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# Post 16 options

Make an informed choice



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# When can I leave school!

- All young people in the UK must complete full time education until the age of 16, then they're let loose on the world!
  - The exact date you can leave school is the last Friday in June as long as you will be 16 by the 31<sup>st</sup> August that year.
  - However, everyone born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1997 must stay in some form of education or training until 18



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# What are the options?

- Sixth Form – A-Levels, BTEC or a combination of both.
- College – BTEC, A-Levels, T-Levels
- Apprenticeship – Work based learning
- Traineeship – for those with an EHCP



# Sixth Form

- Academic study – classroom based – 2 years
  - A-Levels
    - fewer subjects (3 or 4), they are advanced qualifications and you need to develop a much deeper understanding and knowledge
    - Less input from teachers and you are expected to do more independent study
    - More lessons per week so time to ask teachers questions and work on projects
  - Vocational qualification e.g. BTEC
    - In general a vocational qualification is one subject over two years, very useful if you are 100% sure on your career path
    - But if you are not sure, or want to keep options open, you can mix vocational qualifications with A-Levels
    - E.g. you could mix core A-Levels like Maths, English or Chemistry with something more vocational , for example IT.
- Most common route in to Higher Education



# College

- Vocational qualifications
  - These are related to a specific area of employment, e.g. if you want to do care work, you can take Health and Social Care
  - Vocational qualification start at different levels. For example, if you want to enter the world of construction trades, you will probably have to start at a slightly lower level because you need to learn all the skills required
  - Some levels may be determined by the grades achieved at GCSE, you may be able to miss the first year if you have good GCSE's
  - These qualifications are much more hands on; you may be based in a workshop or in a studio
  - Assessment is portfolio based rather than formal examinations



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# Apprenticeship

- When you do an apprenticeship you're out in the workplace four or five days a week and earn a wage, but some of your time is also spent working toward professional qualifications
- Some types of apprenticeship can also lead to university qualifications
- There are different levels of apprenticeship with different entry requirements
- These are not an easy route as you are expected to work AND study towards a qualification



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# Apprenticeship

- A wide range of businesses from hair salons to legal firms – they all pay different too (at least minimum wage)
- Not all are advertised, you may need to do some networking, work experience and they look for a wide range of skills: communication, teamwork, confidence, etc. Good English and Maths are important too
- Very competitive, you are applying for a job, take the application process seriously – if you get turned down ask for feedback and don't panic
- Be aware you are aligning yourself to a particular career



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# Traineeship

- You can apply for a traineeship if you're:
  - Eligible to work in England
  - Have little or no work experience but are motivated to work
  - Aged 16-24 with an EHCP and qualified below level 3



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# Traineeship

- Training to prepare you for work including CV writing and what to expect in the workplace
- Support to improve English and maths if needed
- A high-quality work placement of at least 100 hours
- An interview for an apprenticeship or job if available, or an exit interview with written feedback
- This is not a job and employers are not required to pay you



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# Making the right choice

- Do your research – apprenticeships, university, colleges, sixth form
- Go to open events, as many as possible – you don't know what something/somewhere is like unless you experience it
- Don't just do what your friends are doing
- Look at the appropriate level, don't sell yourself short
- Ask for advice – careers interviews, teachers, parents, family friends



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# What if I get it wrong?

- Don't panic!