



## Guide for Pupils, Parents and Carers to Post 16 Options



The options that young people have Post 16 can be confusing. There are many different routes and pathways that young people can take and options have to be carefully made.

Gathering information about different options is an essential part of this process. This guide is an overview that I hope will help you through the process.

Should you require any further information or advice please contact me at school.

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## **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

This is the Government's policy which sets out a new requirement for young people to continue in learning or training after the age of 16. This will affect:

Young people that complete Year 11 in or after 2014: it will be a requirement to remain in learning or training up to 18 years old.

RPA does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in learning and training.

Why?

By staying in learning and training you can gain the qualifications and skills you need to help you to succeed. Advantages include:

- Making it easier to find and stay in a job
- Having the ability to earn and give you a greater choice of career path
- Being able to compete in the future local job market
- Providing pathways to opportunities where you can develop your qualifications and skills further in order to support your future career aspirations for example: higher education (university), higher apprenticeships, setting up your own business.

You will also have a greater chance to develop the knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for. This means you will find it easier to get a better job, with better pay and career prospects.

### **GCSE Maths and English**

It is now compulsory for pupils to try and achieve a Level 4( C grade) GCSE or equivalent in Maths and English Language. If this is not achieved by the end of Year 11, students must study these subjects again in 6<sup>th</sup> Form or a College



## Choices at 16

There are a range of options you can choose in order to best meet your needs and your future career aspirations for the next steps once you complete Year 11. These include:

- full-time education which includes studying at an FE college, school sixth form or home education;
- an Apprenticeship;
- part-time education or training if you are employed or self-employed;
- Volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week), whilst studying independently.

### Different Colleges offer different options

**6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges** :( Locally: Carmel 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Queen Elizabeth 6<sup>th</sup> Form, MC6 at Middlesbrough College and UTC South Durham ) These Colleges offer A Levels. A levels are Level 3 qualifications.

Most A Levels have a high % level of exam based assessment and can support several different career paths. If selecting A Level courses it is usual to choose 3 or 4 subjects in the first year, and then continue with 3 subjects in the second year. Some 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges also offer vocational courses in addition to A Level courses

**Colleges of Further Education** :(Darlington College, Middlesbrough College, Stockton Riverside College, Bishop Auckland College, New College Durham & East Durham College to name but a few. There are also specialised FE Colleges such as Northern College of Art (formally Cleveland College of Art and Design) and Askham Bryan & Houghall College that offer Land Based courses

**Vocational Diplomas** are offered at different levels ( Levels 1, 2 and 3 ) and are linked to one vocational area. e.g. Creative and Media / Computing and IT; they

are more practical and often assessed on portfolios and course work. Vocational Diplomas are offered at different levels and are linked to one vocational area. e.g. Creative and Media / Computing and IT; they are more practical and often assessed on portfolios and course work.

### **Technical Qualifications : T Levels**

T Levels are a new Level 3 qualification which are an alternative to A Levels. These are 2-year qualifications. You'll spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% of your time in the workplace, putting the skills you've learnt into action.

Every T Level student will take an industry placement that lasts at least 45 days, helping you to gain valuable experience in the workplace and allowing employers to meet the new talent in their industry. T levels have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that they meet the needs of industry and prepare you for work.

T Levels provide the skills, knowledge and experience you need to open the door to highly skilled employment, higher level study or an apprenticeship.

Colleges of Further Education offer a range of T Levels and details can be found in the individual college prospectus /website

# What's the next qualification for me?

- ▶ Qualifications go from entry level to level 8
- ▶ A Higher Education qualification is anything above level 4
- ▶ Use the table below to see how you can work through the levels

## Qualifications

Level	Qualification		
7/8	NVQ 7	Master's Degree/Doctorate	
6	Higher/ Degree Apprenticeship	Honour's Degree	
5		HND	Foundation Degree
4	NVQ 4 - 6	HNC	Certificate of HE
3	Advanced Apprenticeship/NVQ 3	BTEC Cert/Diploma	AS/A2
2	Apprenticeship/NVQ 2	BTEC First Diploma	GCSE A*-C/9-4
1	NVQ 1		GCSE D-F/3-1
Entry	Basic Skills/Skills for Life		

**An Apprenticeship:** This is a real job with training so you can earn while you learn and pick up recognised qualifications as you go. If you live in England, are over 16 and not in full time education you can apply. They take between one and four years to complete and cover 1,500 job roles in a wide range of industries, from things like engineering to financial advice, veterinary nursing to

accountancy. Pupils will need to familiarise themselves on how apprenticeships work. Full details are available on the National Apprenticeship website. [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

**Traineeships:** Traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, Maths and English and work experience needed to get an Apprenticeship or other job. Traineeships are delivered by training providers and funded by the government, with employers providing the valuable work experience placement and interview as part of the programme.

Young people can search for Traineeship opportunities on the Apprenticeship vacancies system.

## What will happen in Year 11?

Our aim is to provide students with relevant careers information and guidance to enable them to make the right post 16 choice. Full details of what support is available in Year 11 is detailed in the CEIAG Pupil Entitlement. This information is available on the school's website as part of the Careers Policy. The main activities in Year 11 include:

**Careers Education:** Understanding the different Post 16 choices & CV Writing delivered within SMSC lessons and Tutor time.

Post 16 Information Evening 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Assembly Presentations** from 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges, FE Colleges and Apprenticeship providers.

**College Application Day** ( 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

We will support pupils in completing online applications. More than one application can be made on this day, to help pupils keep their options open.

**Mock Interviews: Scheduled for January 2024.** Year 11 students will each have a mock interview. They will be supported in preparing a CV to take to the interview.

**Apprenticeship Application Clinics:** Support with the Apprenticeship Application process

**1:1 Advice and Guidance Session:** This is with a professionally qualified Careers Advisor, Penny Hudson.

**Individual Transition Support** where this is required

**Careers Hub:** This is open every lunchtime and has regular visits from college liaison staff, Job Centre Plus. This is a drop-in service where Penny is available to support pupils.

## **Post 16 choices: Supported learning and SEND**

If you have learning difficulties or disabilities the range of post-GCSE options will also offer extra support and help.

At the end of year 11 you can:

- Go to a 6<sup>th</sup> Form school /College
- go to a further education or specialist college
- apply for work-based training with an employer or training provider
- try some voluntary work

### **Getting the support, you need**

The government has changed the law on special education needs and disabilities (SEND), learning difficulties and disabilities.

The changes mean the people, organisations and services providing support will work together much more. It also gives you a greater say in your own support and helps prepare you for adult life, to continue your education and training, or find a job.

You'll be closely involved in deciding what support you need and how it's provided – whether or not you have an Education, Health and Care (EHCP) plan – which makes sure it focuses on your personal goals and ambitions, and helps you get where you want.

### **How the new service will work for you**

The teachers and advisers you work with now, or at the school or college you're applying to, will be able to give you information about support you can get.

Your school or college must try to make sure they help you get the special educational support you need. Specialist colleges offer extra facilities and one-one support you may not get at your local college or school. They might be



helpful if, for example, you have sight or hearing difficulties, need medical care, or require special equipment.

### **Supported internships**

[Supported internships](#) are for students with learning difficulties or disabilities who want to get a job and need extra support to do this. They're a good way to get the training and experience you need to get into work.

**Hurworth School host a SEND information Evening (including post 16 choices)  
This is taking place in March 2024**

## **Where can I find out about different Colleges and different courses?**

**Hurworth School Careers website: <https://careers.swiftacademies.org.uk>**

Students, Parents, Carers and Supporters have access to this via the school website. The Careers site will allow you to find out all different sorts of Careers information...Click.... and you can.....

- Explore different careers using Kudos, National Careers Website and Prospects website
- Look at Colleges in this area, including all courses available and see what GCSE grades they require.
- Find out about Apprenticeships
- Life at University: What qualifications will you need to get on certain courses at University....explore UCAS and if you want to understand about how student finance works, UCAS is the place to find out.

College Prospectuses and Apprenticeship information are always available in the Careers Hub

Welcome to the Swift Academies Careers website. Careers Education Advice and Guidance at Swift Academies has clear objectives. We look to enable our pupils to: Develop themselves and their aspirations through careers and work related education, find out about careers and the world of work, building strong connections with employers and develop skills for career well-being and employability. Our whole school approach to careers is guided by the eight *Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance*.



**Information**  
Information for pupils, staff, parents, providers and employers.



**Apprenticeships**  
Information about apprenticeships and where to find them.



**College**  
Information on college, sixth-form college and how to apply.

*Hurworth  
Careers Blog*

*Longfield Careers  
Blog*



**Armed Forces**  
Information on joining the armed forces.



**University**  
Information about applying for university.



**Labour Market Information**  
Information about Labour Markets how to find it.

**National Careers Service**

**Kudos**

**TEES VALLEY  
CAREERS.COM**



**Work Experience**  
Information about work experience for Year 10 pupils.



**Events Calendar**  
Upcoming careers events at Swift Academies.



**Useful Links**  
Useful links and sources of information.

**UCAS**

## What type of research can I do?



**Explore different careers. Using quality websites (There are links available to lots more on the school's careers website) these are just a few .....**

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

Prospects: The graduate website. This will enable you to research careers that link with subjects that you are taking at A Level and might study at degree level This will help expand your Career knowledge.

[www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/)

Informed Choices (Guidance from Russell Group of Universities)

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)

Explore careers within the National Health Service

Use the careers computer software in school. Explore different career choices using careers software available at school. ( Kudos )

### **Post 16 options research (Colleges and 6<sup>th</sup> Forms)**

- Use the school's careers website to explore courses that different Colleges offer. Improve your knowledge of the different courses available, by looking online at course details. Make a note of GCSE entry requirements.
- Attend open evenings at the Colleges you are interested in. Full details of open evening dates will be provided in September. This information will also be sent via parent mail.
- Complete Application forms. This can be done on College Application Day in January.

### **Apprenticeships /Traineeships**

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

This site provides the latest news and information on apprenticeships and schemes, including types of apprenticeship, apprentice employers and tips on how to apply for vacancies. Familiarise yourself with how apprenticeships work.

A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience. It is designed to give young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for. Traineeships are an ideal opportunity for young people, aged 16 to 24, who are motivated to get a job but lack the skills and experience that employers are looking for. Those who have been unsuccessful when applying for an apprenticeship or other job due to a lack of skills and experience are most likely be good candidates for a traineeship.



## FE Progression (University)

**Higher Education / University** Explore UCAS website (details provided) and look specifically at course requirements; this is with view to increasing knowledge to assist you with making the right post 16 course choice.

**Informed Choices** provides further guidance on facilitating A level subjects and can be found online at <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>

**Some guidance from the UCAS website..... On [ucas.com](http://ucas.com).**

Thinking about university?

If you're thinking about going to university, you need to think about your choices after GCSEs before making any applications. It's important you check out higher education (HE) entry requirements. Look at the subjects and qualifications you choose now will affect the choice of university courses open to you later. Some higher education courses will be looking for particular subjects and grades.

### Where to start?

If you have any ideas about HE courses you might want to study, it's worth doing a bit of research now.

- Check entry requirements for any courses you're thinking about – these mention any particular A levels, subjects or qualifications you'll need, as well as any grades you'll need to get.
- They'll mention Tariff points too – given for after GCSE qualifications such as A levels and BTECs – some universities and colleges require you to have a certain number of Tariff points.
- Compare course content – even courses with identical titles can vary so if you've got an idea of what you'd like to study, compare the details by browsing subjects in the UCAS undergraduate search tool.

Don't worry – you don't need to decide now! University choices and applications are usually started in year 12. Your school or college will tell you about it. In the

meantime you can also find details about what's involved and how it all works on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com).

#### Some basics

- You'll need GCSE Maths and English, as whatever course you choose, you'll be expected to have these qualifications or their equivalent.
- Think about going to open days and events. Don't be shy of contacting universities directly to ask questions.
- Look at the sort of qualifications you may want to take including A levels, International Baccalaureate ,Cambridge Pre-Us and BTEC Diplomas