YEAR 11

NEXT STEPS

HOLMFIRTH HIGH SCHOOL

Training & Qualifications Guide for Young People, Careers Professionals, Teachers, Parents and Carers.

HOLMFIRTH
HIGH SCHOOL

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YOUR BEST NEXT STEP

There are numerous career progression routes available, each tailored to suit different individuals. The key is selecting the most suitable path to reach your goals.

For instance, you may opt for BTEC's, T-Levels or A-Levels to pursue a University Degree, or alternatively, consider Apprenticeships, which offer the opportunity to combine work and study.



PREPARATION TIMELINE

Follow the timeline to keep track of key dates and important times throughout the year.

SUMMER TERM YEAR 10

- Think about your future strengths and favourite subjects.
- Find out more about careers that interest you.
- Think about how your strengths might fit with your career ideas.
- Discuss your ideas with people whose opinions you value.
- Do some online research into the local college and training options.

AUTUMN TERM YEAR 11

- Build confidence in strengths and favourite subjects.
- Go to information events and learn about all the different options.
- Book some taster sessions.
- Check college application deadline, Some colleges might require an application this term.
- Make contact with employers if seeking an Apprenticeship.
- Complete applications (key dates will be given out in Y11) but **most application are complete by the end of January**.

SPRING TERM YEAR 11

- Concentrate on exam preparation.
- Attend interviews.
- Attend additional taster events.
- Work hard to secure an Apprenticeship placement (if seeking an Apprenticeship)
- Make sure you have a back-up plan.

SUMMER TERM YEAR 11

- Continue to prepare for exams and revise in between exams.
- Finalise your placement if intending on starting an Apprenticeship.
- Attend any summer transitions days (after exams). Many college run welcome events.

What is Post 16 Education?

There is a lot more choice for education after year 11. This is called post-16 education.

All young people MUST take part in education or training up until they are 18.

This education could include:

Full-time education

like school, college or independent training providers.

Work-based learning

like an Apprenticeship or supported internship.

Part-time education or training

if you are employed or volunteering at least 20hrs per week.

For all school leavers, it is important not to close your options down by the choices you make.

ASK YOURSELF:

WHERE AM I NOW?

What qualifications, skills and interests do I have?

WHERE DO I WANT TO GET TO?

What would I like to be doing in 5 years time?

HOW WILL I GET THERE?

What course, training or future job is likely to get me where I want to go?

What is a Study Programme?

Post-16 education is known as a study programme.

This usually includes:

- **an academic qualification** (e.g A-Levels) or a **vocational qualification** (T-Levels, BTECs) with a substantial work placement.
- **continuing to improve English and Maths** skills, working towards GCSE grade 4 and functional skills, where appropriate.

A young person who is taking a full-time study programme will usually be at their place of learning for an average of **16 hours per week**.

This might fit into **3 x full days** or could be spread over **5 x days.**

Some young people might be able to access up to 5 x full days of provision where appropriate.



What types of post-16 education & training are available?

There are lots of different options after Year 11, and it's okay to switch pathways if things change. For example, you might start at sixth form, then move to a training provider, and later get a job.

Think of your journey like travelling somewhere—some people take the bus, others walk or drive. The route might be different, but the goal stays the same.

There's no 'best' option. It's all about what works best for you.



Types of Courses

Courses after Year 11 usually fall into three main categories:

- **Academic**
- **Vocational and/or Technical**
- **Work-based**

Some people might mix different options, depending on how they learn best and what they want to do in the future.

It's a good idea to chat with your careers adviser, teacher, or family to figure out what might be the best fit for you.

In the next few sections, you'll see the main differences between each type of course to help you make a choice that works for your goals.

Academic Courses

These courses are more focused on the study and theory of a subject:

- They include qualifications such as GCSEs (Secondary school), A-levels (Sixth form), and Degrees (University).
- Over 40 different subjects available at A-level with thousands of different Degree subjects at University.
- These type of courses are usually delivered by schools, colleges, or universities.

Vocational and/or Technical

These are work-related qualifications designed to help learners gain the knowledge, practical skills, and experience needed for specific jobs:

- They range from Entry Level up to Level 8.
- Common areas include Animal Care & Land-based Studies, Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Hair & Beauty, Construction, and Digital Media.
- They are typically delivered by schools, colleges, or Independent Specialist Providers.

Work Based

These programmes take place in a work setting and focus on building skills and gaining experience. They include Supported Internships and Apprenticeships, both of which help develop work skills and increase experience.

- Apprenticeships are supported by training providers and employers.
- Supported Internships are usually supported by a college and an employer.

Types of Courses

Post-16 Routes

16 YEARS OLD

ACADEMIC COURSES	VOCATIONAL / TECHNICAL	WORK BASED		
A Levels	BTEC Lvl 1-3, T-Levels & Foundation Courses	Supported Internships	Apprenticeships & Inclusive Apprenticeships	Employment or Volunteering

Where can you find these options?

Further Education Colleges	Further Education Colleges	Further Education Colleges	Further Education Colleges	Local Businesses
School Sixth Forms	School Sixth Forms	Independent Training Providers	Independent Training Providers	Local Charities & Community Centres
	Independent Training Providers	Specialist Settings	Local Businesses	
	Specialist Settings			

Entry Requirements

Don't worry if you don't meet the exact entry requirements – providers like colleges and sixth forms are here to help.

They'll always take your personal circumstances into account and support you in finding the course that's right for you.

It's really important to achieve Grade 4 or above in English and Maths, as it opens more doors for your future. But if you don't quite get there, you'll have the chance to work towards it as part of your study programme.

Some courses may ask for specific GCSEs at grade 4 or above, depending on the subject. This will be explained when you speak with a tutor from the course area.

Level	What you'll need...
Level 3	You typically need to have **five GCSES or equivalent grade 9-4,** inc English & Maths grade 5/4.
Level 2	You typically need to have three to **four GCSEs grade 9-3.**
Level 1	You typically need to have **three to four GCSEs at grades 1-2.**
Entry	No GCSEs.

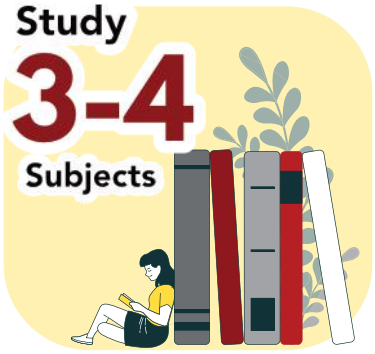
Level 3

A-LEVELS

Scan the QR code to find out more.

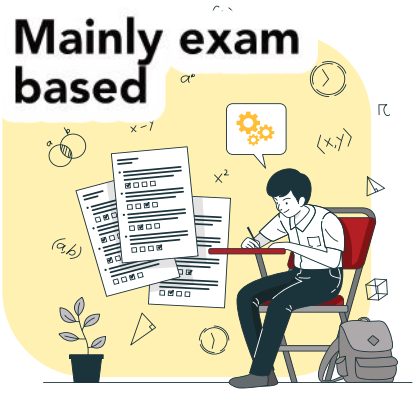
A-levels are short for 'Advanced' Level and come after GCSEs. They are academic subject-based qualifications which are usually assessed by exams.

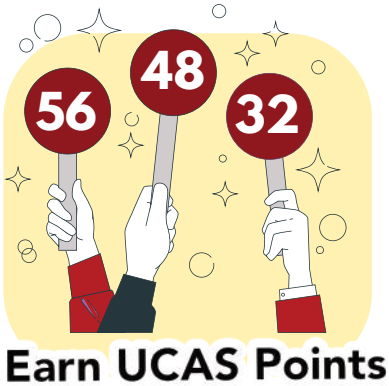












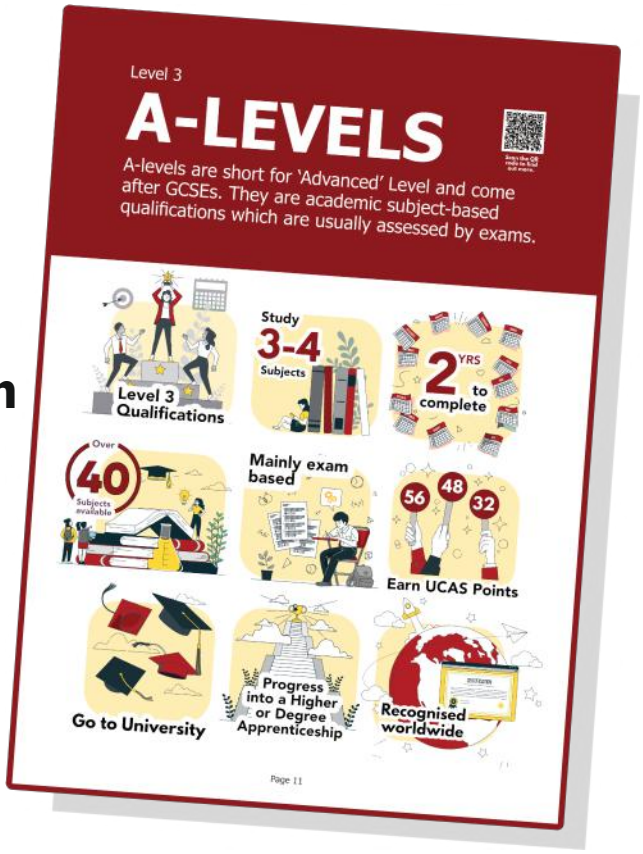






Academic Courses

A-Levels



Whether you decide to study A- Levels at a **school sixth form or college,** they give you a pathway to widely respected qualifications that employers and universities value. A-Levels help you build important skills like independence, time management, and critical thinking, which are really useful for your future.

You'll usually be assessed mainly through exams, which lets you show what you've learned and how well you understand the subjects. This way of learning and being tested also helps prepare you for university, where you'll need to manage your own study and stay disciplined.

Choosing A-Levels can open up lots of career options and university courses, giving you a strong foundation to reach your goals.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Develop independence and communication skills.

Medium Term
The option to gain an in-depth knowledge of a range of subjects.

Long Term
Earn qualifications to advance in education and access higher studies.

Level 3

T-LEVELS

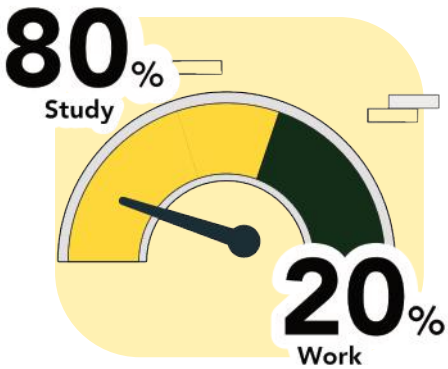
Scan the QR code to find out more.

A T-Level gives you a mix of learning in the classroom and on the job. Businesses and employers helped design T-Levels to teach you the skills you'll need.



















T-Levels



T-Levels are a high-quality, career-focused option instead of A-Levels, designed for 16 to 19-year-olds who want to gain practical skills and real experience in a specific industry. Created with help from employers and schools, T-Levels mix classroom learning with a 45-day work placement. This means you learn the theory and skills at college or school, then get to use them in a real job environment.

T-Levels are recognised by both universities and employers, and they provide a clear path into skilled jobs, Apprenticeships, or higher education. You'll find them **available at most colleges and some sixth forms**.

Each course focuses on a particular sector—like digital, healthcare, construction, or education—and includes important training in problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and professionalism. By combining classroom knowledge with hands-on experience, T-Levels help you build confidence, develop technical skills, and get ready for work, giving you a strong foundation for success in your chosen career.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Builds confidence with support.

Medium Term
Develops skills through real experience.

Long Term
Opens doors to work or study and higher education.

Level 1 to 3

VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS (VTQs)

Scan the QR code to find out more

VTQs are practical qualifications designed to give you the skills and experience you need for a certain job. They mights be for you if you have a strong interest in a particular industry. They are usually called BTEC or CTEC.

Focus on industry specific skills



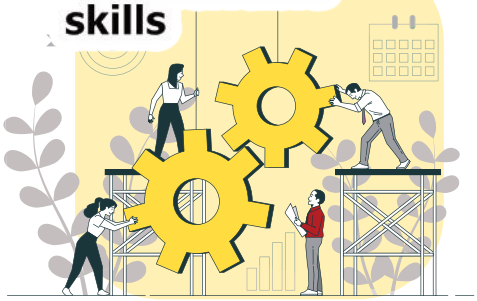
Move onto further study



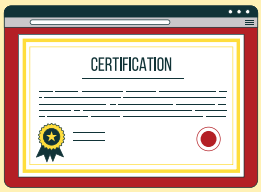
Get work ready



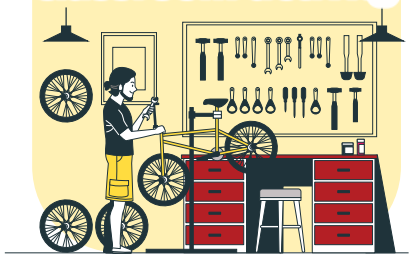
Develop transferrable skills

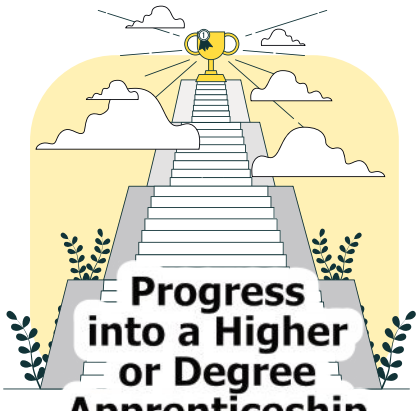


Gain Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 Qualifications

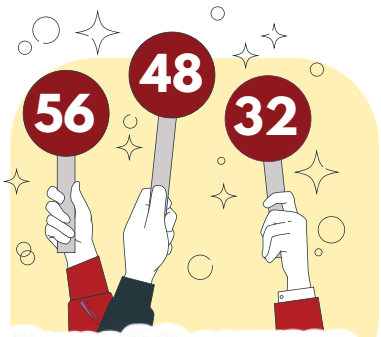


Mainly practical with some classroom activity





Progress into a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship



Some L3 courses attract UCAS Points



Go to University

Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs)



Vocational qualifications are **usually taken at college but can also be available at school sixth forms or independent training providers**. They mix practical work with classroom learning and often include chances to get work experience. **These courses come in different levels (1, 2, and 3)**, each with its own entry requirements.

Vocational qualifications help you develop real industry skills that you can use in everyday work situations, preparing you for a job. They also help you build independence and important life skills. Some courses might involve exams as well as showing proof of the skills and knowledge you've gained throughout the year.

Plus, some vocational qualifications can help you move on to university-level study if you want to keep learning.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Explore different careers or develop skills for a chosen job.

Medium Term
Gain a qualification relevant to a specific industry or job.

Long Term
Leads to career opportunities or further training or higher education.

Entry to Level 1

FOUNDATION COURSES

Scan the QR code to find out more

Engaging in a foundation course is a way to boost your confidence, enhance your knowledge, and develop essential skills. You can pursue these studies at a college or with an independent training provider.

Wide range of courses



Boost your confidence



CV Writing

Supported Learning



Interview Techniques

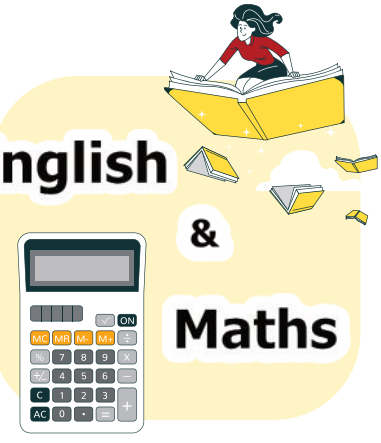


Entry to Level 1

Move onto further study



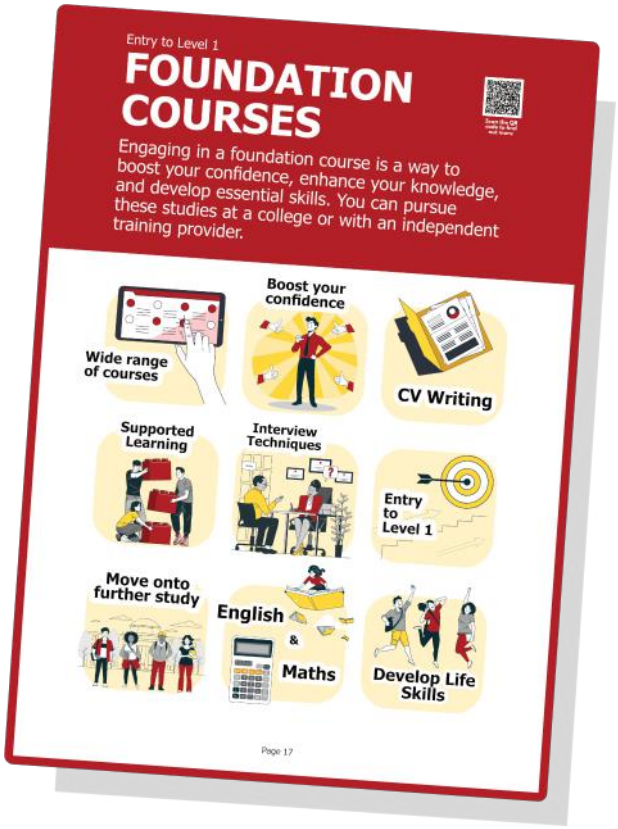
English & Maths



Develop Life Skills



Foundation Courses



If you need extra support when starting college, there are foundation courses available to help you. These courses can be different depending on the college—for example, the course name, the levels they cover, the entry requirements, and how they connect to other courses.

Foundation courses usually include help with skills for getting a job, English and maths, work experience or chances to practice work skills, plus personal and social support to help you overcome any challenges.

What all these courses have in common is extra support to help you move forward. They often act like a 'stepping stone' to the next stage of your learning journey.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Experience a range of jobs or learn skills related to a preferred job.

Medium Term
Gain qualification relevant to a specific industry or job.

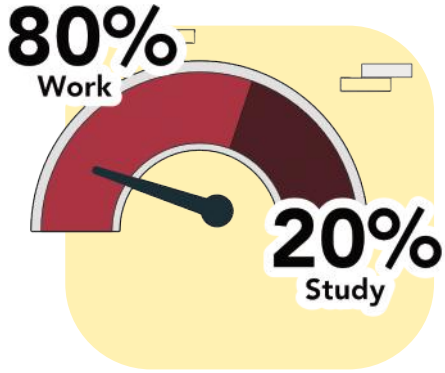
Long Term
Learn practical skills related to real life work.

Level 2 (Intermediate) & Level 3 (Advanced)

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is a paid job with training where you work alongside experienced staff, gaining job-specific skills and earning a wage. You follow an apprenticeship standard outlining the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed for success.

Scan the QR code to find out more













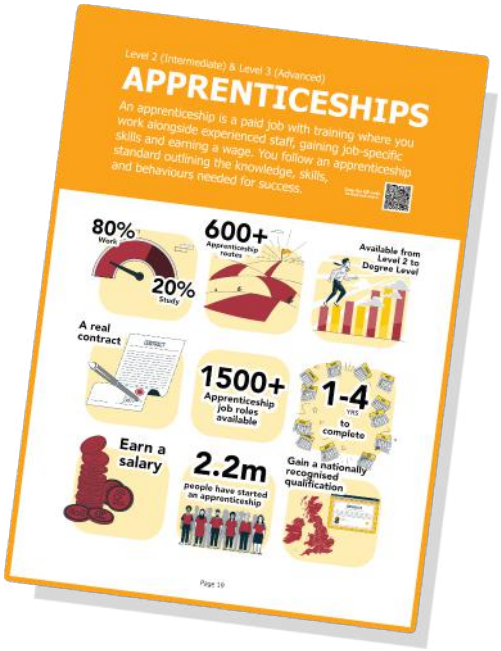






Work Based

Apprenticeships



There are lots of different Apprenticeships available to match different skills and interests. If you have additional support needs, training providers can help, and if you have an EHCP, you might be able to do an 'Inclusive Apprenticeship' with adjustments to suit your needs and access to a supportive job coach.

Unlike college or university, Apprenticeships focus on practical, on-the-job learning—some don't even require you to go to college. It's important to pick an Apprenticeship that fits your career goals and the way you like to learn.

When it comes to finding an Apprenticeship, it's important to remember that it's not the same as applying to college — you'll need to take a more active approach. There isn't just one way to apply, so be prepared to use several methods to find the right opportunity. This might include searching on the National Apprenticeship website, applying directly through employer websites, registering with local training providers, and even contacting companies yourself.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Earn a wage while learning.

Medium Term
Gain recognised qualifications and train for future careers.

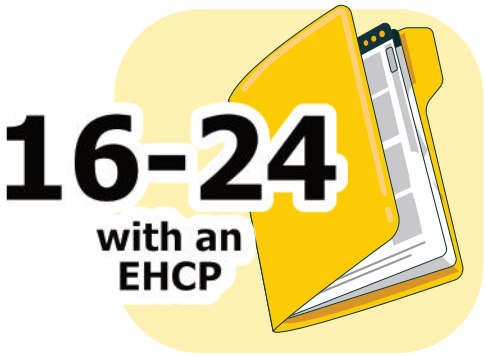
Long Term
Earn £100k more on average than unqualified workers over your career.

Entry Level

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Scan the QR code to find out more

For young individuals aged 16 to 24 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who possess an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This structured, work-based study program aims to provide a valuable work experience facilitated by a dedicated job coach.













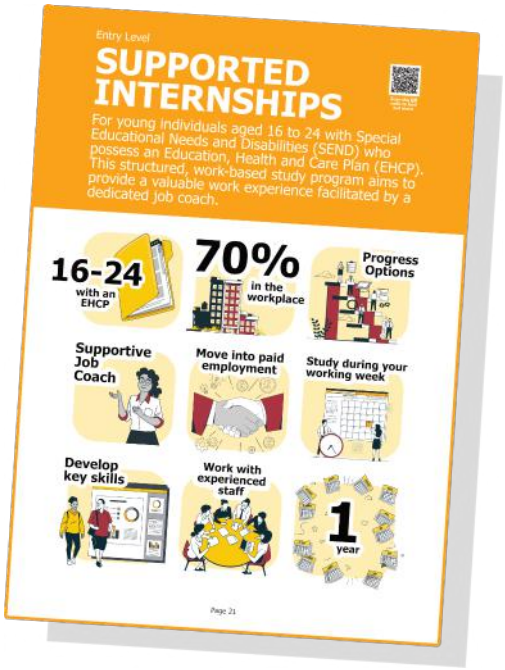






Supported Internships

A Supported Internship is a special type of study programme created especially for young people aged 16–24 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Plan and want to take steps towards getting a paid, long-term job.



This programme gives you the chance to build skills, confidence and experience in the workplace, while getting the support you need to succeed. It's designed to be flexible and personalised—so it fits around your needs, goals and learning style.

During a Supported Internship, you'll spend most of your time working at a real job with a local employer. This isn't just work shadowing or a short placement—it's proper work experience, usually lasting around six months or more. You'll get regular help from a job coach, who's there to support you, help you learn the role, and build your independence.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Improve communication skills.

Medium Term
Develop confidence and a wider social network.

Long Term
Progress towards life goals and aspirations, such as getting a job.

STILL UNSURE?

POST-16 TOP TIPS

1	**Attend careers and skills fairs** These are ideal for meeting colleges, training providers, apprenticeship providers, employers, and careers advisers.
2	**Discuss your ideas** Talk to parents or carers, family and friends to get other viewpoints on your choices.
3	**Get advice** Talk to teachers and career advisers – they have lots of knowledge and wisdom to share!
4	**Open events and taster sessions** They're a great opportunity to visit schools and colleges, find out about the courses on offer, and speak to staff and students.
5	**It is your life and your choice** Don't be influenced by where your friends are going. Ask yourself: what do I enjoy? What would I like to do and what do I want to get out of my life?

Personal Statements

Most sixth forms and colleges will ask for a personal statement as part of your application. This is your chance to explain:

- Why you're applying to that particular place.
- Why you want to study the subjects or courses you've chosen.
- What your goals are for the future.



Not everyone asks for one!

Some providers just want:

- Your predicted grades
- A reference from school
- Or a short interview

What YOU need to do:

Check each place you're interested in and ask:

- Do they need a personal statement?
- What else do they ask for?
- When is the deadline?

Open Evenings: What You Need to Know

Why Are They Important?

Open evenings and taster days are a great way to explore your next steps. Whether it's sixth form, college, or a specialist course, you can:

- Get a feel for the place.
- Meet staff and students.
- Ask questions about subjects, support, and student life.
- Get a feel for what suits you best.



What can you expect?

Open Evenings are usually after school or at the weekend and give you a chance to:

- Tour the building.
- Listen to talks about courses.
- Chat to staff and students.
- Collect prospectuses and useful info.

What If Dates Aren't Available Yet?

Don't worry! Most schools and colleges release their open event dates in the autumn term (usually from September onwards). While you're waiting:

- Make a list of the places you're interested in.
- Follow them on social media for announcements.
- Bookmark their websites.
- Open day dates will be added to the school website in Sept.



Be Ready to Make the Most of It

Here are some quick tips for when the time comes:

1. **Write down your questions.** Think about subjects, transport, clubs, support, and future pathways.
2. **Take notes or photos** (if allowed) to help you remember what you liked.
3. **Go with an open mind** — you might be surprised by places you hadn't considered!
4. **Chat to students** — they'll give you an honest view of what it's really like.

Local Sixth Forms and Colleges

Below is a list of sixth forms and college available across Kirklees.

Name	What is available?	Website	Scan the QR Code
Greenhead College	A-levels	https://www.greenhead.ac.uk	
Huddersfield New College	A-levels	https://www.huddnewcoll.ac.uk	
Shelley Sixth Form College	A-levels	https://www.shelleycollege.org	
Penistone Grammer P16 Centre	A-Levels	https://www.penistone-gs.uk	
Kirklees College	Vocational Courses / T-Levels / Apprenticeships	https://www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk	
Barnsley College	Vocational Courses / T-Levels / Apprenticeships	https://www.barnsley.ac.uk	
Barnsley Sixth Form College	A-Levels	https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk	
Wakefield College	A-Levels / Vocational Courses / T-Levels	https://www.heartofyorkshire.ac.uk/wakefield-college	
CAPA	Vocational Courses	https://www.capa.college	
Creative Media School	A-Levels, T-Levels, Vocational Courses	https://www.studio-school.org.uk	
Leeds City College	Vocational Courses / T-Levels / Apprenticeships	https://leedscitycollege.ac.uk	
Calderdale College	Vocational Courses / T-Levels / Apprenticeships	https://www.calderdale.ac.uk	

Local Apprenticeship Providers

There are lots of training providers who deliver apprenticeship training. Some will be part of local colleges. Some will be independent organisations, or employers. They might cover lots of different types of work or can specialise in a particular industry. Here are some local examples.

Visit the national apprenticeship service webpages for more information: **www.apprenticeships.gov.uk** for general information.

https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship to search and apply for vacancies.

Employers who have had apprentices before are likely to have a training provider that they work with.

Name	Industries Covered	Website	
Kirklees College	Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Construction, Digital, Hospitality	https://www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk	
Broadbent	Engineering & Manufacturing	https://broadbent.co.uk	
Reliance Precision Ltd	Engineering	https://www.reliance.co.uk	
Citrus Training	Construction, Utilities, Health & Safety	https://www.citrustraining.co.uk/	
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Healthcare, Dental Nursing, Clinical Support, Biomedical Science, Leadership	https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/careers/apprenticeships/	
Heart of Yorkshire Education Group	Business, Care Services, Catering, Construction, Education, Engineering, Finance, Logistics	https://www.heartofyorkshire.ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships	
Leeds College of Building	Construction, Engineering	https://www.lcb.ac.uk/	
Jet2.com and Jet2holidays	Engineering, Finance, IT, Marketing, HR, Procurement, Customer Service	https://www.jet2careers.com/	
Mitchells & Butlers	Hospitality, Food Safety, Leadership, Customer Service	https://www.mbcareersandjobs.com	

YOUR APPRENTICESHIP ACTION PLAN

Step-by-step guide to help you secure an apprenticeship – whether through a college, a training provider, or direct with an employer.

STEP 1: START YOUR SEARCH

Look on these sites:

- Find an Apprenticeship (gov.uk)
- Get My First Job
- Not Going to Uni
- Rate My Apprenticeship
- Careermap



TOP TIPS

Set up alerts for your area and your chosen industry so you never miss a new opportunity.

Colleges and training providers often **help match students** with local employers – **don't be afraid to ask!**



STEP 2: HELPFUL EXTRAS TO BOOST YOUR PLAN

1 Apply Direct to Employers

- Make a list of companies in your chosen industry.
- Visit their websites/social media channels and check their careers pages.
- Email with your CV, course details, and enthusiasm.
- Follow up if you don't hear back in a week or two.

2 Apply via a College or Training Provider

- Apply for an apprenticeship subject you're interested in.
- Ask if they help match students with employers.
- Apply for the full-time course too (as backup).
- Attend open days or taster sessions.

3 Start a Full-Time Course First

- Choose a course linked to your future apprenticeship goals.
- Build confidence and skills in a classroom or workshop.
- Improve English, maths, and employability skills.
- Look and apply for apprenticeships during the course.



What If You Don't Find an Employer Right Away?

- Join the course anyway — colleges & training providers often help you find an employer.
- Keep applying for apprenticeship vacancies.
- You can switch over once you find an employer.

YOUR SAFETY NET CHECKLIST

Have you:

- **Applied for more than one route?**
- **Got a backup full-time course offer?**
- **Asked about employer help?**
- **Used Find an Apprenticeship?**
- **Spoken to a careers adviser?**

Essential Subjects

When you're picking your GCSEs or A-levels, it's not always easy to see how your choices might affect your future. But if you already have a university course or career in mind, some subjects can be absolutely essential. The below table will help you understand which subjects are needed for specific degree courses – so you can keep your options open, avoid missing out on opportunities later, and feel confident you're on the right path.

Career Sector	Level Subjects (or Equivalent)	Recommended Subjects
Medicine	Biology, Chemistry	Maths, Physics
Health & Social Care	Biology or Health & Social Care	Psychology, Sociology
Engineering	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology
Computing & IT	Maths	Computer Science, Physics
Architecture	Maths	Art or Design Technology, Physics
Law	None essential	English Lit, History, Politics
Business & Finance	None essential	Maths, Business, Economics
Psychology & Mental Health	Psychology (preferred), Biology	Sociology, Maths
Creative Arts & Design	Art and/or Design	Design Tech, Photography, Media Studies
Media, Film & Journalism	None essential	English Lang, Media Studies, Film Studies
Teaching & Education	Varies by subject (e.g. English, Maths, Science for Primary)	Subject-specific A Levels for Secondary
Environmental Sciences	Geography or Biology	Chemistry, Environmental Science
Sports Science & PE	PE or Biology	Psychology, Chemistry
Languages & Linguistics	At least one language	English Language, Literature
Performing Arts	Drama, Music or Dance (based on specialism)	English, Music Tech, Performing Arts

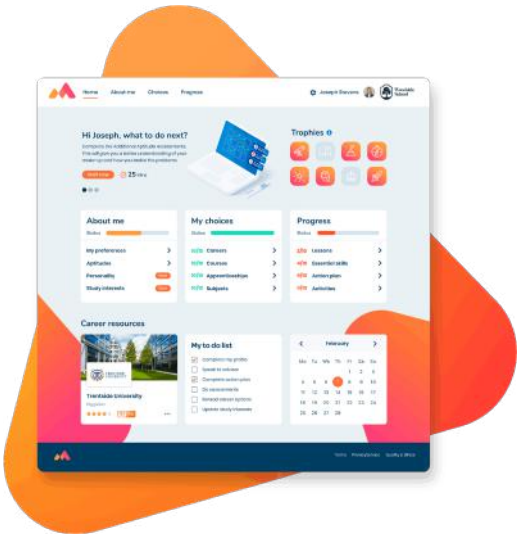
Making the most of Morrisby

You've already got a Morrisby login – now it's time to use it to your advantage!

Morrisby is more than just a one-off careers quiz. It's your personal toolkit for planning your future. From discovering careers that match your interests and strengths, to finding out which subjects and qualifications you'll need, Morrisby helps you make informed choices at every stage.

Why use Morrisby regularly?

- Explore careers that actually suit you – based on your interests, values and abilities.
- See which subjects matter for different university courses, apprenticeships or jobs.
- Create and update your action plan as your ideas and goals change over time.
- Keep track of your progress, so you're ready for college, university or employment.



TOP TIPS

- Log in at least once per term to keep things up to date.
- Use your results to guide subject choices, applications and career research.
- Share your profile with careers staff or tutors to get tailored advice.

Whether you're just starting to explore or already have a goal in mind, Morrisby is there to help you take the next step with confidence.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Use the following websites for information and support to help inform your decision.

Morrisby - A careers platform for 11–19 year olds to explore jobs, find strengths, and plan next steps. Check out the career profiles and pathway planner.
https://www.morrisby.com

Youth Employment UK – a website from an independent organisation that provides wide-ranging information about careers and employment. Try the 'Career Guides'.
https://www.youthemployment.org.uk

Prospects – a great source of information mainly aimed at young people who might consider university graduate level careers in the future or for those who are already at university.
www.prospects.ac.uk

Icould - Find inspiration and explore your ideas using real-life career videos. **https://icould.com/**

BBC bitesize careers - a really good range of articles and information from the BBC with career stories, videos, quizzes to help young people with their careers ideas.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers

National Careers Service - Providing information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work. **www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk**

Leeds Young Carers - use this site for a clear overview of the different options that are available to young people.
https://family-action.org.uk/services/leeds-young-

T Levels - use this site to learn more about what T Levels are and how they work. **https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/**

UCAS - Universities and colleges admissions service, offering support and advice so you can make an informed decisions about your future. **www.ucas.com/further-education**

SACU - An online platform providing careers advice, course info, and student resources to help you plan your future. Explore career pathways and get support with your next steps.
https://sacu-student.com