham (Activate Learning)	Bracknell and Wokingham College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
City of Oxford (Activate Learning)	City of Oxford College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
Farnborough College of Technology	Farnborough College of Technology Ofsted Outstanding - Farnborough College of Technology (farn-ct.ac.uk)
Farnborough Sixth Form College	The Sixth Form College Farnborough
Henley College	Home The Henley College Oxfordshire
Langley College (near Slough)	Vocational, Technical, & Higher Education Langley College



Click on the college website links to find out more

A list of local F.E. colleges



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F.E. college	Website
Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke	Build your future at Queen Mary's Sixth Form College. - Queen Mary's College (qmc.ac.uk)
Reading College (Activate Learning)	Reading College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
Sparsholt College (near Winchester)	Welcome to Sparsholt College and University Centre - Sparsholt College Hampshire
Strodes College	Sixth Form College & Courses Strode's College and Windsor College (strodes-windsor.ac.uk)
Uxbridge College (towards London)	Uxbridge College Further Education, Higher Education & Apprenticeships - Uxbridge College Top London College
UTC, Reading	UTC Reading
Windsor College	Homepage - Windsor Forest College (windsor-forest.ac.uk)



Click on the college website links to find out more



A wide variety of courses + specialisms at levels 1-3:




























- Animal Care & Management
- Agriculture
- Arboriculture
- Horticulture
- Motor Vehicle

<https://www.bca.ac.uk/subjects/>



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Your Study Options – Subjects

 <p>Agriculture Full Time or Apprenticeship</p>	 <p>Adult Learning for Independence and Employment (ALIFE) Full Time or Apprenticeship</p>	 <p>Animal Management Full Time</p>	 <p>Applied Science Full Time</p>
 <p>Arboriculture Apprenticeship or RCU Landbased Training</p>	 <p>Art & Design Full Time</p>	 <p>Beekeeping RCU Landbased Training or Part Time</p>	 <p>Business Studies Full Time</p>
 <p>Children's Development & Learning Higher Education & Degree</p>	 <p>Early Years Full Time</p>	 <p>Equine Studies Full Time</p>	 <p>Floristry Apprenticeship</p>
 <p>Foundation Studies Full Time</p>	 <p>Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management Apprenticeship</p>	 <p>Health & Social Care Full Time</p>	 <p>Horticulture Full Time, Apprenticeship, Part Time</p>
 <p>Land-based Engineering Full Time or Apprenticeship</p>	 <p>Land Management & Environment Apprenticeship</p>	 <p>Media Production Full Time</p>	 <p>Motor Vehicle Full Time</p>
 <p>Outdoor Education Full Time</p>	 <p>Performing Arts Full Time</p>	 <p>Pet First Aid RCU Landbased Training</p>	 <p>Production Arts Full Time</p>
 <p>Protective Services Full Time</p>	 <p>Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Part Time</p>	 <p>Sports Studies Full Time</p>	



Career pathways

We provide every student with a career pathway—a plan, with clear, practical steps you can take to achieve the career of your dreams.

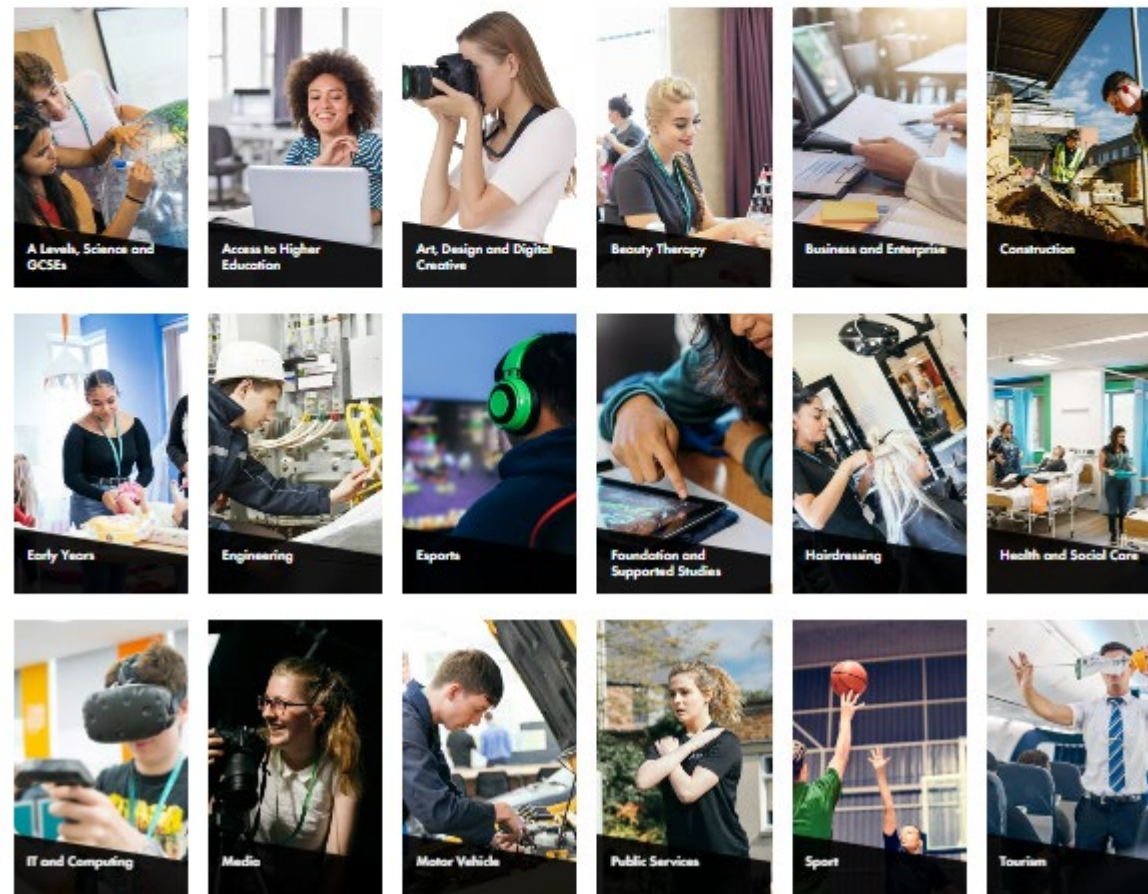
Find your career pathway

Our career pathways show you typical routes through the various stages of learning, what you will learn along the way and the career options that may be available for you. Progression is available across a number of levels, which means that with your hard work and determination, the sky's the limit.

Explore the pathways below to find out more about the typical job titles and salaries associated with each career.

- ✓ Help you set clear objectives for your career
- ✓ Invest your study time in the right areas by seeing expected salaries
- ✓ Our pathways are tailored to your ambitions

[Career pathways - Bracknell and Wokingham College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](https://activatelearning.ac.uk)





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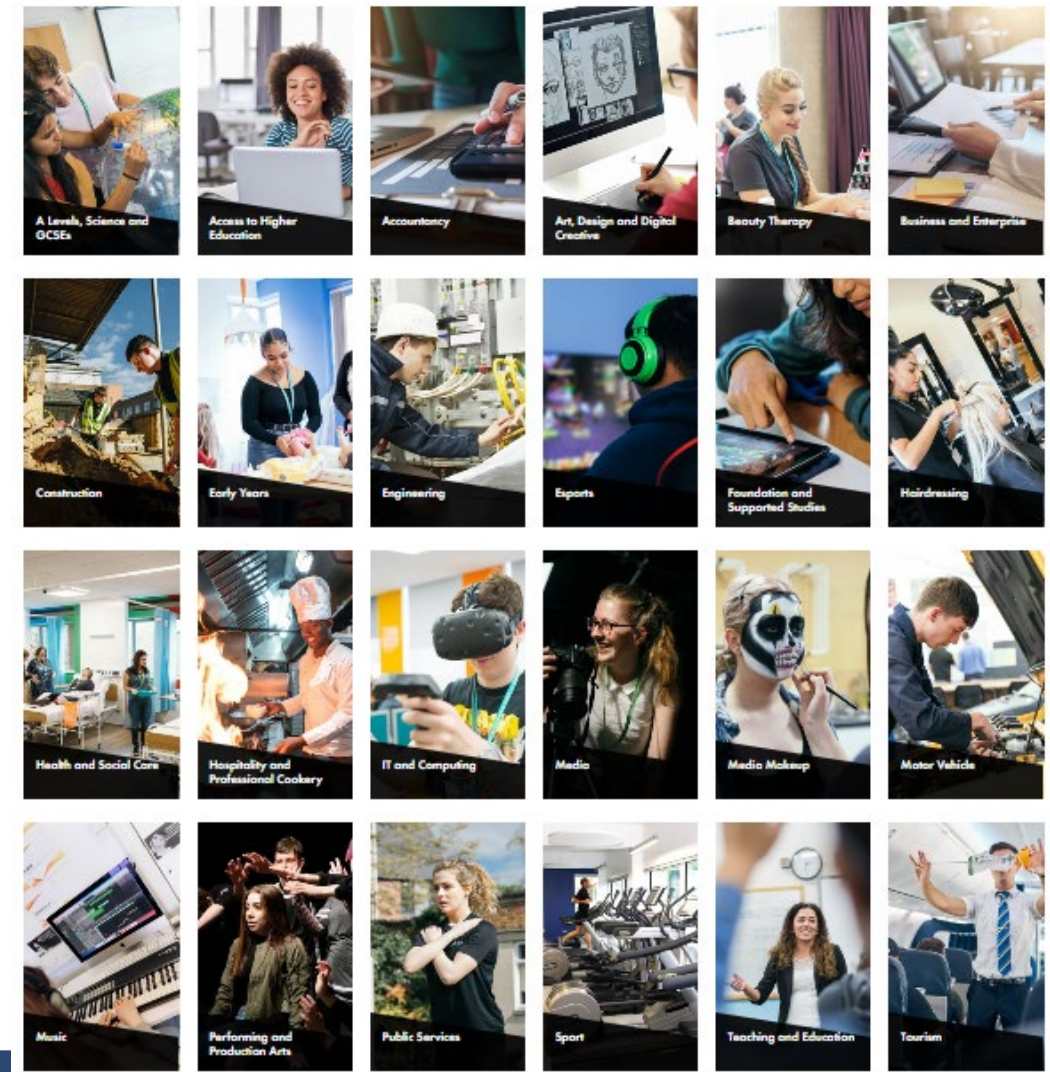
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- ✓ Invest your study time in the right areas by setting expected salaries
- ✓ Our pathways are tailored to your ambitions

<https://reading.activatelearning.ac.uk/courses/career-pathways/>



- Foundation level courses
- SEND /
Learners with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities
- Courses for specifically for students with an EHCP

[SEND - Reading College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](https://activatelearning.ac.uk)

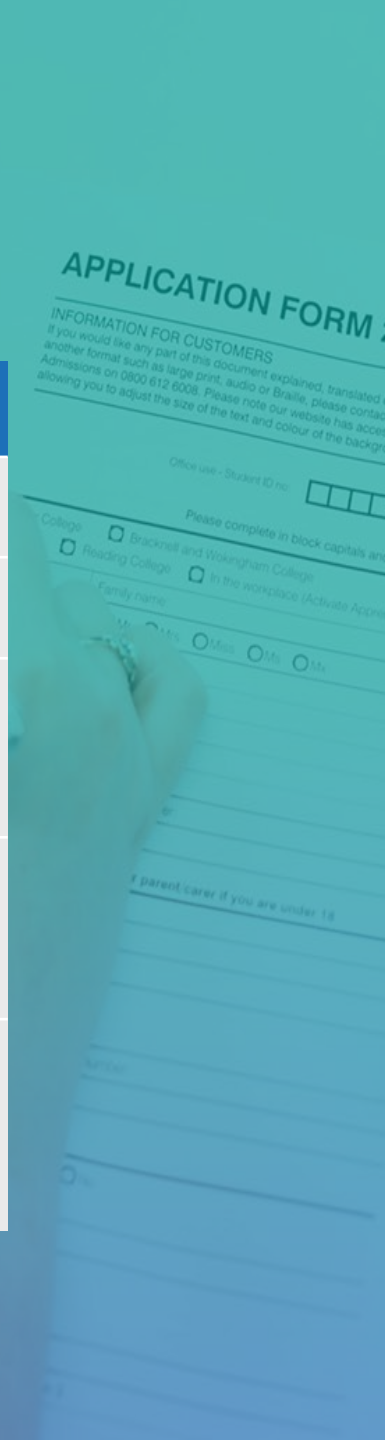




Entry requirements:

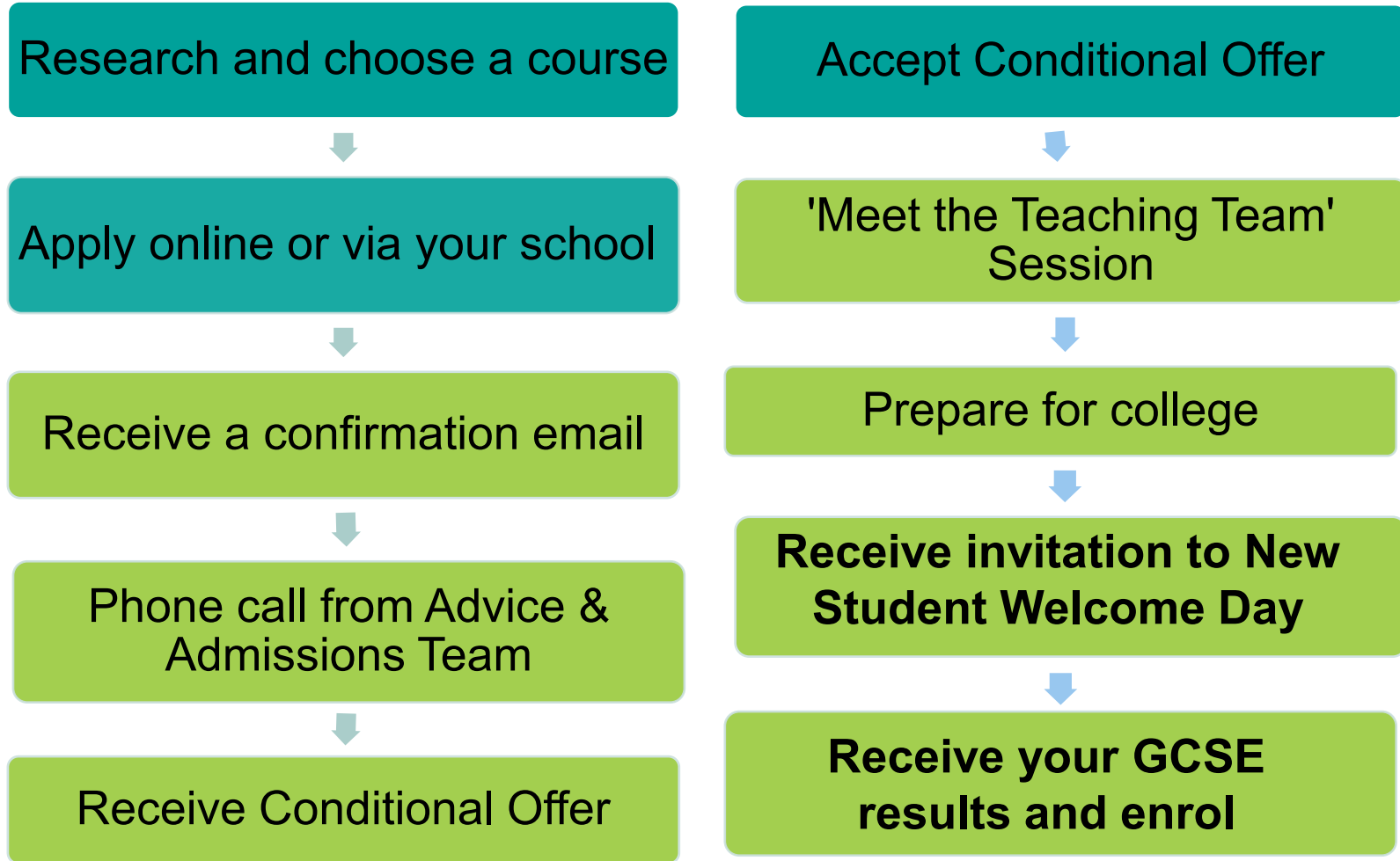
Qualification	Entry Requirements
Entry Level	No formal entry requirements
Level 1	Range of GCSEs at grades 3-1
Level 2	Two to four GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including Maths and English, or equivalent.
Level 3 A Levels	Four or five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including Maths and English, or equivalent.
T Level 3	Five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including Maths and English, or equivalent (only at Oxford).

***Please note:** this is a guide only as *some courses may require specific entry criteria.*





Applying to college



*Early application will reserve a place on your chosen course. Your offer is conditional, so you must meet the grade criteria. If you don't achieve this, there will be the opportunity to consider a lower level or an alternative course.



VIEW ALL COURSES

Home / Courses / View All Courses

Share This Page [Facebook] [Twitter] [Email]

SEARCH FOR YOUR NEXT COURSE

We offer over 60 high-achieving A Levels and Vocational Diploma courses, including many subjects not commonly offered at school sixth forms or by many other colleges.

WHICH COURSE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

Click **here** to explore the different types of courses we offer, find the most suitable one for you.



FILTER TYPE: All

A LEVEL

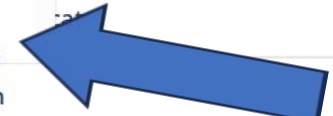
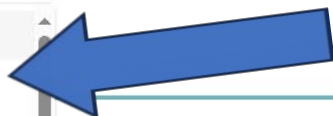
Accounting

Ancient His

Applied Cri

Applied Digital Games Production

- All
- A Level
- Foundation Learning
- T Level
- Vocational Courses (Level 2 and Other)
- Vocational Courses (Level 3)



APPLY NOW



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Open Events for all courses
Foundation → Level 3 – periodically
throughout year 11.

SEND courses (students with an EHCP –
may have specific open day/transition meetings/days)

Plan early, attend early, apply early



Example of Year 10 PD Task:

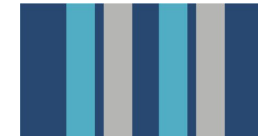
What are the pros and cons of F.E. college?



Write down any pros or cons you have not already included in your books
(see below for inspiration!)

F.E. college	
Pros	Cons
A fresh start / new environment / new facilities + opportunities	You may prefer to stay somewhere more familiar
You prefer a more vocational route / practical course	Class size may be larger (depending on the course) with less teacher contact
Offer courses not offered by sixth forms	It may be further to travel than school
New teachers can equal a fresh start	You will need to get to know the teachers afresh
You will have the opportunity to meet/mix with new people on your course and other courses	You may prefer to stay with people you already know
Entry requirements (GCSE grades needed) may be lower	You may prefer more teacher contact/access + scheduled self-study lessons
More independence + no requirement to be in college when you do not have lessons	You may prefer a more structured day





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Student Careers Pack

Get ready for your future!

A guide to help you prepare for your next steps after Year 11 and beyond...



Anna Finlason - Careers Adviser
© 2024 - 2025

Section 4: Further Education

A useful link to help you consider whether College or Sixth Form is right for you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDlD_se44g4

IMPORTANT: You can apply for as many Sixth Forms and / or Colleges as you wish – we recommend you apply for at least 3. A variety of places with a variety of entry requirements is a good idea, so you have back-up options, just in case. Having good back-up options helps to keep your options open if something were not quite to go to plan on exam day. Check websites for courses and subjects on offer, as well entry requirements.
N.B.: If you are keen to find an apprenticeship also apply for College/s and or Sixth Forms as back-up. Start applying as soon as you can during Year 11. ***Check application deadlines*** to avoid disappointment.

i) Sixth Forms –

IMPORTANT: If you are interested in attending Sixth Form, you will need to start looking on School Sixth Form websites and booking Open Events during the Autumn Term of Year 11. It is usual to need to register / book a place online and, depending on the school. You may need to attend the event face to face or virtually. Look and book **as soon as possible** (many take place during the first term of Year 11 so start to check dates and book early).

Your Trust Sixth Form: Maiden Erlegh School, Earley site:
<https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/>

(Click on Sixth Form tab. Please note, Maiden Erlegh School, and other Sixth Forms, may operate on a catchment area basis – meaning you will need to live within a certain distance of the school).

Other Sixth Forms – please check 'Open Event' dates via school websites regularly, and book online:

Reading and Woodley area:

- Bulmershe <https://www.thebulmersheschool.com/>
- Denefield <http://www.denefield.org.uk/>
- Highdown <https://www.highdown-reading.sch.uk/>
- BlessedHugh Farrington <https://www.hughfarrington.org/>
- John Madejski <https://www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk/>
- Kendrick <https://www.kendrick-reading.sch.uk/> (for Girls)
- King's Academy Prospect <https://www.prospect-reading.sch.uk/>
- Reading Boys <https://www.waingels.wokingham.sch.uk/>
- Waingels <https://www.waingels.wokingham.sch.uk/>
- The Piggott <https://www.pigoittschool.org/>
- The Wren <https://www.wrenschool.org/>

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
BCoI (Basingstoke) College of Technology Worthing Road Basingstoke RG21 8TN	Tel: 01256 254141 Website: www.bcoi.ac.uk Email: enquiries@bcoi.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Brookmill & Wokingham College (Activate Learning) Church Road Brookmill RG12 1DJ RG12 1EN (for sat nav) East of Activate Learning Group of Colleges)	Website: www.activatelearning.co.uk Website for of Activate Learning colleges: Activate.Learning-Activate.Learning	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
City of Oxford College Oxford City Centre campus Osney Rd Oxford OX1 1SA	Tel: 0800 812 2008 – text telephone number for Activate Learning College www.activatelearning.co.uk Oxford City Centre campus Courses in A-levels and business, Hair and beauty, hospitality and catering, furniture, sports and media Technology campus Cuddesdon Way Blackbird Leys Oxford OX4 6HN	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Farnborough College of Technology Spartanhill Road Farnborough Hants GU14 6SB	Tel: 01252 455555 Website: www.farnborough.ac.uk Email: enquiries@farnborough.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Henley College Oxford Road Henley RG9 1UH	Tel: 01491 379988 Website: www.henley.ac.uk Email: info@henley.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Langley College Station Road Langley BU15 3BU (part of Windsor Forest Colleges Group)	Tel: 01753 799 000 Website: http://www.windsorforest.ac.uk/ Email: enquiries@windsorforest.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Newbury College Martha Lane Newbury RG14 7TD	Tel: 01235 845000 Website: www.newbury.ac.uk Email: info@newbury.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Queen Mary's College (QMC) Goldstone Road Reading RG21 3HF	Tel: 01235 817900 Website: www.qmc.ac.uk Email: info@qmc.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Reading College King Road Reading RG1 4HJ (part of Activate Learning Group of Colleges)	Tel: 0800 812 2008 activatelearning.co.uk Website: http://reading.ac.uk Email: enquiries@reading.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Spartanhill College Wesley Lane Spartanhill Winchester SO21 2HF	Tel: 01752 772421 Website: www.spartanhill.ac.uk Email: enquiries@spartanhill.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Madder College High Street Egham TW20 9DR (also part of Windsor Forest Colleges Group)	Tel: 01784 427300 Website: www.windsorforest.ac.uk Courses: A Levels, Applied Levels and BTECs	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Uxbridge College Uxbridge Campus Park Road Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 3NQ	Tel: 01895 853333 Website for Uxbridge (both campuses): http://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/ Has sports academies	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Hayes Campus College Way Colindale Lane Hayes, Middlesex UB8 3BB	Tel: 01895 853333 Website: http://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
UTC Reading Crescent Road Reading RG1 5BQ	Tel: 0118 938 1020 Specialises in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering + Maths) subjects including A-levels and BTECs in IT and engineering	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2024-2025
Windsor College St Leonards Road Windsor SL4 3AU (part of Windsor Forest Colleges Group, formerly East Sinks College)	Tel: 01753 799 000 Website: http://www.windsorforest.ac.uk Email: enquiries@windsorforest.ac.uk	For further information and to register for future Open Events – please see college website

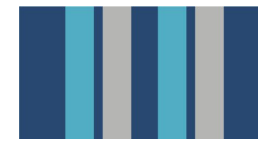
Remember – the more research you do, the more you will discover and the better decision you will be able to make about your next steps!



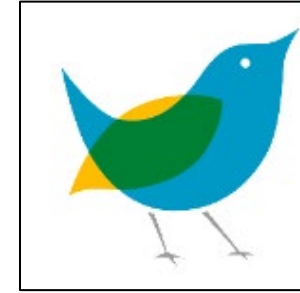
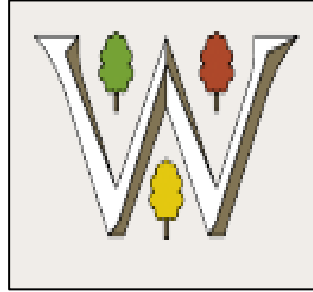
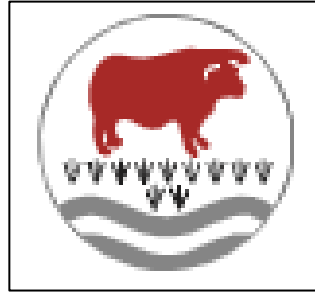
Go to pages 16 and 20 for a list of F.E. Colleges/ with website links!



Option 2: Sixth Form



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A list of local sixth forms



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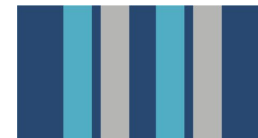
Maiden Erlegh – Earley site: [Maiden Erlegh School - Home](#)

Schools: Earley, Reading, Tilehurst, Woodley area	Website
Blessed Hugh Farringdon	www.hughfaringdon.org/
Bulmershe	www.thebulmersheschool.com/
Denefield	www.denefield.org.uk/
Highdown	www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/
John Madejski Academy	www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk/
Kendrick (Girls)	www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/
Kings Academy Prospect Little Heath	www.kgaprospect.uk/ https://www.littleheath.org.uk/
Reading Boys	www.reading-school.co.uk/
The Piggott School	www.piggottschool.org/
The Wren	www.wrenschool.org/
Waingels	www.waingels.wokingham.sch.uk/



Click on the 'Sixth form' tab/section of school websites to find out more

A list of local sixth forms



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Schools: Wokingham, Bracknell & Ascot area	Website
Brackenhale	www.brakenhale.co.uk
Charters	www.chartersschool.org.uk
Easthampstead Park	www.epschool.org
Edgebarrow	www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk
Emmbrook	www.emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
Garth Hill College	www.garthhillcollege.com/
Forest	www.forest.wokingham.sch.uk/
Ranelagh	www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk
Sandhurst	www.sandhurstschool.org.uk/
St Crispin's	www.crispins.co.uk
The Holt	www.holtschool.co.uk/



These lists do not include private schools. Scholarships for privately funded sixth forms may be available.

Research: Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form



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MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL

HOME ABOUT US NEWS & EVENT CURRICULUM PARENTS STUDENTS **SIXTH FORM** COMMUNITY VACANCIES CONTACT US

SIXTH FORM

HOME > SIXTH FORM > PROSPECTIVE SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

PROSPECTIVE SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

Maiden Erlegh School Sixth Form is an integral part of our whole school and many students carry out leadership roles within the Sixth Form team and beyond. Our students are regarded as role models for the rest of the school and, as a result, are offered many exciting opportunities, both in school and outside of school.

Maiden Erlegh's values of: **aim high, be inclusive** and **work together** means that and no matter your background, you are most welcome here. We understand that education, at any level, depends on understanding the strengths, aspirations and needs of the whole student body. Our holistic study programmes are key to ensuring that we deliver this rounded education in our sixth form. Students joining us have a range of diverse interests and aspirations, which enrich our Sixth Form and make it even stronger and even more vibrant.

One of the benefits of being a large Sixth Form is the chance to offer a broad curriculum. This allows students to specialise in subjects which may not be available elsewhere. Lessons are delivered by subject specialists who know what students need to do to achieve the top grades. All Sixth

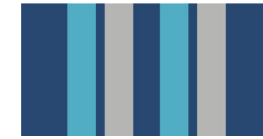
IN THIS SECTION

- KEY DATES
- SUBJECT INFORMATION
- ADVICE ON SUBJECT OPTIONS
- SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS
- SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



Sixth Form Open Event – Early October 2024, application deadline – early-mid November

Research: Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form – subjects offered



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Courses

Art, Craft and Design,

Fine Art

Photography

Biology

Applied Human Biology BTEC

Business BTEC

Business Studies

Chemistry

Computer Science

Economics

English Language

English Literature

Fashion & Textiles

Film Studies

French

Geography

German

History

Law

Further Mathematics

Mathematics

Music

Philosophy and Ethics

Physical Education

Physics

Product Design

Psychology

Sociology

Spanish

Sport & Physical Activity (Cambridge Technical)

Theatre Studies

**Some courses may be withdrawn if there is insufficient uptake.

Please bookmark website link below - it will contain all updates regarding open evenings and prospectus updates:

<https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/page/?title=Prospective+Sixth+Form+Students&pid>



Finding subjects/courses

Distance
10 miles

Start date

Anytime

Course type

- Essential skills
- T-levels
- HTQs
- Free courses for Jobs
- Multiply
- Skills bootcamp

[What course types mean](#)

Learning method

- Online
- Classroom based
- Work based
- Blended learning

Course hours

- Full time
- Part time
- Flexible

Course study time

- Daytime
- Evening
- Weekend
- Day or block release

Course qualification level

- Entry level
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6
- Level 7

[What qualifications levels mean](#)



National Careers Service

Explore careers Skills assessment [Find a course](#) Contact us Action plans Careers advice

BETA Complete an independent survey to [give us feedback](#) about our website.

Find a course

Search for online and classroom courses near you, to help you get a job or develop your skills.

Town, city or postcode:

Course or keyword:

Showing 1 to 17 of 17 courses Sort by

Did you mean: [Reading Street \(Ashford, Kent\)](#) [Reading Street \(Thanet, Kent\)](#)

Distance:

Start date:

Course type: Essential skills

GCE A Level in Biology B
0.44 miles | READING KENDRICK SCHOOL

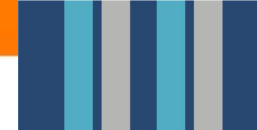
This course is for students who want to continue studying biology after GCSE. You'll already be familiar with some of the topics but the A level will give you the chance to study these and some ne...

Start date: 1st September 2024 Learning method: Classroom based
Cost: £0.00 Duration: 2 Years, full-time (daytime)

Biology
0.91 miles | Reading READING SCHOOL

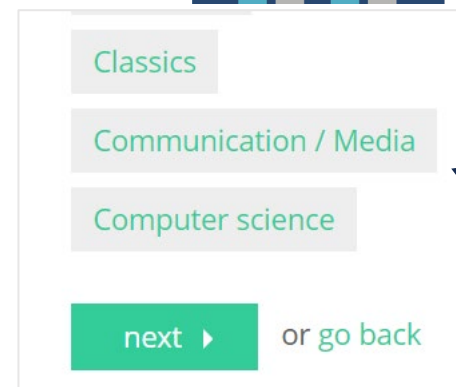
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course>





Using the College/Sixth Form tool

Choose up to ten subjects that interest you.



The longlist will show you all the courses in your area that fit those interests.

Entry - level 2 (1749) Up to and including GCSEs	Level 3 (1086) A-levels and equivalent	Levels 4 - 6 (70) Above A-levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Certificate in Employability NEW CITY COLLEGE Distance: 0 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 3 Diploma in Professional Cookery NEW CITY COLLEGE Distance: 0 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT Systems and Principles for IT Professionals 5 E LTD. Distance: 5 miles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry Level English Non Reg NEW CITY COLLEGE Distance: 0 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 3 Diploma in Professional Cookery NEW CITY COLLEGE Distance: 0 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 5 Pearson (HND) in Hospitality Management NEW CITY COLLEGE Distance: 9 miles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Functional Skills in English 		

Narrow these down to a shortlist of your top options by clicking the ones that you like the most. Click 'Save' to keep a record of the shortlist in your Favourites.



Locating sixth forms, colleges and companies

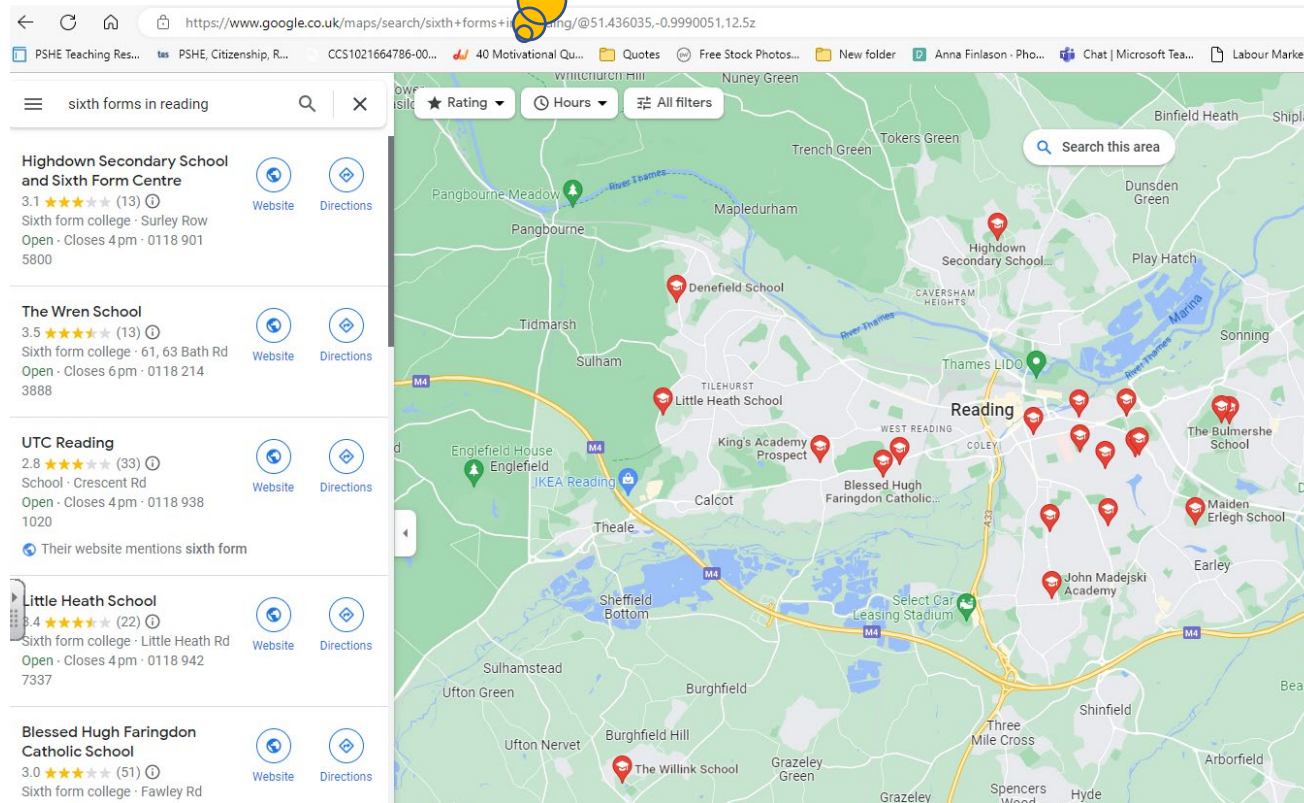


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Ask family
/ friends

Undertake
research
online / use
a map

Use
google
maps



<https://www.google.co.uk/maps> - e.g. Type 'sixth forms / colleges in Reading, Woodley, Sonning, etc.) into the search bar...



GOV.UK Menu Q

Register to vote Register by 18 June to vote in the General Election on 4 July.

[Home](#) > [Education and learning](#) > [School admissions and transport to school](#)

Compare the performance of schools and colleges in England

Search for primary, secondary and special needs schools and colleges near you, and compare their performance.

You can view and download:

- exam and test results
- Ofsted reports

Related content

- [Apply for a secondary school place](#)
- [Types of school](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>

You can also check F.E. college / school OFSTED + exam results their individual websites





- **Undertake research** about subjects/courses. Consider – what subjects you enjoy and are best at, the grades you will gain, where course/subjects can lead, and your current career ideas in relation to what is on offer.
- **F.E. colleges** – some offer specialist courses in animal management, agriculture, construction, hair and beauty, hospitality and catering, etc.
- Some offer sport academies too.
- **Entry requirements vary** between all colleges and sixth forms, and for different levels – e.g. Foundation, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.
- **Interviews** may be offered by phone/in-person – be prepared to answer why you wish to study the subjects you have applied for + why you have applied for the college/course/s. Be prepared to talk about career ideas / plans for your future.
- **Attend Open Events** during Autumn Term of Year 11 – helps gain a feel for a college / sixth form, enables you to meet teachers, discover the subjects/courses on offer, understand entry requirements, explore the facilities + learn about application process (Check school websites for open event dates from September onward + book a place if necessary – often done online).
- **Do background reading** via college/sixth form websites
- **Apply** for as many places/apprenticeships as you wish. – apply as early as you can (usually from October onwards) – as popular courses can fill up quickly. **APPLY as EARLY as possible!**
- If one sixth form/college is your first choice, apply to other places + x1 or more college/s (various course levels) – as back-up.
- **Keep on top of applications** during Year 11 – e.g. check and action – phone calls / emails / letters, etc. ***This is very important to ensure you secure places.***
- **Find out about enrolment procedures.** Confirm places on GCSE Results Day + be prepared to take further action, as required.



Apprenticeships...

- ✓ A real job
- ✓ Last minimum of 12 months and up to 6 years
- ✓ (Traineeships can last up to 12 months, but usually up to 6 months)
- ✓ Range from level 2 to level 7
- ✓ Are at Intermediate (2/GCSE), Advanced (3/A-level), Higher (4-5) and Degree (6&7) Level

Apprentices...

- ✓ Do not pay for their training
- ✓ Receive 20% off-the-job learning (college, university, in-house, external training provider)
- ✓ Spend 80% of their time on-the-job
- ✓ Earn a salary – current minimum pay = £4.81 per hour
- ✓ Gain invaluable experience and skills



Accounting and finance



Creative



Nursing



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Hairdressing



Journalism



Horticulture



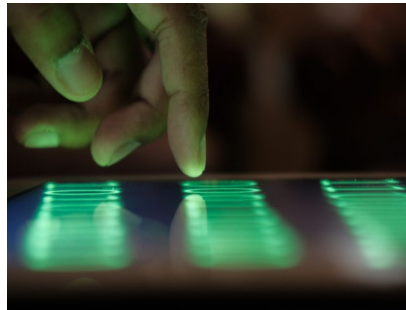
**....and
many
more!**

There are currently over 500 apprenticeship standards covering a wide range of industry sectors...

Construction



IT / Cyber Security



Legal services



Fact: The Armed Forces are currently the provider offering the highest number of apprenticeship options and opportunities!

Architecture



Dental Nursing



Business / HR



Apprenticeship Levels



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Traineeship



Level 1

- *Help with getting work – e.g. writing a CV and finding a job
- *Work placement of 70 hours or more
- *Help with the skills required for an apprenticeship or job in area you want to work in
- * Job interview or feedback from an employer
- *Help with English, maths and basic digital skills (if required) *Age 16-24
- *6 weeks – 1 year (usually up to 6 months)

Intermediate
Level 2



GCSE

Advanced
Level 3



A-Level

Higher
Level 4 and 5



Level 4 – HNC
Level 5 – HND, Foundation Degree

Degree
Level 6 and 7



Level 6 – Bachelors Degree
Level 7 – Masters Degree

Potential opportunity to progress onto next level of apprenticeship, possibly including university
dependent on apprenticeship standard, qualifications, subject area/job type, and grades







Level 4 apprenticeships offered by small number of companies – post Year 11!



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UK National Qualifications Framework

	Academic	Vocational		Apprenticeship
Level 6	Bachelors Degree (BA, BSc, Beng) Year 3/4	Graduate Certificate and Diploma, NVQ		Degree apprenticeship
Level 5	Year 1 	Foundation Degree (FdA, FdSc, etc.) Year 2	Higher National Diploma (BTEC), NVQ	Higher apprenticeship
Level 4	Year 2 	Year 1	Higher National Certificate (BTEC), NVQ	Higher apprenticeship  



Where to find apprenticeships...



Not just one place! But Unifrog is a good place to start



Company websites – careers section / google



Regular posts of opportunities on Google Classroom

- ✓ www.unifrog.org
- ✓ <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/>
- ✓ <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/search>
- ✓ <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>
- ✓ www.indeed.co.uk ; www.reed.co.uk ; www.monster.co.uk
- ✓ Local providers – e.g. <http://www.chilterntraining.co.uk/>
- ✓ <https://careerfinder.ucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/>
- ✓ <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

- ✓ Social media – e.g. Twitter  Facebook  Instagram  LinkedIn 



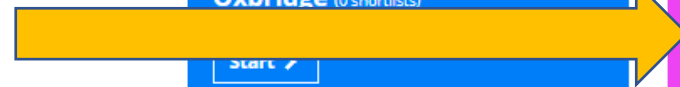
Searching for apprenticeships



unifrog

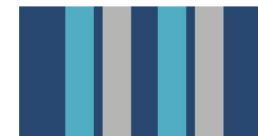
Searching for opportunities

The 'Apprenticeships tool'



UK universities (25 shortlists) Start >	US universities (0 shortlists) Start >	European universities (1 shortlist) Start >
Oxbridge (0 shortlists) Start >	Apprenticeships (47 shortlists) Start >	College / Sixth Form (5 shortlists) Start >
Canadian universities (0 shortlists) Start >	Asian universities (0 shortlists) Start >	Australasian unis (0 shortlists) Start >
ME and African unis (0 shortlists) Start >	Irish universities (0 shortlists) Start >	Special opportunities (1 shortlist) Start >
Events (0 upcoming events) Go to tool >		





Find an apprenticeship

Find an apprenticeship in England.

You can apply for apprenticeships in [Scotland](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Wales](#).

Search >

You can also:

- [sign in](#) to your account
- [create an account](#) to manage your applications and get alerts about new apprenticeships

Contact

Apprenticeship service
nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
Telephone: 0800 015 0400
[Find out about call charges](#)

Related content

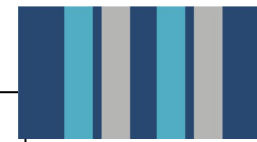
[Become an apprentice](#)

[Find a traineeship](#)

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

Click green 'search' bar tab + Create an account (see top right hand corner) if you would like to sign up to email notifications + ready for future applications (during Year 11).





AMAZING EMPLOYERS

Click on the logos below to explore some of the apprenticeship opportunities available

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

SORT EMPLOYERS

Employer Name



Alphabetical

- A-Z
- Z-A

Areas Of Interest

- Agriculture, environmental and animal care
- Business and administration





Search apprenticeships

England

finance

Sign up for Smart Alerts! Our email alert service that can match you to apprenticeship opportunities.

< Search All | 170 results | Page 1 of 9

Sort by: Relevance Grid List

All filters ¹ Level ¹ Industry Vacancy type Sector Region

Reset filters [UCAS Media Service](#)





<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=>



Company websites:




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BMW GROUP   ROLLS-ROYCE MOTOR CAR LTD.

Home Log In Jobs Menu

Apprentices

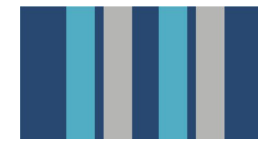


GET STARTED. GO ANYWHERE.
APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

<https://www.bmwgroup.jobs/gb/en/apprentices.html>



Example – type 'BMW apprenticeships', 'PwC apprenticeships', etc. into a search engine



Which employers offer apprenticeships?



Cabinet Office



Supported by National Apprenticeship Service



BRITISH AIRWAYS



+ many more!





Look inside the company!



Please note:
Smaller, less well-known
companies can offer
Fantastic opportunities too!

Supported by
National
Apprenticeship
Service





Activate Apprenticeships

www.activateapprenticeships.co.uk

- > Through Activate Apprenticeships, young people can get in and go far with some of the UK's biggest and brightest companies
- > Activate Apprenticeships brings a talent pipeline of 16,000 people, studying across the Activate Learning group
- > Actively working with over 400 companies in the local region and 1000 across the UK



APPRENTICESHIPS WE OFFER

- **Hair Professionals L2** (BWC, Reading, Oxford)
- **Advanced and Creative Hair Professionals L3** (BWC, Reading, Oxford)
- **Commis Chef L2** (Reading, Oxford)

- **Furniture Manufacturer L2** (Oxford)
- **Bespoke Furniture Making L3** (Oxford)

- **Teaching and Skills Teacher L5** (Reading)
- **Teaching Assistant L3** (Oxford, Reading, Guildford)
- **Adult Care Worker L2** (All)
- **Lead Adult Care Worker L3** (All)
- **Leader in Adult Care L4** (All)
- **Early Years Practitioner L2** (All)
- **Early Years Educator L3** (All)
- **Business Admin L3** (All)

- **Arborist L2** (MW)
- **Land and Horticulture L2** (MW)
- **Equine L2** (MW)
- **Senior Equine L3** (MW)

- **IT Technician L3** (Reading, BBL)
- **Cyber Technologist L4** (Reading, BBL)
- **Software Developer L4** (Reading, BBL)
- **Data Analyst L4** (Reading, BBL)
- **Autocare Technician L2** (Banbury)
- **Bricklayer L2** (Reading, BBL)
- **Installation & Maintenance Electrician L3** (BWC, Guildford)
- **Plumbing & Domestic Heating Technician L3** (Guildford, Reading)
- **Site Carpentry L2** (Reading, Guildford, BBL)
- **Bicycle Mechanics L2** (Reading, BBL, MW)

FINDING THE RIGHT APPRENTICESHIP

- Our recruitment team are on hand to support you with finding the right employer for you Apprenticeship
- We advertise vacancies on our website (Activate Apprenticeships Vacancies) where you can also register your interest.
- Visit the National Apprenticeship Service – www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- Activate Apprenticeships – 01865 551015





Things to consider...

- **Work and study** – organising and balancing time as an apprentice
- **Entry requirements**
- **Qualification & Future prospects**
- **Travel** – feasibility of travel / costs?
- **References** – who? Usually require x2
Teachers, Head of Year, Club Leader, Part-time Employer
- **Applications, assessments and interviews**
(the more you do the easier it becomes / faster you become)
- **Potential benefits and challenges**



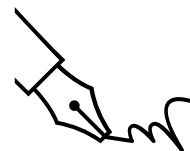
Write down any pros or cons you have not already included in your books
(see below for inspiration!)



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Pros

- ✓ Work experience
- ✓ Gaining a qualification
- ✓ Developing existing and new skills
- ✓ Hands on / practical
- ✓ Working with others (all ages)
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Apprentice Ambassador Network
- ✓ Earning money
- ✓ Future prospects
- ✓ Employment contract
- ✓ Increased independence



Cons:

- ✓ Balancing work & study
- ✓ Ready to choose specific job?
(it's ok to make "a mistake" –
exploring/experience = good)
- ✓ Applying takes time (not just 1 or 2)
- ✓ May need to widen net (e.g.
distance, job sector, level)
- ✓ Not to rely on just one or two
applications
- ✓ Back-up options important





What is involved in getting an apprenticeship? (the application process)...

- Application – usually online
- Online assessment? e.g. English/Maths/ +/- Aptitude test
- Phone / virtual interview?
- Assessment Centre? Group tasks, In-tray exercise, assessment
- Face-to-Face interview
- Background checks – e.g. references, eligibility, DBS, etc.





Using the Apprenticeships tool

Choose up to ten industries that interest you.

Activity leadership

Adult Care Worker

Advertising and Marketing

next ▶ or go back

The longlist will show you all the vacancies in your area that fit those interests.

Intermediate (273) Equivalent to GCSEs	Advanced (331) Equivalent to A-levels	Higher / SLP (78) Higher / SLP / Degree apps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and Data Processing Apprenticeship THE COLLEGE OF ANIMAL WELFARE LIMITED Distance: 7 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Engineering - School and College Leaver Programme Laing O'Rourke Distance: 2 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting Flying Start Programme PWC Distance: 16 miles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprentice Administrator Mobile Freezer Rentals Ltd Distance: 7 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprentice Business Administrator Biggleswade Health Centre Distance: 10 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and College Leavers - Assurance PWC Distance: 16 miles
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Leaver AAT Trainee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KPMG360

Narrow these down to a shortlist of your top options by clicking the ones that you like the most. Click 'Save' to keep a record of the shortlist in your Favourites.



Finding out more about apprenticeships

You can also find out more about apprenticeships using our **Know-how library** tool.

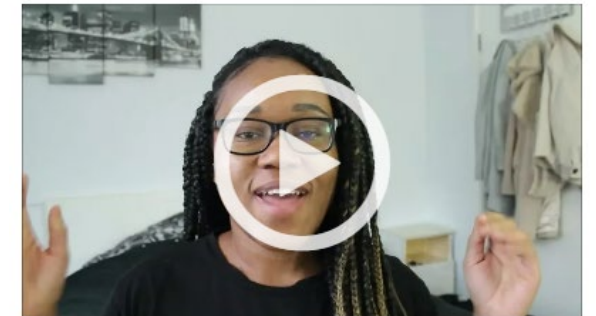
We have several guides on apprenticeships, including specific guides for apprenticeships England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Remember to favourite guides you'd like to come back to later!



An introduction to apprenticeships

Find out what they are, what they pay and who can apply



A guide to degree apprenticeships

What they are, how you apply, and some case studies



Preparing for life after Year 11 –



top tips...

- Look ahead and prepare
- Book and attend open events / careers events
- Apply to at least 3 places
- **We recommend *every* student apply to **at least one college** for a course with lower grade boundaries.
- Write down application deadlines
- Keep track of correspondence / follow through with application process
- Encourage your young person to check Google Classroom + emails
- Encourage your young person to search and apply EARLY – popular places can fill up quickly.
- Check enrolment procedures for each sixth form/college / company (apprenticeship)
- Confirm acceptance of places on GCSE results day (if offers conditional - e.g. on GCSE/BTEC grades)



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Thank you
for listening

