



Post 16 Options How does it all work?



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What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

Full-Time Study - this could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

Apprenticeships - this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

Traineeships - this is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering - this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

The following video gives some information about each of the options mentioned above: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_xAQNNi4pA&feature=youtu.be

How do I pay for post-16 education and training?



Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a 16-19 Bursary Fund available to some students to help with things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

Useful Links:

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-options>
<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications - two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study:

Traditional A-Levels - Subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art, Physical Education.

Alternative A-Levels - Subjects like Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics etc.

BTEC L3 Diplomas - Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Sport and Leisure, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form. Most Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

Entry Requirements - Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, or sometimes Grade 5 or above, but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A- Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

Some Local Options:

- Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington - <https://www.geliz.ac.uk>
- Richmond School Sixth Form - <https://www.richmondschool.net>
- Thirsk Sixth Form - <https://thirskschool.org>
- Northallerton School and Sixth Form - <https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk>

Vocational Colleges

Colleges and training providers usually offer BTEC's or other vocational qualifications that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way.

Specific Vocational Colleges:

Askham Bryan College - Courses in Animal Care, Agriculture, Equine Studies, Horticulture and Engineering - <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk>

Army Foundation College - Junior Soldier training and other pathways - <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/our-schools-and-colleges/afc-harrogate/>

Northern School of Art - <https://northernart.ac.uk>

Military Preparation College, Teesside - [Home - Motivational Preparation College for Training \(mpct.co.uk\)](http://www.mpcct.co.uk)

General Vocational Colleges - Offer everything from hair and beauty, Childcare and Construction, through to Business Management, Games Design, Automotive Engineering, Food Technology, Fashion Design, Performing Arts, Sport Science and Photography.

Darlington College - <https://darlington.ac.uk>

York College - Offers a range of vocational courses and A Levels
<https://www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/index.php>

Harrogate College - <http://harrogate-college.ac.uk>

Middlesbrough College - Offers a range of vocational courses and A Levels
<https://www.mbro.ac.uk>

Entry Requirements:

Entry level/level 1 - Can require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade)

Level 2 - Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3 or above

Level 3 - Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/5 or above.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships - Involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship). Apprenticeships must be at least one year long, and all apprentices must be paid at least minimum wage (although some companies pay more). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries, including **Engineering, Graphic Design, Software Development, Hair and Beauty, Catering** and many more.

Apprenticeships generally fall into 4 categories:

Intermediate/Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) - usually requires Maths/English at GCSE

Advanced/Level 3 (equivalent to A-Level) - usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+

Higher/Level 4-5 (equivalent to Foundation Degree) - usually requires L3 or A-Levels

Degree/Level 6-7 (equivalent to University Degree) - usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar

Where can I find an apprenticeship?

<https://darlington.ac.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

<https://careerfinderucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.northernskills.co.uk/learners>

Traineeships - Opportunity for students aged 16-24 who do not have the relevant qualifications, experience or skills to start an apprenticeship but are interested in progressing on to one in the future. **Traineeships** involve a programme of up to six months of study, including a work placement, qualifications in Maths and English and support with finding a job or apprenticeship once the course is completed. Students are not paid for taking part but can apply for a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help with costs.

Useful Links:

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk>



Post 16 Open Events

Post 16 providers have a number of open events throughout the year. It is important to attend these to get more information about the options available to you, have the opportunity to ask questions and help you make the right decision about your next steps. See information below about some upcoming open events at a range of local providers. Some may require booking, therefore please check the website in advance.

Provider	Date(s) of open evening
Darlington College	Thursday 20th October, Wednesday 23rd November, Thursday 19th January, Tuesday 21st March and Monday 8th May - 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form	Wednesday 5th October, Tuesday 11th October and Thursday 20th October - 5pm - 8pm
Richmond Sixth Form	Thursday 20th October - 5.30pm until 7.30pm
Northallerton Sixth Form	Thursday 6th October 5pm - 7pm
Northern School of Art	Saturday 19th November 2022 and Saturday 14th January 2023
Harrogate College	Wednesday 5th October 5pm - 7pm
York College	Monday 10th October & Thursday 3rd November - 5.30pm - 8pm / Saturday 26th November 10.30am - 12.30pm
Askham Bryan College	Tuesday 11th October 5pm - 6.30pm / Saturday 12th November and Saturday 28th January
Thirsk Sixth Form	Wednesday 2nd November - also a virtual tour available on their website
Ripon Grammar Sixth Form	Thursday 10th November - 6.30pm



How do I make my final decision?

Deciding where to go after year 11 can be daunting and tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams. Therefore, it is important to consider the following factors which can help you make a decision:

Where can this option take me in the future? If you are thinking about a destination after post-16, such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships or have a particular career path in mind, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress onto these. Look at the following links for more advice with this - <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices> and <https://successatschool.org>

What will doing this option be like? Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, and most often 2 years, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you

Tips:

- Speak to sixth form or college staff and students at one of the many Open Days and Open Evenings that take place through the year. Refer to page 6 to see a list of open events coming up, or refer directly to post 16 providers websites.
- Research more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organization can provide you with while you are studying e.g. help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, assistance from the careers team to help you move on after finishing your course etc. Sixth form and college website have all the information you need!

Watch the following video for more tips to help you decide on your post 16 destination/subjects -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=48TE3mqUXow&feature=emb_logo

What can I do to prepare?

You will be spending time completing activities in form over the coming months to help you plan and prepare for your next steps and help you complete applications. However, there are some things that you can do to help make this process easier for yourself:

- **Ask lots of questions** - If you are unsure about anything or need advice about different courses or options don't be afraid to speak to someone. There are lots of people you can speak to for help including your form tutor, Head of Key Stage (Miss Temple), teachers, sixth forms/colleges, family members etc. You can also refer to the National Careers Service for advice - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice>
- **Attend open events** - Attending open evenings allow you to get more in-depth information about the courses available and see/hear first hand what studying them will be like. Open events are also a great opportunity for you to ask questions.
- **Start planning now** - You might think you have a long time to plan, prepare and complete applications, but that time will soon disappear. You also don't want to be worrying about completing applications whilst revising for your GCSE exams. Therefore, start planning now! It is a good idea to use this time between now and Christmas to attend open events and get applications completed.
- **Keep your options open** - Whilst some of you might know exactly what you want to do or where you want to go next year, it is a good idea to have a back up option too. It is recommended that you apply for at least 2 options - remember you don't have to make your final decision until summer.

In the meantime, you can also use some of the following websites to help you prepare for life after BHS.



Look more at the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university - <https://careerpilot.org.uk>



Improve your employability skills and start recording your experiences in a CV - <https://barclayslifeskills.com>



Explore career options, get advice about post 16 options and develop employability skills <https://www.startprofile.com>