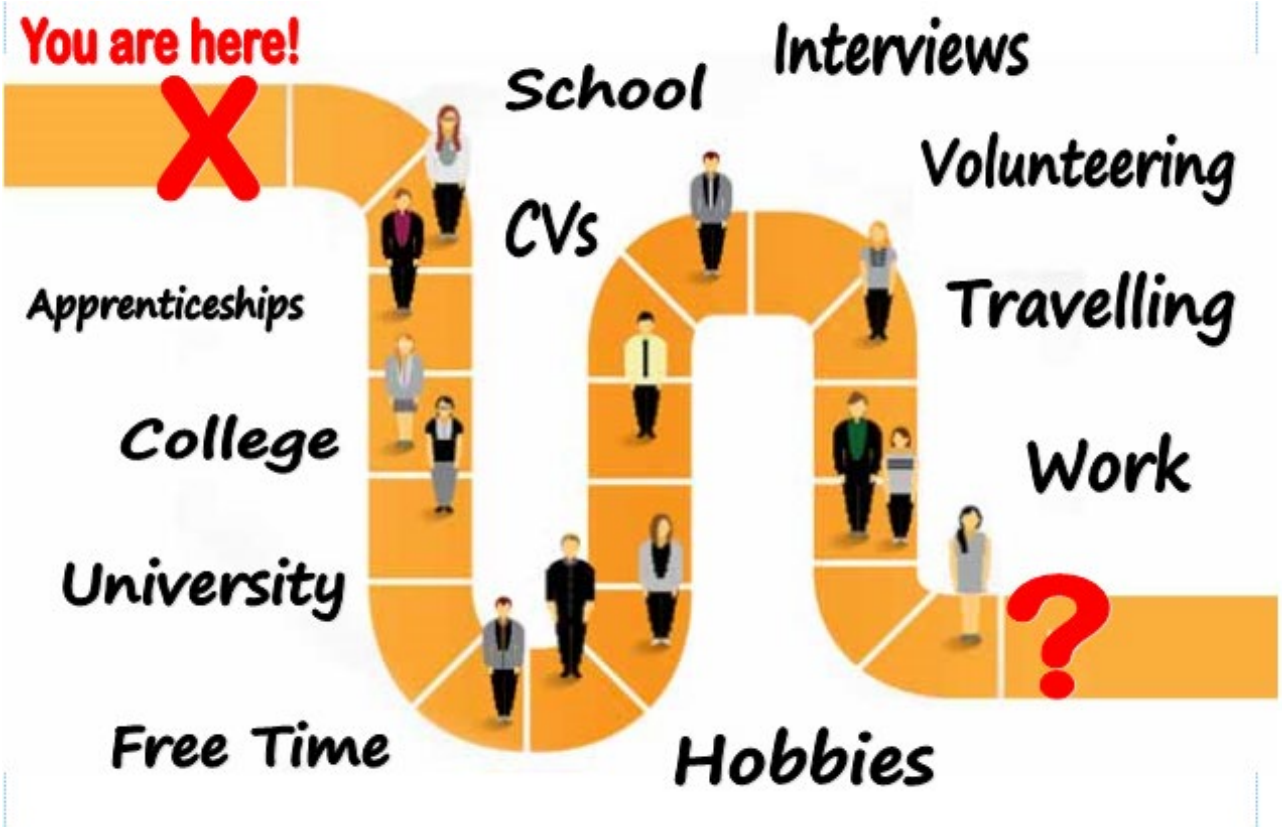
"FUTURES"

Post-16 Options:

How does it all work?



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Post-16 Education – What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

Full-Time Study – this could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

Apprenticeships – this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

Traineeships – this is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering – this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

How do I pay for post-16 education and training?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a **16-19 Bursary Fund** to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an apprenticeship, they will no longer be considered your dependant and your benefits for them will stop. More information can be found via the **Gingerbread** website: https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/information/benefits-tax-credits-and-universal-credit/money-when-your-child-turns-16/

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

Useful Links:

https://www.parentalguidance.org.uk/

https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/your-space/education/your-options-at-16/

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Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study:

Traditional A-Levels – Subjects like **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art**

Alternative A-Levels – Subjects like **Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science**

BTEC L3 Diplomas – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include **Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.**

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

Entry Requirements – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A-Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

Some Local Options:

St Paul's Catholic College – Burgess Hill - http://stpaulssixthform.co.uk/

Haywards Heath College – Haywards Heath - http://www.haywardsheath.ac.uk/

BHASVIC - Brighton - https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/

Other useful Links:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/find-a-school/sixth-forms-and-colleges/

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Colleges and Training Providers

Colleges and training providers usually offer BTECs or other vocational qualifications that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which can include:

General FE Colleges (These are located across East and West Sussex) – Offer everything from **Hair and Beauty**, **Childcare, Mechanics** and **Construction**, through to **Business Management**, **Games Design**, **Automotive Engineering, Food Technology**, **Fashion Design**, **Performing Arts** and **Photography**:

Chichester College – https://chichester.ac.uk/

MET - Greater Brighton Metropolitan College (Brighton/Worthing) – https://www.gbmc.ac.uk/

Crawley College – https://www.crawley.ac.uk/

Brinsbury College – Equine/Animal Care Specialists (Pulborough) – https://chichester.ac.uk/brinsbury

Plumpton College – Land Based Specialists (Plumpton) - https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/

Worthing College – A Levels/BTECS/Apprenticeships - https://www.worthing.ac.uk/

East Sussex College – Lewes/Eastbourne - https://www.escg.ac.uk/

Entry Requirements:

Entry Level/Level 1 – Can require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade)

Level 2 – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3/D or above

Level 3 – Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above

Other useful Links:

Sussex Learning Network – dates of Open Day Events at a variety of Further Education Providers in the Sussex Area - https://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/events/

Smaller Training Providers – In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations around the area of Sussex and further afield that offer a range of vocational/apprenticeship courses for students, ***(some providers may require you to have an apprenticeship lined up, others may be able to assist you in obtaining one)*** including ***Gas, Plumbing, Electrical***, ***Music, Games Development, Hairdressing & Barbering, Business***, ***Health and Social Care***, ***Hospitality and Catering*** **and STEM** as well as support with ***Maths*** and ***English*** and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students (these are just a few options that will start you off on your search):

DV8 – Art, Music, Media, Games Development etc – Brighton – https://www.dv8sussex.com/

Steve Willis Training Centre – Gas/Electrical - Burgess Hill – https://stevewillis.com/

Rewards Training – Hair, Health & Social, Hospitality, Business etc – Crawley - https://www.rewardstraining.co.uk/apprenticeships

YouthForce – STEM – Brighton - https://youthforce.co.uk/

Maths and English resits – What are the rules?

It is important to remember that if you get lower than a Grade 4/C in your GCSE Maths and English exams, **you will need to re-sit these qualifications as part of any course you study at college or as part of an apprenticeship.** It is nothing to worry about, as the college or training provider will help you with studying for these qualifications or if necessary, get you to complete an alternative qualification called Functional Skills Maths and English, which is available for any students who achieve lower than a Grade 3 in their GCSE Maths/English.

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work. T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship. For more information on T Levels, check out the link below:

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

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Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships – Involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship). Apprenticeships must be at least one year long and all apprentices must be paid a minimum of £3.90 per hour (although many companies pay more!). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries, including **Engineering**, **Graphic Design**, **Software Development**, **Hair and Beauty** and **Catering** (and can be started as soon as an individual turns 16 and has left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand). Apprenticeships come in four different levels – ***you will need to check the requirements as they may differ***:

Intermediate/Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Maths/English at GCSE

Advanced/Level 3 (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+

Higher/Level 4-5 (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires L3 or A-Levels

Degree/Level 6-7 (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar

Traineeships – Opportunity for students aged 16-24 who do not have the relevant qualifications, experience or skills to start an apprenticeship but are interested in progressing on to one in the future. **Traineeships** involve a programme of up to six months of study, including a work placement, qualifications in Maths and English and support with finding a job or apprenticeship once the course is completed. Students are not paid for taking part but can apply for a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help with costs.

Local Apprenticeship Information:

http://www.apprenticeships-in-sussex.com/

Local Traineeship Information – East Sussex:

https://www.c360.org.uk/education/apprenticeshipswex/traineeships

Other useful Apprenticeship Links:

https://amazingapprenticeships.com/

http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships

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Applying for post-16 – How does it work?

Students will begin applying for their post-16 options in Autumn 2020 and the application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year. Here is a projected timeline for 2020-21:

1st October 2020 – Sixth form and college courses for 2020-21 visible on application sites

17th January 2021 – Probable closing date for sixth form applications
NOTE: Colleges do not have the same deadlines but early applications are still advised!

December-February 2021 – Students are invited to sixth form/college interviews

March 2021 – Students begin to receive offers from sixth forms and colleges

March-July 2021 – Students accept or reject offers for different courses

September 2021 – Applications for 2020/21 close

There are different ways for students to apply for **sixth form**, **college** and **apprenticeships**, which we will look at below:

Common Application Systems – UCAS Progress, is the current system where students can store all of their applications in one place – this is under review and may be replaced.

Sixth Form and College Websites – Some colleges do not appear on **Common Application Systems** but have online application forms on their websites, for example, **The College of Richard Collyer** or **Northbrook College**.

https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/ - The government's apprenticeship portal, which allows students to make an account and search and apply for apprenticeships.

Job Sites – Job search engines such as **Indeed**, **Reed** and **GetMyFirstJob** can also be used to find and apply for apprenticeship and traineeship vacancies.

Vinspired – Volunteering website where students can search for local opportunities - https://vinspired.com/

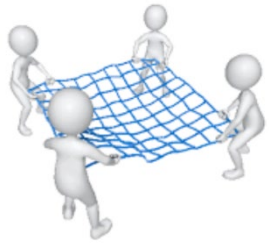
NOTE: Apprenticeship and Traineeship applications run throughout the academic year and students must be 16 and have finished full-time education before starting. Apprenticeships have a much more detailed application process than sixth form or college and may require students to find their own placements if taken via colleges.

Students will apply for the majority of sixth form and college courses (and even some apprenticeships) using the online applications.

The school Careers Adviser will be offering a Career Interview with all Year 11 students in September/October in order to provide them with advice on Post 16 options, as well as how to write a personal statement and complete their applications. The main areas students will need to fill in on these types of application will usually be:

- **Personal Details** e.g. name, address, contact email/number etc.
- **Qualification**s e.g. predicted grades for their GCSE and/or BTEC subjects
- **Work History** e.g. details about any work experience or volunteering completed
- **Personal Statement** e.g. telling the sixth form/college more about themselves
- **Reference** – provided by the school to comment on attendance, behaviour etc.

Students will be able to apply for sixth form or college directly via either the college websites or by speaking with staff at the Open Days that take place throughout the academic year. The majority of students will interview for their places at college, which the school will support with in terms of preparation!



Preparing Your Safety Net

Although many students achieve the grades that they want from their GCSE examinations, it is important to prepare a back-up option in case students change their minds about what subjects they want to study or are unsuccessful in getting the grades required in order to progress on to their college/apprenticeship/course of choice.

The great news is that students can apply and accept offers from as many sixth forms, colleges and training providers as they want and can then make their mind up about which one they want to progress on to in September after visiting the environment, meeting the staff and finding out what GCSE grades they have received in August 2021!

REMEMBER – Always prepare your '***Safety Net***'!

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Entry Requirements – What do I need to get in?

The recent changes to the GCSE grading system have confused some people, so take a look at the information below to make sure you know what grades you might need to get at GCSE in order to move on to your chosen destination after Year 11:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
	F
1	G
U	U

Key Points:

- A **Grade 4** is a ***Standard Pass***, while a **Grade 5** is a ***Strong Pass***
- Only around 2-3% of students will achieve a **Grade 9**, making it a little higher than the old **A***
- Although the new grades don't exactly match the old grades, colleges will mostly view them as follows:

  9-7 = A*- A **6** = B **4-5** = C **3-1** = D and below

- Vocational qualifications like ***BTEC*** and ***VCERT*** match up with GCSEs as follows:
  L1 = GCSE grades 1-3 (Pass - Distinction)
  L2 = GCSE grades 4-9 (Pass – Distinction)
- Most colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships accept BTEC-type qualifications, as do **95%** of universities, including the Russell Group and Oxford!

Do your research!

No matter what you read online, it is important to check all information carefully. Although the Department for Education have stated that a Grade 4 will be considered the official 'Pass Mark' for students (https://www.tes.com/news/new-gcse-pass-lowered-grade-5-4-dfe-u-turn), not all colleges or universities may agree with this. For example, Kings College London and UCL both now ask for a Grade 5 at GCSE in English and Maths as part of their entry requirements, but Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool (all Russell Group universities) still consider Grade 4 the equivalent to a C.

Use ALL the information available!

As stated above, different post-16 and post-18 pathways may ask for different entry requirements depending on the course and/or college. For example, some apprenticeships require only GCSE English and Maths at Grade 3 (D) and above, while some sixth form colleges ask for a Grade 5/6 (high C/B) in the subject students are wanting to take up from GCSE to A-Level. Using the following websites can help you to find the exact entry requirements you need:

Hot Courses - https://www.hotcourses.com/ **Get in Go Far** - https://www.skillsandeducationgroup.co.uk/get-in-go-far/

Some useful references:

Ofqual - https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/02/gcse-9-to-1-grades-a-brief-guide-for-parents/

The Student Room - https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/gcse/exams/new-gcse-grades-explained

Qualification Levels Guide – GCSE to Degree Level

L6	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 + L6)
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)
L5	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc) / HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc) / HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)	Higher/Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 + L5)
L4	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma
L3	A-Levels	L3 Diploma / Extended Diploma (BTEC or other) / Access to HE courses	Advanced Apprenticeship (NVQ L3)
Entry Grades Needed:	Usually 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher, including Maths and English	5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually at least 3-5 GCSEs (but sometimes no formal qualifications)
L2	GCSEs (grades 9-4)	L2 National / BTEC Diploma / Functional Skills	Intermediate Apprenticeship (NVQ L2)
Entry Grades Needed:	None	3-4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually none, although sometimes GCSE Maths and English and a skills test
L1	GCSEs (grades 3-1)	L1 Diploma / Functional Skills	Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None (sometimes basic Maths and English)	None
Entry Level 3	Key Stage 3	E3 Diploma (Foundation)	–
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None	-
	School / 6th Form	College / Further Education	Apprenticeships

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How do I make my final decision about post-16?

Making a decision about where to go after Year 11 can be tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams, so it is important to consider the following factors that might can help with decision making:

- **Where can this option take me in the future?** If you are thinking about a destination after post-16, such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress on to these pathways. Use websites like the Russell Group's **Informed Choices** (https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/) or **Success at School** (https://successatschool.org/) to find out whether the course you choose after Y11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do or speak with staff at the sixth form, college or apprenticeship you are applying to in order to get further details!

For example:

- **If you want to study Dentistry at university, you usually need to take A-Levels in Chemistry and Biology/Maths/Physics.**
- **Some universities do not accept BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (although 95% do!)**
- **Apprenticeships have varying entry requirements – some ask for 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above while others ask for 2-3 A-Levels**

- **What will doing this option be like?** Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you. Why not…

  - **Speak to sixth form or college staff and students at one of the many Open Days or Open Evenings that take place throughout the year – the websites for each sixth form or college will have these dates on but you can also use https://www.opendays.com/ to help make your search easier! Y11 students will be supported in school by staff who will work with them to enable them to speak to Further Education providers as the year progresses.**

  - **Research more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organisation can provide you with while you are studying e.g. help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, assistance from the careers team to help you move on after finishing your course etc. Sixth form and college websites have all the information you need!**

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Want to get prepared over the summer holidays?

Search and apply for apprenticeships online – https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/

Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university – https://careerpilot.org.uk/

Free careers software to help you connect your skills, hobbies and subject interests to what you might want to do once you leave school – https://www.startprofile.com/

Start volunteering to gain valuable work-related skills and experience – https://vinspired.com

Improve your employability skills and start recording your experiences in a CV – www.barclayslifeskills.com

The school Careers Adviser will be working with all Year 11 students from September so it would be great for you to be prepared and have questions to ask.