YEAR 11

WHAT NEXT?

IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS

2026 - 2027



Training & Qualifications Guide for young people, careers professionals, teachers, and parents/carers.

South Midlands CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Welcome



Yvonne Ashby
Strategic Hub Lead

Welcome to our South Midlands Careers Hub 'What Next Guide'.

This guide will provide young people, parents/carers/families and teachers across South Midlands with key information to support with post-16 transition into education, employment and training.

This can be a daunting time for young people identifying their 'next best step' with so much information to navigate. This guide provides you with impartial and accurate information to help you to understand the range of pathways and options available to you, as well as signposting you to the local opportunities across the South Midlands.

The guide can also help you prepare for transition and can be used to expand your knowledge and understanding of the different levels in education, progression routes and what's available near you.

As parents/carers/families or teachers, you can refer to the guide when supporting young people to identify what the right pathway for them might look like. There are lots of useful website links for further guidance and support.

I hope you find it helpful.

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South Midlands CAREERS HUB

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This is a free publication published by Resourceful Careers in partnership with the South Midlands Careers Hub

PREPARATION TIMELINE

It might seem likes ages away but if you take the time to research and plan now you can make more confident choices - and complete your applications earlier. So, you've got more time to focus on your GCSEs.

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 deadlines. Some colleges might require an application this term.
- Make contact with employers if seeking an apprenticeship.

SPRING TERM YEAR 11

- Complete applications (key dates will be given out in Y11) but most applications are completed by the end of January.
- Attend interviews.
- Attend additional taster events.
- Work hard to secure an apprenticeship placement.
- Make sure you have a back-up plan.

SUMMER TERM YEAR 11

- Concentrate on exam prep.
- Finalise your placement if you're intending on starting an Apprenticeship.
- Attend any summer transitions days after exams. Many colleges run welcome events.

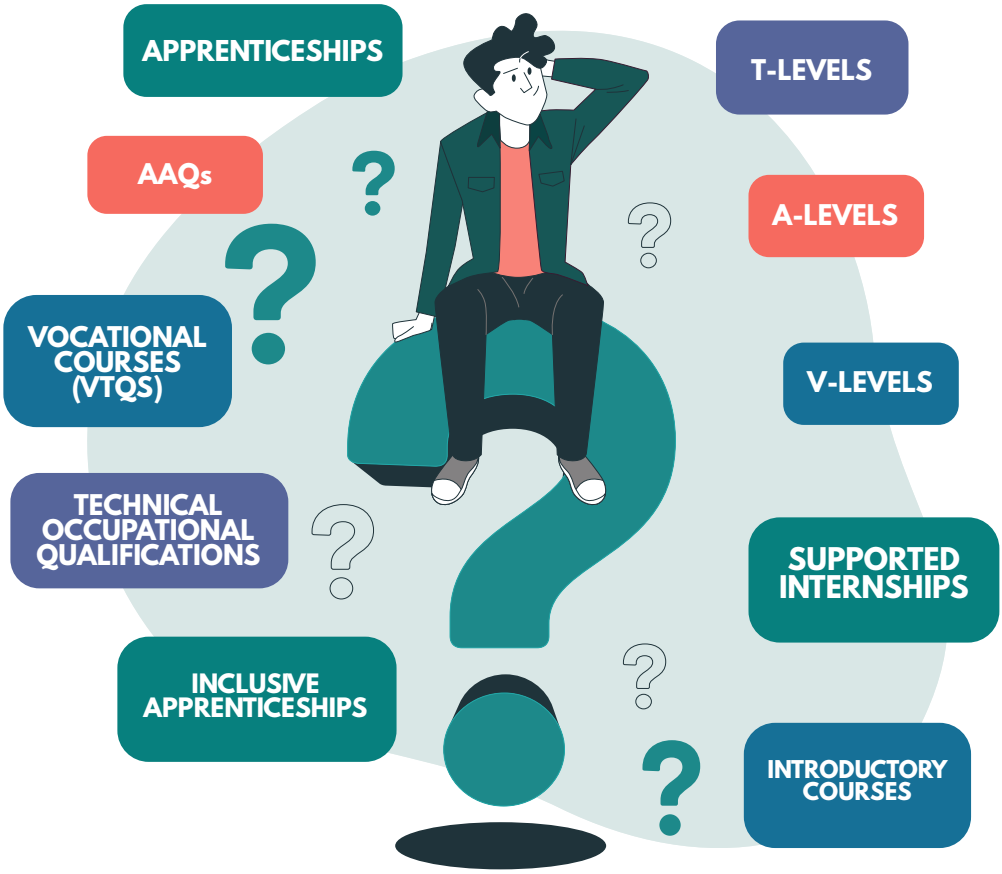
DO YOU KNOW YOUR LEVELS?



YOUR BEST NEXT STEP

There are more post-16 choices than ever before, including both established routes and new qualifications. A Levels and T Levels will continue, while some BTECs and other vocational qualifications are being defunded and replaced by Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs), Technical Occupational Qualifications (TOQs), V Levels and other vocational certificates.

You could also choose an apprenticeship, combining paid work with practical training and a recognised qualification. There is no single route that is right for everyone—the important thing is choosing the next step that best matches your interests, strengths, preferred way of learning and future goals.



FOUR PATHWAYS TO YOUR FUTURE

WHAT GRADES DO I NEED?

This guide shows **typical minimum GCSE grades** for post-16 options from 2026–2028. Some courses, subjects and employers may ask for higher grades, so always check the entry requirements for each provider.

Pathways can be mixed and are not always linear.

Key: Each square = one GCSE at that grade

PATHWAY	ENTRY / LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
ACADEMIC PATHWAY Subject-based study that keeps university and higher study options open.	**PREPARATION FOR GCSEs IN ENGLISH & MATHS & OTHER SUBJECTS**	**GCSE RESITS** BUILD YOUR GRADES	**A LEVELS** 5 5 5 5 5 YOU WILL NEEDS 6's FOR SCIENCE & MATHS SUBJECTS **AAQs** ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS 4 4 4 4 4
	English & maths: If you have not achieved Grade 4, you will usually continue studying these alongside your chosen route.		
TECHNICAL PATHWAY Practical study linked to a specific industry or occupation.	**INTRODUCTORY TECHNICAL COURSES** NO FORMAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	**OCCUPATIONAL PATHWAY** OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES 3 3 3 3	**T LEVELS** 4 4 4 4 4
VOCATIONAL PATHWAY Applied learning that mixes theory, skills and real-world contexts.	**ENTRY LEVEL INTRODUCTORY COURSES** NO FORMAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	**FURTHER STUDY PATHWAY** FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES 3 3 3 3	**V LEVELS** PHASED IN FROM 2027 4 4 4 4 4
	LEVEL 1 INTRODUCTORY COURSES 1 1 1	**VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS** e.g. BTECs, CTECs (AVAILABLE DURING TRANSITION 2026 - 2028) 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4	
WORK BASED PATHWAY Earn, learn and train directly with an employer.	**SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS** USUALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-24 WITH AN EHCP NO FORMAL GCSE REQUIREMENTS	**FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP** JOB WITH TRAINING **INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP**	**ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP**
		Apprenticeships: Entry is set by the employer/provider. English and maths may be studied during training.	

Speak to a Careers Adviser to help you explore the options in more detail.

ACADEMIC PATHWAY

A-LEVELS

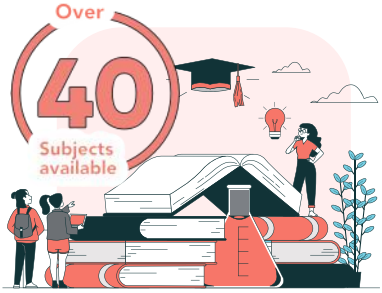
Scan the QR code to find out more.

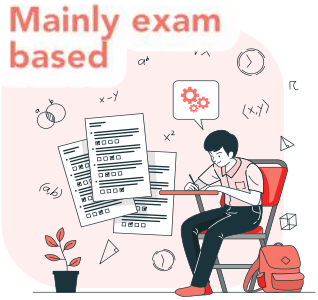
A-levels are short for 'Advanced' Level and come after GCSEs. They are academic subject-based qualifications which are usually assessed by exams.

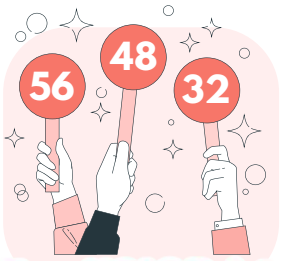


















ACADEMIC / VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS (AAQs)

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) are a new generation of career-focused qualifications designed to offer the same progression opportunities as traditional A-levels and BTECs, while placing an even stronger emphasis on real-world knowledge and skills.



Learn the skills for a range of vocations





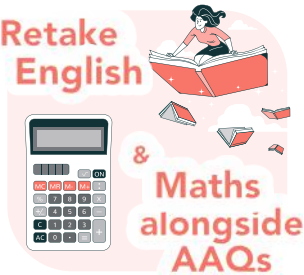
Develop transferrable skills



Assessment spread throughout the year



Retake English & Maths alongside AAQs





Earn UCAS Points



Go to University



Progress into a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship

TECHNICAL PATHWAY

T-LEVELS

Scan the QR code to find out more.

T-Levels are short for 'Technical Level' and give 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.



Alternative to A-Levels





Level 3 Qualifications













TECHNICAL PATHWAY

TECHNICAL OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (TOQs)

Technical Occupational Qualifications (TOQs) are designed to help you build the knowledge and practical skills needed for a specific job or career area. They are created to support progression into employment, further training, or the next step in your chosen sector.

Post-16 option at Level 2 or 3



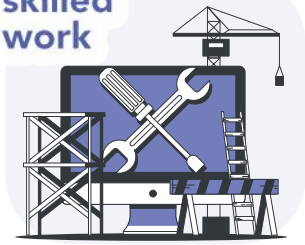


Linked to real jobs

Designed with employers



Supports skilled work





Practical & relevant

Clear progression route



Can also lead to further study





Great for students with a clear career goal



VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS (VTQ's)

Scan the QR code to find out more

VTQs (aka BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals) are practical qualifications that help you build skills for a job or industry. Some BTECs are being phased out as new qualifications are introduced, but many are still available during the transition to 2028.

Focus on industry specific skills



Move onto further study



Get work ready



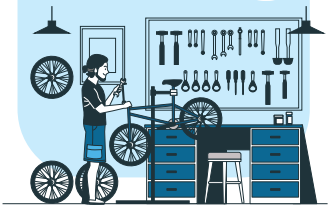
Develop transferrable skills



Gain Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 Qualifications



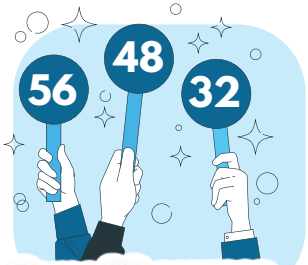
Mainly practical with some classroom activity



Progress into a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship



Some L3 courses attract UCAS Points



Develop transferrable skills



VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

V-LEVELS

Scan the QR code to find out more

V-Levels are a new post-16 option being introduced in England. They are designed to give you broad vocational knowledge in a subject area, helping you keep your options open while still building useful skills for future study or work.

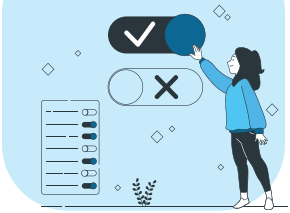
New vocational pathway available from 2027





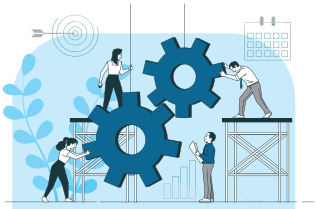
Level 3 Qualifications

Mix with other qualifications like A-Levels & AAQs



Similar size to an A-Level





Develop sector knowledge & transferable skills



Applied learning with some practical assessment





First subjects: Education & Early Years, Finance & Digital



Designed to prepare you for future jobs & further study

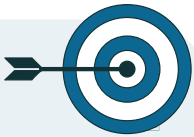
VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES

Foundation Certificates are new one-year Level 2 courses, starting from September 2027. They introduce you to a vocational area and build the knowledge, skills and confidence you need to move on to Level 3, such as V Levels, T Levels or A levels.

Available from 2027





Level 2

Prepare for Level 3



Practical & vocational





Work Experience



English & Maths



Boost your confidence





CV Writing

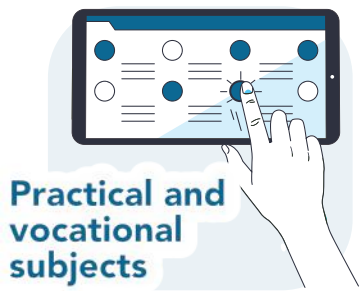


Develop Life Skills

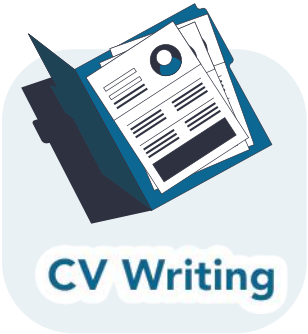
VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Introductory courses (Entry Level and Level 1) build your confidence, knowledge and essential skills. You can study them at a college or with an independent training provider.





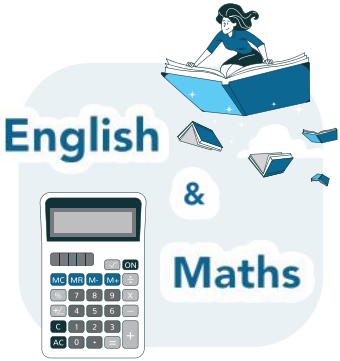












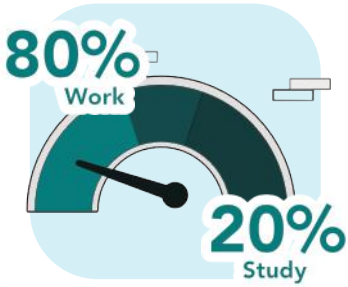


WORK BASED PATHWAY

APPRENTICESHIPS & INCLUSIVE APPRENTICESHIPS

Scan the QR code to find out more

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.

















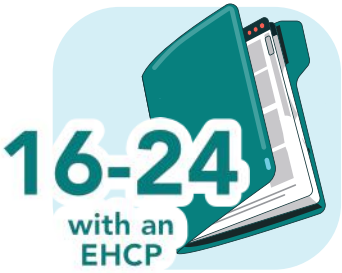


WORK BASED PATHWAY

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.

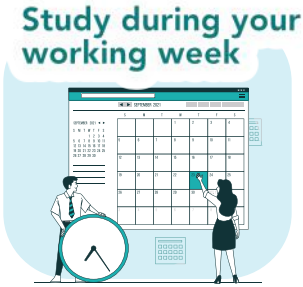


















Entry Requirements

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.

Entry requirements can vary between different courses, but the guide below gives a general idea of what's usually expected.

Level	P16 Pathways	What you'll need...
Level 3	A-Levels T-Levels BTEC's / V-Lvls Apprenticeships	You typically need to have **five GCSES or equivalent grade 9-4,** inc English & Maths grade 5/4.
Level 2	BTEC's Foundation Certificates Apprenticeships	You typically need to have three to **four GCSEs grade 9-3.**
Level 1	BTEC's Introductory Courses Inclusive Apprenticeships	You typically need to have **three to four GCSEs at grades 1-2.**
Entry	BTEC's Introductory Courses Supported Internships	No GCSEs.

Local Sixth Form & FE Colleges

When you finish Year 11, you'll have lots of choices for continuing your education. Many schools have a sixth form where you can study A Levels, vocational courses, or a mix of both — all school based sixth forms are listed on pages 19-22 for you to explore.

If you're looking for something different, there are also colleges and larger sixth form centres in your area that provide a wide range of subjects, specialist facilities, and opportunities to meet new people. Here are some of the main ones across Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes, and Northamptonshire:

Bedford Borough

SCAN ME!

- Bedford College
- The Bedford Sixth Form
- Kimberley College

Central Bedfordshire

SCAN ME!

- Central Bedfordshire College
- Shuttleworth College

Luton

SCAN ME!

- Luton Sixth Form College
- Barnfield College

Milton Keynes

SCAN ME!

- MK College

North Northamptonshire

SCAN ME!

- Tresham College
- Corby Sixth Form

West Northamptonshire

SCAN ME!

- Northampton College
- Moulton College
- National College for Motorsport

BEDFORD BOROUGH - SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

Bedford Academy	https://www.bedfordacademy.co.uk/sixth-form/6.html
Biddenham Upper School	https://biddenham.beds.sch.uk/Sixth-Form-at-Biddenham/
Kempston Academy	https://sites.google.com/kempstonchallengeracademy.org/sixth-form-at-kca
Mark Rutherford School	https://www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=49
Ridgeway School (SEND)	https://www.ridgeway.beds.sch.uk/6th-form-ks5/
Sharnbrook Academy	https://sixthform.sharnbrook.academy
St Johns School (SEND)	https://st-johns-school.co.uk/fe-2/
St Thomas More	https://www.st-thomasmore.org.uk/6thform

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE - SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

All Saints Academy	https://www.allsaintsacademydunstable.org/sixth-form/
Cedars Upper School	https://www.cedarsupper.org.uk/Sixth-Form-Welcome/
Etonbury Academy	https://www.etonbury.org.uk/sixth-form
Harlington Upper School	https://harlington.org/sixth-form/
Ivel Valley School (SEND)	https://www.ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk
Manshead Church of England Academy	https://www.mansheadschool.co.uk/Sixth-Form-/Prospectus-and-Applications/
Oak Bank School	https://www.oakbank.beds.sch.uk/curriculum/6th-form/
Queensbury Academy	https://www.queensbury.anthemtrust.uk/1450/queensbury-academy-sixth-form
Redborne Upper School	https://www.redbornecommunitycollege.com/sixth-form
Samuel Whitbread Academy	https://www.samuelwhitbread.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=10
Sandy Secondary	https://www.sandysecondaryschool.co.uk/sixth-form-admissions/
Stratton Upper School	https://stratton.school/welcome
The Chiltern School (SEND)	https://chiltern.beds.sch.uk
Vandyke Upper School	https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/sixth-form/welcome/

LUTON - SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

Cardinal Newman Catholic	https://www.cardinalnewmanschool.net/sixth-form
Queen Elizabeth	https://www.qe6luton.co.uk
The Chalk Hills Academy	https://www.sixthform.advantageschools.co.uk/our-sixth-form/
The Stockwood Park Academy	https://www.thestockwoodparkacademy.co.uk
Woodlands Secondary	https://www.woodlands.luton.sch.uk

MILTON KEYNES - SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

Bridge Academy	https://www.bridgeacademy.org.uk
Denbigh High School	https://www.denbigh.net/sixth-form/
Lord Grey Academy	https://www.lordgrey.org.uk/sixth-form/
Oakgrove School	https://www.oakgrove.school/category/sixth-form/
Ousedale School	https://www.ousedale.org.uk/sixth-form
Shenley Brook End School	https://www.sbeschool.org.uk/Sixth-Form/
Slated Row School (SEND)	https://www.slatedrow.com
St Pauls Catholic School	https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/sixth-form/intro
Stantonbury School	https://stantonbury.tove.org.uk
Stephenson Academy (SEND)	https://www.stephensontrustpost16centre.org.uk
The Hazeley Academy	https://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/Sixth-Form/
The Radcliffe Academy	https://www.radcliffeschool.org.uk/sixth-form-area
The Woodlands School (SEND)	https://www.twsmk.co.uk
Walton High	https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk
Watling Academy	https://watlingacademy.net/join-us/watling-academy-sixth-form/

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE- SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

Bishop Stopford School	https://www.bishopstopford.com/sixth-form
Brooke Weston Academy	https://www.brookeweston.org/sixth-form/welcome-to-bwa-sixth-form
Chelveston Road School	https://www.chelvestonroadschool.org/learning/curriculum/
Corby Business Academy	https://www.corbybusinessacademy.org/sixth-form/welcome-to-our-sixth-form
Corby Technical School	https://www.corbytechnicalschool.org/sixth-form/welcome-to-sixth-form
Friars Academy (SEND)	https://www.friarsacademy.org/learning/curriculum/
The Ferrers School	https://www.theferrers.org/the-ferrers-school-sixth-form
Huxlow Academy	https://huxlow.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form/welcome
Isebrook School (SEND)	https://www.isebrookschool.co.uk/curriculum/post-16
Kettering Buccleuch Academy	https://kba.uk/sixthform
Kettering Science Academy	https://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org/sixth-form/welcome-to-ksa-sixth-form
Kingswood Secondary	https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?pid=288
The Latimer Arts College	https://www.latimer.org.uk/page/?pid=190
Lodge Park Academy	https://www.lodgeparkacademy.co.uk/Sixth-Form/
Manor School Sports College	https://www.manorschool.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form/admissions
Maplefields Academy (SEND)	https://www.maplefieldsacademy.co.uk/welcome/
Montsaye Academy	https://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form/
Prince William School	https://pws.emat.uk/sixthform
Red Kite Academy (SEND)	https://www.redkitespecialacademy.co.uk
Rushden Academy	https://www.rushden-academy.net/index.php/sixth-form/sixth-form-introduction
Sir Christopher Hatton Academy	https://www.hattonschool.org.uk/page/?pid=72
Southfield School for Girls	https://www.southfieldsch.co.uk/sixth-form-welcome
Weavers Academy	https://www.weaversacademy.org.uk
Wollaston School	https://wollastonschool.co.uk/wollaston-sixth-form/
Wrenn School	https://www.wrennschool.org.uk

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE- SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

Abbeyfield School	https://www.abbeyfieldschool.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=42
Billing Brook Special School (SEND)	https://www.billingbrook.co.uk/6th-Form-05102020135944/
Campion School	https://www.campionschool.org.uk/sixth-form/welcome-to-sixth-form
Caroline Chisholm School	https://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/curriculum/sixth-form
Chenderit School	https://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/Sixth-Form/Welcome-Page/
Daventry Hill School (SEND)	https://www.daventryhillschool.co.uk/about-us/example-page-title-20
The Duston School	https://www.thedustonschool.org/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=505
Elizabeth Woodville School	https://www.ewsacademy.org.uk/sixth-form-home/
Greenfields Specialist School for Communication (SEND)	https://www.gsscacademy.org/curriculum/post-16
Guilsborough Academy	https://www.guilsborough.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form
Kingsthorpe College	https://www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk/sixth-form
Magdalen College School	https://www.magdalen.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form/
Malcolm Arnold Academy	https://www.malcolmarnoldacademy.co.uk/Sixth-Form/
Moulton School & Science College	https://www.moultonschool.co.uk/sixth-home/
The Northampton Academy	https://www.northampton-academy.org/sixth-form
Northampton International Academy	https://nia.emat.uk
Northampton School for Boys	https://www.nsb.northants.sch.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=82
Northampton School for Girls	https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk
Northgate Academy (SEND) The Bee Hive	https://www.northgateacademy.org.uk/The-Bee-Hive/About-Us/
Purple Oaks Academy (SEND)	https://www.purpleoaksacademy.org/page/?title=Post+16&pid=111
The Parker E-ACT Academy	https://daventrysixthform.e-act.org.uk
Silverstone UTC	https://www.utc-silverstone.co.uk
Sponne School	https://www.sponne.org.uk/sixth-form/prospective-students/new-student-home
Thomas Becket Catholic School	https://www.thomasbecket.org.uk/home
Weston Favell Academy	https://www.westonfavellacademy.org

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.

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
- HigherIn



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?**

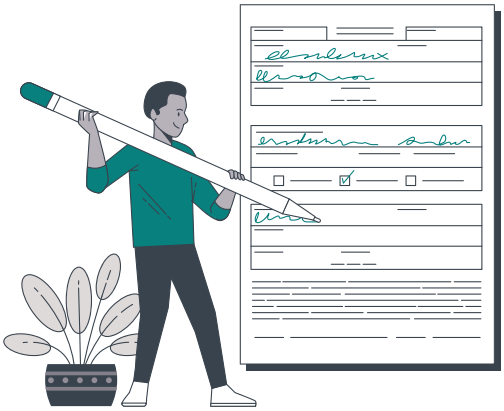
STILL UNSURE?
POST-16 TOP TIPS

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.

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	A 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

What if I don't get the grades?

There's always a next step - here's what to do:

Results Day

Did you get the grades for your chosen course?

Yes

Go ahead with enrolment at college or sixth form.

Enrolment Day

Confirm place, finalise options, meet tutors and support staff.

Preparing for College / Sixth Form

Plan travel, organise equipment, check timetable and induction details.

Settling In

Attend induction week, explore clubs and enrichment and meet the pastoral/careers team.

Looking Ahead

Explore future pathways: university, apprenticeships, or work with ongoing careers support.

Professional Development

Speak to your employer to find out what CPD opportunities and support are available.

No

Don't worry - here are a few suggestions that can help.

1. **Resits & Introductory Courses**

   Ensure English/Maths resits are built into the programme. Consider Entry Level or Level 1 courses.

2. **Apprenticeship**

   Learn on the job, earn a wage, build skills and confidence in a job that you're interested in.

3. **Vocational Courses**

   Start at the right level and progress upwards. This can include BTECs, City & Guilds, T Levels at Level 1–3.

4. **Alternative Training Providers**

   Explore smaller training centres to help develop practical skills, employability, and confidence.

5. **Contact your local authority**

   If you need extra support, you can contact your local authority for help and guidance.

LMI LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

SOUTH MIDLANDS



POPULATION OF



1,887,036

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUSINESSES

75,520

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT

890,300

KEY SECTORS IN OUR REGION

- CONSTRUCTION
- ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING
- CULTURAL & CREATIVE
- DIGITAL
- LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN
- HEALTH & CARE

South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

TOTAL PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN OUR KEY SECTORS...

CREATIVE & CULTURAL **44,400**	HEALTH & CARE **99,300**	ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING **86,800**
LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN **132,400**	CONSTRUCTION **43,700**	DIGITAL **28,300**

EMPLOYERS ACROSS OUR REGION



The following websites can help you to explore more Labour Market Information.

National Careers Service
Clear job profiles with pay, skills and entry routes.
https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/

Prospects – Job Profiles & Labour Market Trends
Career information geared towards students and graduates, with details on progression, salaries, and skills.
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles

Youth Employment UK
helps young people explore jobs, skills and local opportunities.
https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub/

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

General Careers Information

Careers Pilot - Careers information and tools for 11-19 year olds. **https://www.careerpilot.org.uk**

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/careers-advice-help/**

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**

Skills for Careers - use this site for a clear overview of the different options that are available to young people. **Young People | Skills for Careers (education.gov.uk)**

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**

Informed Choices - The tool created by the Russell Group of universities to help you link University ideas to your A level choices. **https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/**

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships - Use this site for general information about the Apprenticeship pathway.
https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Find an Apprenticeship - Use this site to find vacancies in your area. https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Guide - Use this site as a tool to discover your perfect Apprenticeship role.
https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

Amazing Apprenticeships - Use this site to explore a wide range of resources and activities linked to Apprenticeships.
https://amazingapprenticeships.com/student-zone/

Careers Information & Support for Parents

Talking Futures - A set of prompt cards to help parents and careers talk to their teens about career ideas.
https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/conversation-cards/

The Parents Perspective - an exciting podcast series for parents and carers, helping them to support their children with careers advice and guidance
https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/

Careermap - If you're a school leaver, graduate or job seeker, we have lots of options! Search & apply for apprenticeships, graduate schemes & jobs.
https://careermap.co.uk/career-advice/careermag/for-parents-guardians

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