

Choosing your post 16 options



Your big decision

The Future is about YOU! This maybe the first time that you will decide what you will do. It is good that you can choose, but making decisions brings responsibility and you want to make the right choice.

Post 16 options available

1. Full-time education at a college or sixth form.
2. An apprenticeship.
3. A traineeship.
4. Part-time education alongside a minimum of 20 hours per week in a paid job, self-employment or volunteering.

What can you study at college/sixth form?

A levels

- A Levels allow you to continue studying your GCSE subjects in greater depth or you can choose to study a new subject such as Law, Economics or Psychology.
- A Levels are good preparation if you are thinking of going onto higher education or if you are not sure of your career plans, as they can keep your options open.
- To study A Levels, you will need to have achieved grades 4-9 in your GCSEs with a minimum of grade 4 in English Language and Math's.
- Specific requirements can vary from four passes to six passes, so you should check with the college or sixth form you are interested in.
- For some subjects, including Math's and Science, you will need a GCSE at grade 6 or above in a subject if you want to go on to study it at A Level.
- You must like and be able to perform in exams with this option

If you want to think further ahead, then you can use the A Level matching tool at https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=5203 to find out which university degrees you could go on to do and what previous students with your combination of A levels progressed to.

Vocational Course Options: Subjects related to different industries

- Vocational subjects are qualifications that develop your practical skills and knowledge.
- These tend to be more hands on than an A Level qualification and can include work experience.
- Unlike A Levels, with a vocational course you study **one** specific area e.g. hairdressing, mechanics, business or travel & tourism (there are many different subject areas available – please contact your local college or sixth form to find out more).
- Assessment is usually by completing course work, practical examinations and some written examinations.

There are different levels of vocational subjects and the level you could start on depends on your GCSE grades.

- Level 3 a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades 4 and above including English and Maths (and science for some subjects) is required.
- Level 2 requires mainly grade 3 across all GCSEs.
- Level 1 requires mainly grades 2 to 1 across all GCSEs

Your careers adviser or the college or sixth form can discuss the level that is right for you.

T levels

The government is making significant changes to vocational qualifications. Between 2020 and 2022 they will introduce T level qualifications which will be equivalent to A levels.

The first T levels to become available will be:

- digital production, design and development
- design, surveying and planning
- education

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). As T levels are still in development we would recommend you visit <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/> for the most up-to-date information.

Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship means you have a real job, get paid and are entitled to other benefits such as annual leave.
- In most cases you will be required to source your own employer.
- Most of the skills and knowledge you need you will learn while doing the job.
- With an apprenticeship you will also gain recognised qualifications relevant to your role.
- You will go to college or a training provider, usually 1 day a week but sometimes you will do a block of training.
- You can find out more at <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/> & <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

Traineeships

- A traineeship is a pre-apprenticeship course designed to give you the skills and knowledge to prepare you for an apprenticeship or employment.
- A traineeship will provide you with work experience and support with your English & Maths should you need it.

You can find out more at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-trainees>

Employed, Self- Employed or Volunteering for 20 hours or more a week

“The participation age has been raised so that all young people in England are now required to continue in education or training beyond the age of 16.

Young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider;
- full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with regulated part-time education or training (about one day per week);
- an apprenticeship (www.apprenticeships.org.uk) or traineeship.”

For more information see <https://www.educationandemployers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Transitions-symposium-final.pdf>

Making a start



Each pathway will offer different ways of learning. For example, some education courses will be theory and classroom-based while others will involve placements with employers or practical project work.

1. Thinking about me - How do you like to learn? 🤔

If you would like to attend a college or sixth form, enjoy theory and classroom-based learning and perform well in exams, you may want to consider and research **A-levels**.

If you would like to attend a college or sixth form but prefer more practical project work with hands-on work experience you may want to consider and research **vocational courses**.

If you would rather go straight into employment whilst gaining qualifications, you may want to consider and research **apprenticeships** or **traineeships**.

We would recommend you consider & research all your options to enable you to make an informed choice.

2. Researching your options – Where can you find out more?

- Research options using the resources available on the [Hampshire Futures website](#)
- Find out more regarding your local colleges & sixth forms by looking on their websites, college prospectus and attending open events
- Visit <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/> & <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> for more information regarding apprenticeships
- Visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-trainees> for more information regarding traineeships
- Discuss your options with a Careers Adviser by emailing careers.service@hants.gov.uk