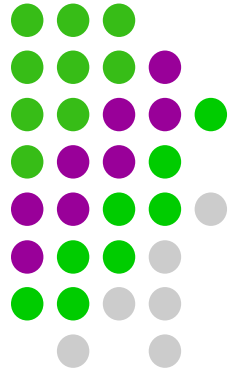


SIRIUS ACADEMY WEST CAREERS INFORMATION



Come and see me for guidance about your future. I can help!

kmilner@siriusacademy.org.uk

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We want all our students to understand the full range of opportunities and journeys available to them; to learn from employers in a workplace situation, about jobs and the skills that are valued in the workplace. All students are able to access advice and guidance tailored to their individual needs, that is provided in an impartial manner.

This booklet has been produced to help guide you (the student, along with your parents/carers) through the information needed to allow a smooth transition from Year 10 into Year 11, which will enable you make informed choices for when you leave the Academy.

You will have the chance to speak to your careers adviser, who will talk through your ideas and what you need to do to achieve them,

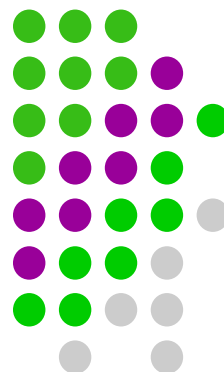
The Academy holds a series of events throughout the year that will help you make your decisions about your future but this booklet will provide you with essential information to help you make these choices.

We encourage all students to access as much information as they can in order to complete their applications on the online prospectus-

You should have a sticker with your login details for Logonmoveon
<https://www.logonmoveon.co.uk/>

Logonmoveon username: _____

Logonmoveon password: _____



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You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

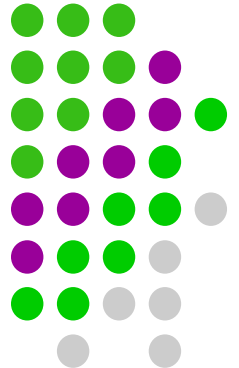
You must then do one of the following until you're 18:

- ♦ stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- ♦ start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- ♦ spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

**YOU
CANNOT
JUST LEAVE SCHOOL AND GET A JOB!!!**



It is entirely your decision as to where you want to go and what you want to do. Making this decision can be very daunting, so it's important that you all do as much research as possible.



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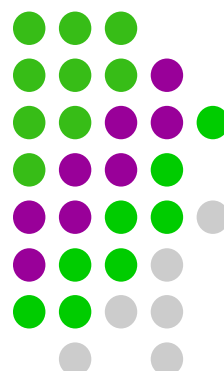
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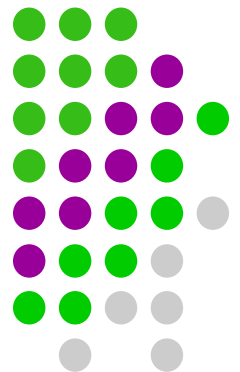
Now to October

- ◆ Book your careers interview with the Careers Advisers Ms Milner or Ms Faulkner. Do this as soon as possible to talk through your ideas and discuss college and training applications
- ◆ Complete your personal profile on <https://www.logonmoveon.co.uk/>
- ◆ Explore your career ideas... use the Internet websites at the back of this booklet
- ◆ Find out as much as you can about all the opportunities available to you after Year 11 look at the website: <https://www.logonmoveon.co.uk/>
- ◆ Collect and read information about colleges and training.
- ◆ Attend any open days/ events at colleges or training providers.
- ◆ Talk over your ideas with friends, family and teachers.

October onwards...

- ◆ Apply using logonmoveon (or online if applicable) to colleges and training providers. Some Providers have dead line dates– check carefully
- ◆ Remember; give yourself choices-you can apply for several opportunities and have a back up plan.
- ◆ Ask your Careers Adviser for details of how to apply for anything you are not sure of... (Some apprenticeships may not be listed on logonmoveon).
- ◆ Remember to check <https://www.logonmoveon.co.uk/> for messages from colleges or training providers
- ◆ Make your applications before the end of December
- ◆ Prepare for and attend interviews





February/ March...

- ◆ Attend any assessments, which you may have to sit as part of the application process.
- ◆ Attend the annual Careers fair at Sirius

April...

- ◆ Open a bank account if you have not done this already!

June onwards...

- ◆ Officially, leave school on the last Friday in June (you can start full- time College/ Training or employment after this date).
- ◆ Attend GCSE results day



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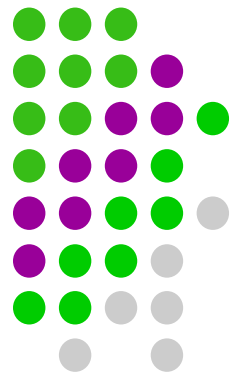
What's going to happen?

At some point in Year 11 you will have a decision to make about how you are going to continue your education after your GCSE exams. This is known as your Post 16 Destination. The three main pathways students can choose from are:

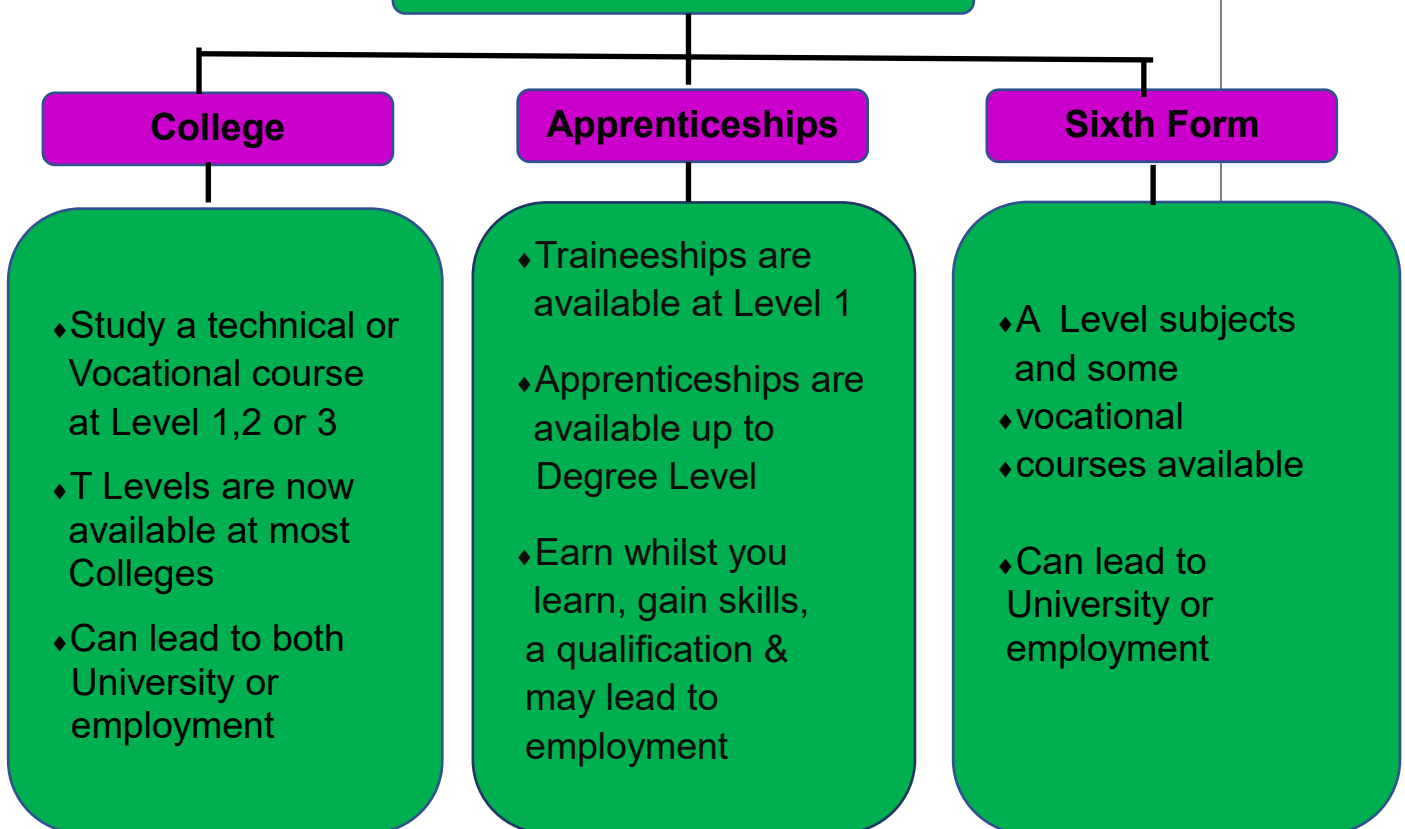
- Apprenticeships
- Sixth Form
- College

You also have the option to apply for the military or begin your work based learning with a Traineeship.

Each pathway will suit a different type of learner, have different entry requirements / application processes and potentially shape your career in different ways.



Post 16 Options after GCSEs



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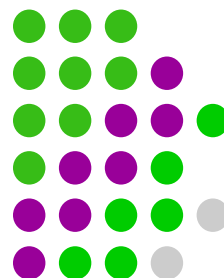


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With so many different qualifications it can be hard to know what they mean and where they may lead to. To help you understand the table below will highlight the academic, vocational and work– based routes. Generally, the higher the level of qualification, the more difficult it is.

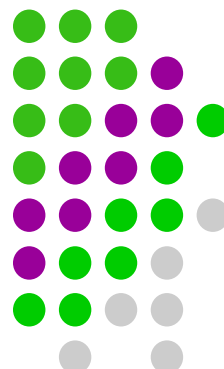


LEVEL	OPTIONS/ QUALIFICATION	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
LEVEL 5 up- wards	Degree Level	Entry Requirements vary dependent on the course/ subject but usually include relevant: A Levels BTEC Extended Diploma NVQ 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
LEVEL 4	Foundation Degree HNC/ HND NVQ 4 Higher Apprenticeship	Entry Requirements vary dependent on the course/ subject but usually include relevant; A Levels BTEC Extended Diploma NVQ 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
LEVEL 3	A Levels BTEC Extended Diploma National Award/ Diploma NVQ 3 T Levels Advanced Apprenticeship ** You choose <u>1</u> option/pathway	GCSES at Grade 4/5 and above (sometimes 4 subjects depending on course) Level 2 - Award/ Certificate/ Diploma NVQ Level 2 Apprenticeship
LEVEL 2	GCSE's Level 2 Award/ Certificate/ Diploma Apprenticeship	4 GCSES Grade 3 Level 1 Award/ Certificate/ Diploma NVQ Level 1
LEVEL 1	Level 1 Award/ Certificate/ Diploma NVQ Level 1	Entry Level Courses
ENTRY LEVEL	Foundation Learning Courses Entry Level Courses	No entry requirements

Will my grades decide what I can do and where I can go?

Quite simply – yes!

To study A Levels you need:-	5+ GCSE's at least Grade 5/6 or higher/ equivalent (however most require a Grade 6)
To study a Level 3 Qualification you need:-	4+ GCSE's at least Grade 4/5 or higher/ equivalent (however many require a Grade 5)
To study for an Apprenticeship or T Level you need:-	4+ GCSE's at least Grade 4/5 or higher/ equivalent (however many require a Grade 5)
To study a Level 2 Qualification you need:-	4+ GCSE's at Grade 2/3 or equivalent (however many require a Grade 3)
To study a Level 1 Qualification you need:-	GCSE's at Grade 1/2 or equivalent (however many require a Grade 2)
To study at Entry level you need:-	No formal qualifications



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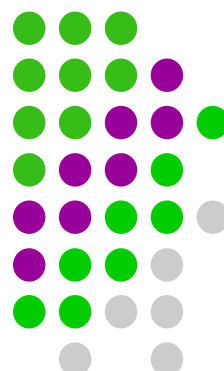
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There are all sorts of things you could study at Post 16, but they can all be broken down into three categories:

Academic qualifications (A-Levels and equivalent qualifications)

Applied qualifications (BTECs and equivalent qualifications)

Technical qualifications (T-Levels, Apprenticeships and equivalent qualifications)



What are A Levels?

- ◆ A Levels are subject-based qualifications - you can normally study three or more A levels over two years. They're usually assessed by a series of examinations.
- ◆ A Levels are general and academic and are a good choice if you want to keep your career options open.

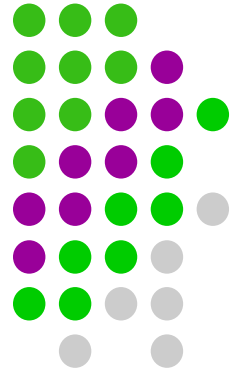
What are BTEC's?

Most of you will have studied a BTEC already at school – maybe Sport or Health & Social or Construction, for example.

BTEC'S are vocational qualifications that can be studied at school or college.

- ◆ They're less academic than A-levels, providing a more practical and hands-on way of learning.
- ◆ They are a popular alternative to A-levels & are a vocational qualification, which means that it has a career focus and is grounded in the world of work.
- ◆ BTEC students study to gain skills and knowledge in their subject area, then put those skills into practice in real-life scenarios





What are T-levels?

T-levels are new - they've been developed alongside employers to make sure that what you learn meets the needs of industry and prepares you for work. Here's some key information to give you an idea of what to expect:

- ◆ T-levels are two-year courses
- ◆ They are equivalent to three A-levels
- ◆ Your time is split: 80% classroom learning; 20% industry placement
- ◆ Placements are at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days)

What's the difference?

- ◆ A Levels are more academic and classroom-based, while BTECS are more vocational and practical.
- ◆ A Levels give you a broader academic base if you're not totally sure what you want to do later, while BTECS are more focused on a particular career path.
- ◆ A Levels are assessed by exams at the end of two years, while BTECS have a more continuous workload throughout the course.

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Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment, resulting in a professionally recognised qualification

On an apprenticeship, you're employed to do a real job, by the end of your apprenticeship, you'll hopefully have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in your chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level.

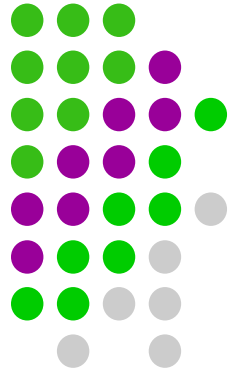
If you have a more practical, work related bias towards learning then an apprenticeship may suit you well.

However, taking an apprenticeship is not an easy option and competition can be fierce, remember you are balancing study and work. Holidays are fewer than when at college and you may have to work evenings or weekends depending on your chosen path.

Where to find an apprenticeship

There's a range of ways to find an apprenticeship, it is recommended to use more than one and start early!

- ◆ Logonmoveon– apprenticeships are listed on her both by the employer and the training provider
- ◆ Apply directly to training providers
- ◆ Use the Governments website– most apprenticeships are listed on here and it is updated daily– if you create an account you can set up alerts and apply directly.
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- ◆ Use the internet– some companies (especially large companies) have apprenticeship sections on their websites
- ◆ Ask someone you know if they will take you on as an apprentice – this could be a member of your family or a friend who works somewhere or has a business that is of interest to you – this has



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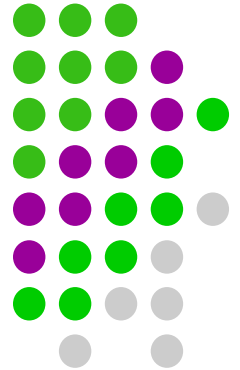
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CHOOSING A COLLEGE

You have to pick the college that best suits YOU – your learning styles, your needs and your requirements, along with your hopes & dreams for the future....

- ◆ NOT the one closest to you
- ◆ NOT the one your friends are going to
- ◆ NOT just because you have actually heard of it
- ◆ Go and see what you think - how does it feel to you?
- ◆ Go & look around the departments that interest you - talk to the students who are studying there & talk to the staff
- ◆ Do you like the feel of it all?
- ◆ Does the course offer what you need?

We suggest the following:-

- ◆ Look on the college websites
- ◆ Follow them on social media
- ◆ Attend AS MANY taster days and open events as you possibly can
- ◆ Speak to your Careers Adviser
- ◆ Attend any events you are invited to at School

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Traineeships

These are usually short term courses (usually up to 6 months) that incorporate work experience/ placements to help people become 'apprenticeship or job ready'.

Open Events

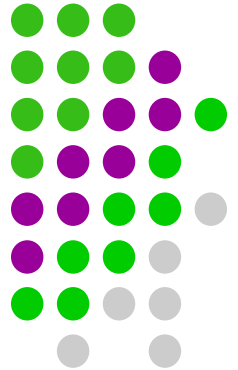
These are usually in person and a good opportunity to look around and fact find

For some you may need to book but for most you just turn up – it's a bit like going to town on a Saturday with your friends!

You can go with friends and/or family – 1 person or 5 people – you just walk in and the whole of the college is open for you to have a look around.

There are people there to help and advise if you need it, but otherwise they are happy for you to walk around, have a look and ask questions.

□



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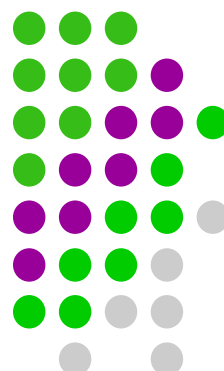


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Question	College	Sixth Form	Apprenticeship/ Traineeship
How Long?	-Two- three years depending on what Level course you start -T Levels last for 2 years	-Two years if taking a Level 3 course.	-A traineeship can last from 6 weeks up to 1 year, although most Traineeships last for less than 6 months. -It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience -A minimum of 12 months but usually up to two years.
What Can I study?	-Wide variety of vocational and technical courses -Some colleges also Offer A Levels. -Many colleges offer Apprenticeships. -You can focus on just one area.	-Variety of A Level subjects -Some Sixth Forms offer vocational qualifications -Most Sixth forms require students to study 3 A levels or a BTEC combined with A Levels.	-Wide variety of vocational areas available. -Over 170 industries have Apprenticeships.
Work Experience?	-Many courses offer a work placement, some times one day a week.	-Sixth forms usually offer one or two weeks of block work experience.	-An Apprenticeship is a real job, where you are employed -You will spend 80% of your time 'on the job'. -You will receive a wage of at least £4.30 per hour.
Learning / Assessment	-The emphasis is on practical learning when you take a vocational course, usually with more assessments than exams.	-Learning is usually class roomed based with a mix of assessments and exams.	-You will receive 20% 'off the job' training where you will gain skills and qualifications.
Where can it lead?	-Apprenticeships. -University. -Employment.	-Apprenticeships. -University. -Employment.	-Apprenticeships can lead to full time employment with the current employer. -They can also lead to university and other employment.
What's life like?	-You will meet new teachers and classmates -You will be in a new Location -You will gain new skills including independent learning.	-You will have more freedom and independence than at school -You will know the Environment, the Teachers and students	-You will meet lots of new people, make connections and new friends. -You will gain confidence and independence. -You will receive employee benefits.



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National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates

The hourly rate for the minimum wage depends on your age and whether you're an apprentice.

You must be at least:

- School leaving age to get the National Minimum Wage
- Aged 21 to get the National Living Wage

NMW Rate from April 2026

National Living Wage (21 and over)	£12.71
18-20 Year Old Rate	£10.85
16-17 Year Old Rate	£8.00
Apprentice Rate	£8.00

Apprentices

Apprentices aged under 19

The National Minimum Wage rate for apprentices is £7.55 per hour (£8 from 1 April 2026).

Employers must pay at least this rate to all apprentices who are under 19.

Apprentices aged 19 or over.

First year

When someone aged 19 or over is in the first year of their apprenticeship, their employer can choose to pay them either:

the apprentice rate of £7.55 (£8 from 1 April 2026) or more than the apprentice rate

Second year or later

In the second year of an apprenticeship, their employer must pay at least the minimum wage for the apprentice's age.

This is:

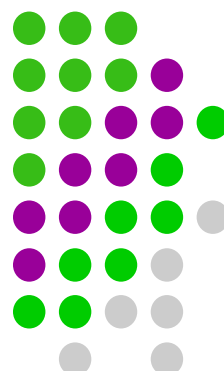
Age 19 or 20 – £10.85 per hour

Age 21 or over – £12.71 per hour

If an apprenticeship lasts longer than 2 years, these rates also apply to later years.

Employers can choose to pay more.

Please note there are exceptions to this and the rules are constantly changing so please check



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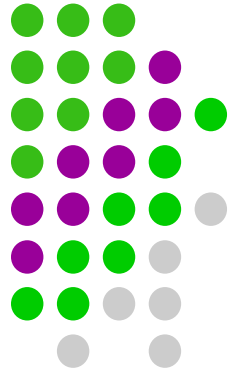


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There has never been a better time to sign up for the College @ Sirius. Over the past five years we have enjoyed unprecedented success. Our students now attend the best universities in the world and go on to enjoy the most fulfilling lives. In the past two years a significant proportion of our students have gained admission to Oxford and Cambridge Universities to study the Sciences, Law, English literature and Social Science subjects. Every student leaves us with a worthwhile destination. On average, ninety percent of our students will go on to higher education (university) and the rest will secure apprenticeships or work.

We know that when you choose your Post-16 destination you are trusting us with your academic future and two years of your life. This is a responsibility we take very seriously. We want to make sure that you fulfil your intellectual potential, but also – that you have fun. We have created a strong community atmosphere in our Sixth Form. Supported by our trips and visits programme. All our trips are organised to broaden your horizons. We have a huge number of visitors from external providers, from psychologists, lawyers, geographers, professors at university and employers, all with a view to your next steps.

Our award-winning teachers will provide you with the skills you need to achieve, in small classes where you are treated as an individual. This is incredibly important, enabling you to obtain the attention and help you deserve. We have expert EPQ tutors, outstanding UCAS support and everything you need to ensure you have an amazing future.



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If you have any questions about post-16, please feel free to contact us: rrhodes@siriusacademy.org.uk. If you have any queries about the subjects we have on offer, or require some more information, please find us at: <https://www.sirius-academy.org.uk/college>.

The College @ Sirius Offer

Trips and visits

Small class sizes

Awarding winning, outstanding teaching

Community atmosphere

Recognised enrichment programme



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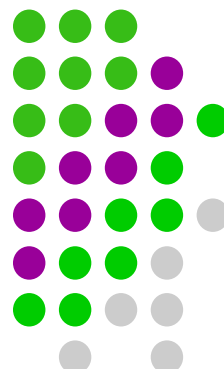
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Post 16 Decision Making Checklist

- ☐ Have you researched the differences between Apprenticeships, College and Sixth Form?
- ☐ Have you considered your learning style?
- ☐ Have you considered the entry requirements for your chosen destination / backup plan?
- ☐ Have you considered the subject/course route you're interested in?
- ☐ Have you considered where you want your Post 16 course to lead to?
- ☐ Have you looked at Labour Market Information?
- ☐ Have you considered a wide variety of Apprenticeships?
- ☐ Have you attended some College / Sixth Form open days?
- ☐ Have you considered if you can get there and back easily?
- ☐ Have you had a conversation with a careers advisor?
- ☐ Have you discussed it with your parents or carers?

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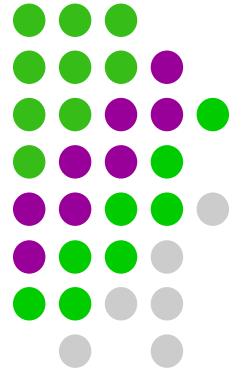


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My Action Plan:



What do I want to achieve?	When do I want to do this by?	How will I do this?

GCSE Choices

Post 16choices

Post 18choices

Top jobs

Hobbies / interests

Work experience

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WHAT IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO!?!

Don't worry – a lot of students don't know what they want to do yet! Your Careers Adviser is there to guide and advise you and help you make informed choices.

We use the following website to help you undertake career, personality, and learning style assessments which help you understand your interests, skills, and strengths and you can research careers and explore hundreds of career, college, and university options. You should already be familiar with Xello. Remember your login is your school email

<https://login.xello.co.uk/>

In the “search” bar at the top put anything that is of interest to you – such as animals or cars or games designer or fashion etc.

It will bring up lots of different careers– click on any of interest and explore your ideas!

<https://www.logonmoveon.co.uk/>

<https://skillshullandeastyorkshire.co.uk/lmi>

<http://icould.com/>

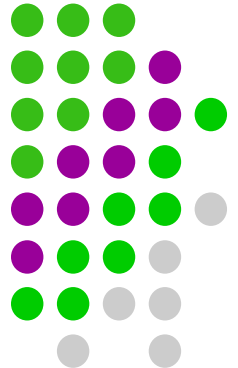
<https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/>

<https://www.startprofile.com/>

www.careersbox.co.uk

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>



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