



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Your next steps:

**Important Information & Top Tips
for preparation before/on**

GCSE Results Day:

Thursday 20 August, 2026



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2026**

Whether you are awaiting and preparing for GCSE Results Day, or the day has arrived, and you have received your results, this booklet is designed to help you navigate preparing for GCSE Results Day, the Results Day itself.

You will already have applied for Post 16 opportunities – which may have included one or more of the following main options – Sixth Form/s, F.E. College/s and/or an Apprenticeship/s. We have advised EVERY student to apply to at least x1 college as back-up.

Top tip: Check enrolment arrangements for colleges/sixth forms +/- apprenticeships you have applied to/for – in advance of GCSE results day.

On GCSE Results Day: Whether you are pleased, relieved, or disappointed with your GCSE results – please know that there will be an option for you. Please know it is still possible to achieve your goals, even if you might be taking a detour or discovering exciting new possibilities. The following information is to help you, no matter your situation today.

Your immediate next steps...

- ✓ **Check** your grades against grades required (for conditional offers).
- ✓ **Consider** what you would like to do / what is an option for you now that you have received your GCSE grades.

If you achieved the required GCSE grades for your first OR a back-up option / have an unconditional offer, you can...

- 1) **Confirm your acceptance of an existing offer** from a school, college, or apprenticeship place – do so today, if this is possible + ENROL.
OR
- 2) **Potentially find an alternative option** to your original plan / place – contact alternative options today, if that is possible.

It is important you ACT TODAY!

If you did not quite meet the GCSE grades you needed, you can:

- 1) **Contact** the Sixth Form / college or apprenticeship employer to discuss the grades you achieved – they may still be able to offer you a place/offer an alternative.
- 2) **Take up one of your 'back-up' options** – **ensure you have applied to at least x1 F.E. college as back-up for sixth form/apprenticeship – during Year 11 – including courses that have lower grade requirements than your first choice**.
- 3) **Contact** other Sixth Forms / colleges to see if they have any spaces for the subject/s you are interested in.

It is important you ACT TODAY!

****You will need to act quickly today** by contacting schools / colleges / apprenticeship employers.

*You may be asked to attend face to face, telephone or take action/apply online***

*****Be prepared: take/ copies of GCSE results + a form/s of I.D. (formal identification) – as requested by the school/college/employer*****

It is important to have a place at school OR college OR an apprenticeship as you start Year 12.

A reminder of what your Post 16 options potentially include:

1) **Studying A levels OR a vocational qualification at Sixth Form OR a local F.E. College:**

Some schools may have spaces available. If you would like to approach schools on GCSE Results Day – contact them by email/phone in the first instance. You can find local school websites with contact details below (click on the ‘Sixth Form’ tab):

Maiden Erlegh School Sixth Form, Earley:

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

Reading and Woodley:

Blessed Hugh Farringdon	https://www.hughfaringdon.org/
Bulmershe	https://www.thebulmersheschool.com/
Denefield	http://www.denefield.org.uk/
Highdown	https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/
John Madejski Academy	https://www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk/
Kendrick	https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/ (for Girls)
King’s Academy Prospect	https://www.kgaprospect.uk/
Little Heath	https://www.littleheath.org.uk/
Reading Boys	https://www.reading-school.co.uk/
Waingels Academy	https://www.waingels.wokingham.sch.uk/
The Wren	https://www.wrenschool.org/

Bracknell and Wokingham:

Brakenhale School	www.brakenhale.co.uk
Easthampstead Park	www.epschool.org
Edgbarrow School	www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk
Emmbrook School	www.emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
Ranelagh School	www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk
St Crispin’s School	www.crispins.co.uk
The Forest School	http://www.forest.wokingham.sch.uk/
The Holt	www.holtschool.co.uk
The Piggott	https://www.piggott.wokingham.sch.uk/

Please note: this list is not an exhaustive list of schools within the area.

Schools may also operate on a catchment area basis (e.g. you will need to live a certain distance from the school).

- 2) **Vocational Courses:** These are work-related courses delivered by colleges and are available at different levels, to suit your GCSE qualifications – ranging from creative to construction to computing to engineering to vehicle maintenance to media and many more subjects. Some colleges also offer A-levels or Applied Levels (a combination between coursework and exams). Entry requirements for level 3 courses such as BTEC (A Level equivalent) are usually GCSE grades 4 and 5 which is a bit lower than some schools/colleges for A-levels. You might also consider the level 2 courses which usually ask for grades 3 and above. Many courses are offered at all the local colleges.
- 3) Some subjects like catering, construction trades, animal care and horticulture are only offered at some of the colleges so, again, check all these details carefully. Popular courses may already have waiting lists.

Local Further Education Colleges include:

- **Activate Learning Colleges: Reading, Bracknell & Wokingham, Oxford City Centre, Merrist Wood, Guildford** – offer vocational and a few A-levels:
<https://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/>
 - **BCA (no A-Levels)** – Agricultural College near Maidenhead that specialises in Animal Management, Agriculture and Sport, among others:
<https://www.bca.ac.uk/>
 - **Henley College** – a wide variety of A-levels, Applied levels, and BTEC courses
<http://www.henleycol.ac.uk/>
 - **UTC, Reading** – Focuses on A-levels/BTEC in STEM subjects:
<https://www.utcreading.co.uk/>
- 4) **Apprenticeship** - Apprenticeships combine work with study for a qualification. You are paid a salary. You can find out more about apprenticeships and search for vacancies in your local area on the official government apprenticeship site:
<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch> .
- You can start an apprenticeship straight after GCSEs (Intermediate level and Advanced level, and sometimes even at Higher level – depending on entry requirements / your GCSE grades). Some apprenticeships can be followed all the way through to Higher/Degree level. You can search for apprenticeships using the website links here:
- www.unifrog.org – using the ‘Apprenticeships’ tool on your UNIFROG Homepage.
 - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
 - <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>
 - <https://activateapprenticeships.co.uk/> - Activate Learning – e.g. Reading College, Bracknell & Wokingham College, etc.
 - Via company websites – e.g. large national/multinational companies, and local companies.

******It is important you keep your place at school or college / apply for college/sixth form if you do not yet have a confirmed/unconditional offer for an apprenticeship.** You can take a one-year college course, and apply for apprenticeships while you are at college****

Specific Instructions from local Further Education Colleges can be found below:-

BCA, Maidenhead:



The following information and guidance is directly from BCA:

1. **If you have already applied to BCA**, you will receive guidance on how to enrol over the summer before GCSE results are announced. Enrolment for September 2026 students begins August 20 + 21st August for Foundation courses.
2. **If you have already applied, been interviewed, and received a conditional/unconditional offer**, you will receive an invitation to book an enrolment slot by July 19th. If you don't receive an invite, you can email the college at admissions@windsor-forest.ac.uk.
3. **If you are planning to apply for a college course on GCSE Results Day**, some courses may already be full and have waiting lists. It is advised to contact the college and speak to someone in the relevant department to check if there are any vacancies on your chosen course. You can call BCA at 01628 824444 or email admissions@windsor-forest.ac.uk. Keep in mind that the college may be very busy during this time.
4. **Before enrolling**, students with a conditional or unconditional offer will need to complete pre-enrolment. This involves creating and logging into their College account, uploading a photo for their ID badge, providing a form of ID, and completing pre-enrolment forms.
5. **On the day of enrolment**, students should bring a copy of their GCSE certificates/results and proof of ID if they haven't already uploaded this to their College account. It is also important to check the Joining Instruction pages on the college website for each department, as there may be additional documents or requirements specific to your chosen course that they may need to bring with them to enrolment - <https://www.bca.ac.uk/enrol/>

Henley College

The following information and guidance are directly from Henley College:

1. Students who have already applied for Henley College will be sent a full enrolment handbook over the summer with everything they need to know about our enrolment process with details on how to enrol on chosen courses.
2. **Week commencing 29 July** – all applicants will receive a card through the post entitled '5 Simple Steps to Enrol'. Step 1 contains a QR code which should be scanned to take you through to the 'Enrolment Desk'.
3. Those students who have already applied and accepted their conditional offer for the college + sent ID to the Admissions Team (via the portal or email) will need to head to the 'Enrolment Desk' (link will be provided via Handbook being sent out OR use the QR code within the '5 Simple Step to Enrol' document).

4. **Please note:** for conditional offers to be honoured by the college – student's **'Statement of Results' MUST be uploaded by 4pm on Thursday 20 August 2026.**
5. **On GCSE results day** – students must upload a copy of their **'Statement of Results'** by **4pm on Results Day** – for the college to honour your conditional offer (providing you meet the entry requirements) – in order to enrol. Please upload your results if you have met the entry requirements for your chosen course or not to assist the college in finding an alternative course for you.
6. We advise that all students who have not yet accepted their offer do so + send valid ID before enrolment. Valid ID includes a UK passport valid 5 September 2026 OR a Birth Certificate + a letter addressed to the student (e.g. National Insurance letter) OR if a non-UK passport – it must be accompanied by a BRP – Biometric Resident Permit OR the Settlement Status Code.
7. Students wishing to apply for a college course on GCSE Results Day. Should apply by clicking the 'Apply Now' button in the top right-hand corner at www.henleycol.ac.uk/apply-online. Please have your 'Statement of Results' + valid ID (see above) ready to upload.
8. We shall have a GCSE advisory line which will go live on GCSE results day. The number for this will be: **01491 63 43 21**
9. All students will need to enrol online.

For more information about Henley College: <https://www.henleycol.ac.uk/>

You can contact the Admissions team via phone at 01491 579988 or

email admissions@henleycol.ac.uk

If you would still like to apply for Henley College, please do so as soon as possible via the following link:

- <https://www.henleycol.ac.uk/apply/apply-online/>



Reading College and Bracknell & Wokingham College (Activate Learning)

The following information and guidance is directly from the Central Advice and Admissions from Activate Learning colleges:

1. The phone number that the applicants can call regarding their GCSE results will be 0800 612 6008.
2. Documents students would be required to bring include their GCSE results, proof of ID and requested visa documents.
3. The applicants would not need to attend college to enrol onto the course as the enrolment form would be sent through email and we expect them to email us back with the completed enrolment form. The only other situation where they might need to come to college regarding their enrolment would be when we ask them to create and collect their physical ID card at the College. They can report to the reception for this and the receptionist would be able to guide them on where to go next.
4. The next steps for applicants who have accepted their conditional/unconditional offers would be to complete their enrolment form which would be sent out to them through their email during August (before GCSE Results Day). Students need to upload a copy of their GCSE Results with the enrolment form.
5. The next steps for applicants, who don't achieve the conditions to their offer, is that the college will automatically move applicants to the next level of course. This will be done automatically. If students wish to change their course completely – they should call the Activate Learning team on 0800 612 6008.
7. You can apply for courses via the college websites OR call/email the Admissions Team.
6. Applicants who are interested in applying to a course on GCSE Results Day, will need to go through our clearing courses that are available to them.

Please keep an eye on your emails from the college + check your spam/junk email folder.

We hope that the information that we have provided to you has been answered and has been helpful!

If you have any further questions, please reply email: admissions@ActivateLearning.ac.uk or call us on 0800 612 6008 and we will be happy to help you.

Kind regards, Advice and Admissions



**Wishing you every success
for your future**



*'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to
continue that counts.'*

**Anna Finlason
Trust Careers Adviser
2026**