



# Student Careers Pack

**A guide to help you explore careers  
ideas and plan your next steps after  
Year 11**



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# Section 1: Discovering more about yourself and careers

## The importance of you getting to know you

### Your:-

- **Strengths** (what you're especially and naturally good at)
- **Skills** (\*soft and \*hard skills you have developed already, and want/need to develop in the future – \*more about these later)
- **values** (what is important to you)
- **preferences** (what you prefer/like most)

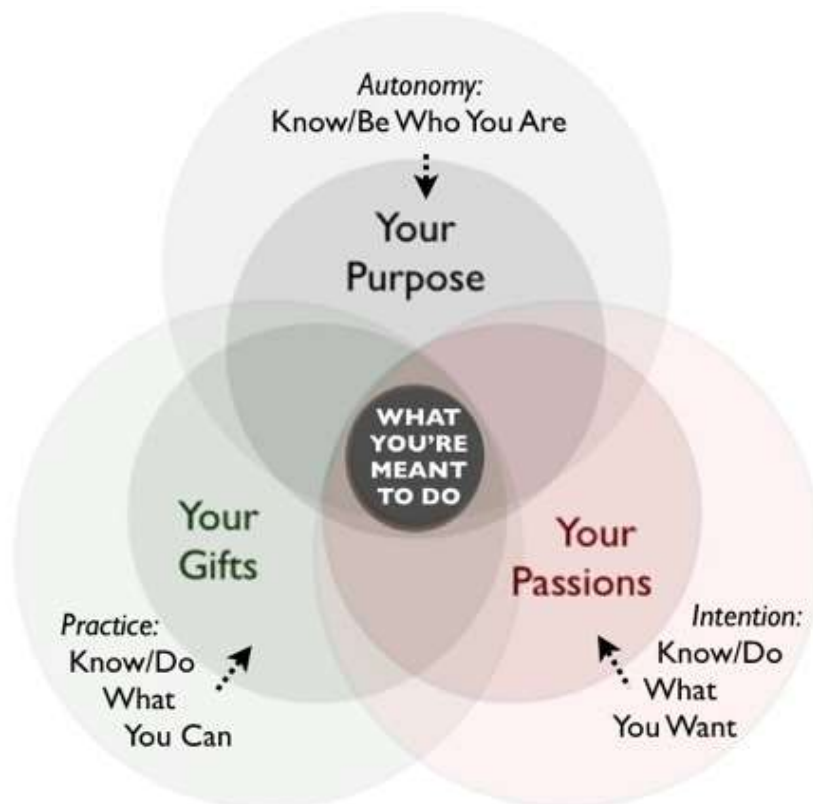
### As well as...

- what you enjoy
- what brings you the most fulfilment / satisfaction

### These questions can help you:-

- 1) Consider careers that may suit you well and you will enjoy.
- 2) Discover routes into those careers, which suit you best (e.g. education, apprenticeship, etc.)

Consider the following...



# Section 1: Discovering more about yourself and careers

## Strengths, skills and what you enjoy

**TASK:** Get some paper/a book or create a computer file – call it ‘Career Ideas’, ‘My Career Plans’, or something similar. In it - begin to brainstorm – think about what makes you, YOU – write down/type out your abilities, skills, strengths and the things you really enjoy...

### A few examples:

**School subjects** you are good at / really enjoy at school

- Where you achieve your best grades
- When you have achieved a clear outcome – won a prize or commendation for a piece of work / artwork / written work, etc.
- An ability to communicate in another language
- A subject/s you especially enjoy

**A strength or skill** you have acquired in your **spare time** – at a club, or at home –

- learning to play a musical instrument
- achieving a badge as part of a Uniformed organisation, e.g. Scouts, Girls’/Boys’ Brigade, Guides, Air Cadets, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Volunteer Police Cadets, etc.
- You love cooking others tell you they like a particular dish you make
- You are able to fix and mend things – bikes, computers, clothes
- Working with computers, small business ventures
- Success within a sport – within a team, competitively, or achieving at a certain level – e.g. different belts within Judo, School, Local, County or National Teams, etc.

**Can you think of any more strengths and skills? Why not ask at home, your friends, and teachers too what they think you are good at...** Write them down.

Don’t worry if you are unable to think of many examples right now, your abilities and hard skills will grow as you go through life and acquire more!

### A quick word skills, strengths and weaknesses:

Thinking about what you’re good at and enjoy may be new to you, but now is a very good time to start. To help you, below are some word meanings and examples to help you...

## SKILLS

### What is a ‘hard skill’?:

A hard skill does not mean it is difficult. It refers to a “talent, skill, or proficiency in a particular area”. They are easier to measure.

“**Hard skills** are teachable abilities or **skill** sets that are easy to quantify (measure). You typically learn them through the classroom, at work or through studying training/teaching resources.” In other words, they are measurable through exams, assessment and observation.

## Soft/Transferable Skills

A definition of a Soft Skill – *Wikipedia* describe soft skills as:

“...a combination of people skills, social skills, communication skills, character or personality traits, attitudes, career attributes, social intelligence and emotional intelligence quotients, among others, that enable people to navigate their environment, work well with others, perform well, and achieve.”

A definition of Transferable Skills – *Indeed.co.uk* describe them as follows:

“...**Transferable skills**, also known as “portable skills,” are qualities that can be transferred from one job to another. You likely already possess many transferable skills employers want, like organization or strong communication. You can strengthen those skills and develop new ones that employers value across industries and jobs.”

Soft and Transferable skills are highly sort after by employers and universities. They are more difficult to measure, but you can show you have them through providing examples – e.g. developing strong teamwork skills through playing sport or resilience through overcoming obstacles you have faced.

**TASK:** Research the words below. Write down their meaning. List ones you already have, and give examples of when and where you use them (e.g. analytical thinking in English Literature and History lessons). You can ask at home, your teachers, or talk about it with your friends.

Also write down/type those you would like to work toward or improve upon. Using SMART goals – how will you do it?:

**Adaptability**

**Analytical Skills / Critical thinking**

**Commercial awareness**

**Communication**

**Decision making**

**Flexibility**

**Initiative**

**Innovation**

**I.T. Skills**

**Leadership**

**Negotiation**

**Networking**

**Numeracy Skills**

**Organisation**

**Presentation skills**

**Problem solving**

**Research**

**Resilience**

**Teamwork**

**Time management....**

**There are more soft/transferable skills, can you find them online?**

**Strengths:** These include the things which come naturally to us – you may be especially good at organising, leading, teamwork, listening, speaking, making cakes, fixing things. When we use our strengths we often feel especially good and it feels most natural/easy for us to do those things.

**About weaknesses:** It is good to be self-aware. While we do not need to focus on our weaknesses all the time, it is important to be aware of areas you need to work on – is it *time management*? Or *teamwork*? How can you improve on your weaknesses? Employers will be keen to know how you are working on your weaknesses too. Always seek to frame weaknesses in a positive way and let Employers know you are working on them.

A common interview question – Tell us about your strengths and weaknesses! Start preparing now, it will definitely help you 😊.

**We can link strengths, skills, and what we enjoy to different types of careers – to help you choose the type of work which will suit you, really think about these things.**

**Can you see what is in the picture below?**

**It's a butterfly coming out of its chrysalis.** In many ways, we can draw an analogy from the butterfly – in life, we go through different stages. We develop, change and grow. In Year 11 you are considering who you are and what you might do with your life relating to work... there is so much potential in YOU! What you choose now may even change in the future...that's okay too. Growth and change are positive. Some people follow one career in their lifetime, others have many careers.



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# Section 1: Discovering more about yourself and careers

## Personality and Careers Quizzes

Quizzes are a great way to find out more about exciting career options – become inspired!



### Complete Personality and Careers quizzes at:

- [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com) or via [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) ('Buzz Quiz' – short Personality and career matching test)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) (You will need to register online)
- [www.sacu-student.com](http://www.sacu-student.com) (You will need to register online)
- <https://www.16personalities.com/> (Learn about yourself and what makes you, you – also see the careers page to find out which careers may suit your personality)



### Research careers, find job profiles and related information at:

- [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com) (you will be using this in school)
- [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk) (excellent all-round website including information, skills matching and videos)
- <https://www.adviza.org.uk/who-am-i/young-person>
- <https://www.allaboutcareers.com/>
- [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com) (includes videos of people talking about their Job roles)
- <http://www.careerninja.co.uk> – for the free careers personality test
- [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk) - for a wide range of detailed NHS careers information
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – good source of careers information and what you can do with your degree.
- [www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net) - see careers areas or the careers match quiz
- <http://www.tomorrowseengineers.org.uk/> - engineering information
- [https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/explore\\_lmi/](https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/explore_lmi/) (important 'Labour Market Information' – learn about salaries (what you will earn, estimated growth relating to different jobs/sectors, + more)

## Section 2: Post 16 Options and Qualification Levels (Entry Level, and Levels 1, 2 and 3)

**There are so many exciting things you can do after your GCSEs! The best way to find out more is to start exploring.**

The beauty of education and training between the ages of 16-18/19 is that it is usually **free!** The government want every student to continue in some form of education / training until they are 18.

Now is a time when you can focus and go deeper into subjects/skills which especially interest **you**, enable you to gain invaluable work experience, and you can choose your preferred way of learning. What you choose now can often help or may be required to lead you into different/certain careers.

It important to research and understand what is available. Choose the options that will enable **you** to **excel** and get **your** best grades/outcomes, and follow a path that inspires you.

**Be sure to check entry requirements for different sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships (more on where to look soon).**

There are 8 levels of education in the UK. You are currently studying at Level 2 GCSE +/- Level 2 BTEC. Depending on a few things you may be able to go on to study at Entry level, Level 1, 2 or 3.

**You can find out more about your options here:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f\\_xAQNNi4pA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_xAQNNi4pA)

**Below is a more detailed information about each options that may be open to you after you finish your GCSEs:**

### **A-Levels (Level 3)**

A-levels (advanced level qualifications) cover a variety of subjects and are exam based (apart from more practical subjects like Art, D.T. and Photograph that involve more coursework + exams). They are one of the options allowing you to go on to university, if you achieve the required grades (certain subjects may be required to study certain courses). This form of study relies more on classroom teaching and independent study, followed by exams at the end of 2 years. Explore the subjects available at Sixth Form and some Colleges. Most people choose to study 3 A-Levels (standardly required by universities), but some opt to study 4 (and may then drop a subject). Be sure you are interested in the subjects you choose and will be most likely to achieve your best grades in them. Some courses (e.g. Medicine) and universities (e.g. Oxford and Cambridge + some 'Russell Group' Universities) may require certain subjects, only recognise A-levels and some require the top grades – A\*'s and A's, while others will accept grades B – C or D, for entry). A-levels often require around 5 GCSE's at grade 5, with potentially grade 6 or 7 achieved in the subject you are aiming for (e.g. some schools require a 7 at GCSE to study A-level Maths, and a grade 6 in certain other subjects to study a Science subject, English or History, for example). Some colleges may require lower grades for entry. Students often find A-levels a much bigger stretch than GCSEs as they go much deeper into the subject. If you are unsure, talk with your teacher about whether A-levels will be a good fit for you. Also, find out more here:

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/a-levels>



### **Applied Levels (sometimes also known as 'Extended Certificates') (Level 3)**

Applied Levels are the equivalent to A-levels but are balanced between coursework and exams – roughly 50-50. Subjects offered currently include: Applied Criminology, Applied Games Production, Applied Human Biology, Applied IT, Applied Production Arts, Applied Psychology, Applied Law. They are offered by some Colleges and Sixth Forms.

Applied Levels will suit those who wish to show their ability through coursework, as well as exams. They are also a good option for students who wish to do a more coursework based qualification, but do not wish to commit to one subject area (as would be required with the BTEC Extended Diploma).

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/vocational-qualifications/types-of-vocational-qualifications/applied-general-qualifications>

### **Apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3: Intermediate and Advanced)**

Apprenticeships combine work with learning and you get paid as well! This option is good if you are clear which career you would like to follow, and are looking to start work as soon as possible. You can find out more about apprenticeships and search for vacancies in your local area on the official government apprenticeship site:

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

You can start an apprenticeship straight after GCSEs (Intermediate level and Advanced level – depending on your GCSE grades). You can follow apprenticeships through all the way to degree level in some career sectors if you wish to. Many colleges help to organise apprenticeships so contacting them may help, along with searching via apprenticeship websites.

**\*\*It is strongly advised you apply for college as back-up\***

Find out more here: [www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships)

### **T-Levels (Level 3)**

T-levels are new Level 3 courses that combine study at college with periods of work experience with a company. Like all Level 3 courses, they last two years. They will likely require the types of grades required to study A-levels (around grade 4 -5). This will be a good option if you feel clear about your interests / career goals and if you prefer to be practical + gain experience, alongside studying. Certain subjects are being rolled out at a few colleges. They will eventually cover a wider range of subjects.

You can find out more about them here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/t-levels-film-for-students/>

### **Traineeships (Level 1 and 2)**

A traineeship is a course with work experience that gets you ready for work or an apprenticeship. It can last up to 6 months.

You can apply if you're:

- eligible to work in England
- unemployed and have little or no work experience
- aged 16 to 24 and qualified below Level 3

Search for opportunities here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships/traineeships>

## **Technical/Vocational Courses – e.g. BTEC / other Technical Awards, Certificates and Diplomas:**

These are work-related courses delivered mostly by colleges, and some sixth forms. They are available at different levels, to suit your GCSE qualifications – ranging from creative to construction to computing to engineering to vehicle maintenance to media and many more subjects. These courses usually combine coursework and fewer exams. You will need to work consistently throughout the course, meeting coursework deadlines. Many Universities accept BTEC qualifications. Employers appreciate the skills you learn in time management through this type of course. More traditional universities (e.g. Oxford and Cambridge and some Russell Group universities, may not recognise BTEC, or may require a single A-level alongside (the equivalent to taking 4 A-levels). Therefore, it is worth considering what you may like to study and where – research these options, and work backwards.

**Level 3:** Entry requirements for level 3 courses such as the BTEC Extended Diploma (equivalent to 3 A-Level), Diploma (equivalent to 2 A-levels) and BTEC National Certificate (equivalent to 1 A-Level) are usually around GCSE grades 4 and 5 which is a bit lower than some schools/colleges for A-levels.

**Level 2:** Entry requirements for level 2 courses e.g. BTEC are usually a certain number of GCSEs at grade 3.

**Foundation Level 1:** This is a post entry-level qualification. Some colleges start students training for technical trades and professions at this level – e.g. Hairdressing and Motor Vehicle Maintenance (others start you on the Level 2 course or even Level 3). Level 1 courses are usually available in most subjects. They tend to require no qualifications, but you need to show enthusiasm and professionalism, and a desire to succeed, through your application and interview.

Many courses are offered at all the local colleges. Some subjects like catering, construction trades, animal care and horticulture are only offered at some of the colleges so, again, check all these details carefully.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/vocational-qualifications/what-are-vocational-qualifications>

## **Specialist Academies for sport:**

If you are playing certain sports to a certain level, and would like to further your opportunities in that sport, some colleges offer the exciting opportunity to gain specialist training in football, netball, basketball, even rowing while studying for qualifications. Colleges which have academies include, BCA, Bracknell, Henley, Oxford, Reading, and Uxbridge. \*Please know that there are colleges outside of Berkshire that also have Sport Academies. If you are willing to travel, and need some extra help, contact your Careers Adviser who can help you. Some clubs, e.g. football clubs, have in-house academies.

## **Private / Public Schools and Scholarships:**

Some students may opt to attend a Private (also sometimes known as a Public School) which involves paying a fee to the school each year. Some students gain Scholarships to these schools which means their tuition is funded/part-funded.

- It is important to **consider which career/s you are/might be interested in** to help you map a path toward that goal.
- Some careers will require very specific routes – e.g. Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, as well as others. You will have a chance to talk about this at your Careers Appointment.

- It is important to **choose options** which will **enable you to flourish** and **achieve your best grades**. A-Levels are not best for everyone, and BTEC or an apprenticeship do not suit everyone...

Remember, you don't need to compare yourself to others. What is best for **you?**

## Your options after GCSE: A snapshot

# What's your next move?

Compare your options after GCSE

QUALIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH OF TIME	ASSESSMENT	LEVEL OF STUDY	AWARDS UCAS POINTS?	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	WORK EXPERIENCE	WHAT DOES IT LEAD TO?
<b>APPRENTICESHIPS</b> <a href="http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk">www.apprenticeships.gov.uk</a>	A real job with training and a salary.	1 Year minimum	Apprenticeship dependent (inc. demonstrations and/or exams)	2/3 with the possibility to progress to progress to apprenticeships up to level 7	No	- Employer dependent - Age 16+ - Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Yes (paid job, with at least 20% off the job training)	- Higher level or degree apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<b>A LEVELS</b> <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>	An academic qualification, similar in style to GCSEs, that prepares you for further study.	2 Years	Mostly exams at the end of the course	3	Yes	For individual schools and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at grades 4 and above)	No	- Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<b>T LEVELS</b> <a href="http://www.tlevels.gov.uk">www.tlevels.gov.uk</a>	A technical study programme, equivalent to 3 A levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course. T Levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need.	2 Years	Exams, projects and practical assignments	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Yes (80% classroom, 20% work)	- Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<b>TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS</b> <small>(e.g. Level 1 and 2 awards in IT, Health Care, Engineering, Design, and other subjects, as well as other vocational qualifications, such as BTEC)</small>	Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework & exams)	1+	Some (course & awarding organisation dependent)	Course dependent	Course dependent	- Apprenticeship - College - Work
<b>APPLIED QUALIFICATIONS</b> <small>(e.g. City School of Art and Design, City School of Music, City School of Fashion, City School of Hairdressing, City School of Beauty)</small>	Qualifications that prepare you for further study by combining academic learning with practical skills to give you a broad overview of working in a sector.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework & exams)	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Course dependent	- Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<b>TRAINEESHIPS</b> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/traineeships">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/traineeships</a>	A work focused study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work.	6 Weeks - 6 Months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework and exams are course dependent	N/A	No	Have little to no work experience and qualified below Level 3	Yes	- Apprenticeship - Work

Levels are designed to indicate the complexity of qualifications and apprenticeships, allowing people to draw comparisons and understand where they sit in relation to the other options which are available. There are 8 levels plus entry level, with the higher levels offering the highest difficulty. Find out more about the different levels at [www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean](http://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean). Visit [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk) for information about careers, training and work.



Applies to England only

## Section 3: The UK National Qualification Framework

	ACADEMIC	VOCATIONAL			APPRENTICESHIP
<b>Level 8</b>	<b>Doctorate (PhD, DPhil)</b>	<b>Award, Certificate, Diploma</b>			
<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Masters Degree (MSc, MA, Meng)</b>	<b>Award, Certificate, Diploma, NVQ PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education – Teaching)</b>			<b>Masters Degree Apprenticeship</b>
<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Bachelors Degree (BSc, BA, BEng)</b>	<b>Graduate Certificate and Diploma, NVQ</b>			<b>Degree Apprenticeship</b>
<b>Level 5</b>		<b>Foundation Degree (FdA, FdSc)</b>	<b>Higher National Diploma (BTEC HND), NVQ</b>	<b>Higher Apprenticeship</b>	
<b>Level 4</b>			<b>Higher National Certificate (BTEC HNC), NVQ</b>		
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>A-Levels</b>	<b>BTEC Extended Diploma (= 3 A-Levels)</b>		<b>BTEC Extended Certificate (= 1 A-Level)</b>	<b>Advanced Apprenticeship</b>
			<b>BTEC Diploma (= 2 A=Levels)</b>		
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>GCSE Grades 4-9</b>	<b>BTEC Level 2, NVQ (National Vocational Qualification)</b>			<b>Intermediate Apprenticeship or Traineeship</b>
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>GCSE Grades 1-3</b>	<b>Level 1 Award, Certificate, Diploma + Level 1 in ESOL, Essential Skills, Functional Skills, NVQ, and Music (grades 1-3)</b>			<b>Traineeship</b>
<b>Entry Level</b>		<b>Entry Level Award, Certificate (ELC), Diploma + Entry Level in ESOL, (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Essential Skills Functional Skills, and Skills for Life</b>			<b>Traineeship</b>

## Section 4: Further Education

A useful link to help you consider whether College or Sixth Form is right for you: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDID\\_se44g4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDID_se44g4)

**IMPORTANT:** You can apply for as many Sixth Forms and / or Colleges as you wish – we recommend you apply for at least 3. Check websites for courses and subjects on offer + entry requirements. If you are keen to find an **apprenticeship** also apply for College/s and or Sixth Forms as back up. Start applying soon. **\*Check application deadlines\***

### Sixth Forms

#### IMPORTANT:

If you are interested in attending Sixth Form, you will need to start looking on School Sixth Form websites and booking Open Events (usually book online and, depending on the school, you may need to attend the event face to face or virtually). Look and book **as soon as possible**.

**Maiden Erlegh Trust Sixth Form: Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road**  
<https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/> (click on Sixth Form tab)

**Other Sixth Forms – please check Open Event dates via school websites regularly and book online:**

#### Reading and Woodley:

Bulmershe	<a href="https://www.thebulmersheschool.com/">https://www.thebulmersheschool.com/</a>
Denefield	<a href="http://www.denefield.org.uk/">http://www.denefield.org.uk/</a>
Highdown	<a href="https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/">https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/</a>
Hugh Farringdon	<a href="https://www.hughfarringdon.org/">https://www.hughfarringdon.org/</a>
John Madejski	<a href="https://www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk/">https://www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk/</a>
Kendrick	<a href="https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/">https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/</a> (for Girls)
Prospect	<a href="http://www.prospect.reading.sch.uk/">http://www.prospect.reading.sch.uk/</a>
Reading Girls	<a href="http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/">http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/</a>
Reading Boys	<a href="https://www.reading-school.co.uk/">https://www.reading-school.co.uk/</a> (for Boys)
Waingels	<a href="https://www.waingels.wokingham.sch.uk/">https://www.waingels.wokingham.sch.uk/</a>
The Wren	<a href="https://www.wrenschool.org/">https://www.wrenschool.org/</a>

#### Bracknell and Wokingham:

Edgbarrow School	<a href="http://www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk">www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk</a>
Brakenhale School	<a href="http://www.brakenhale.co.uk">www.brakenhale.co.uk</a>
Ranelagh School	<a href="http://www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk">www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk</a>
Sandhurst School	<a href="http://www.sandhurstschool.org.uk/">www.sandhurstschool.org.uk/</a>
St Crispin's School	<a href="http://www.crispins.co.uk">www.crispins.co.uk</a>
Emmbrook School	<a href="http://www.emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">www.emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>
Charters School	<a href="http://www.chartersschool.org.uk">www.chartersschool.org.uk</a>
Easthampstead Park	<a href="http://www.epschool.org">www.epschool.org</a>
The Holt	<a href="https://www.holtsschool.co.uk/">https://www.holtsschool.co.uk/</a>

\*Please note, the list of Sixth Forms is not exhaustive. You can find details of Local Authority and Independent schools (self-funded schools) via Council/Local Authority websites.

**\*\*Reminder: Be sure to check dates of Sixth Form Open Days / Evenings and application deadlines + attend/apply in time to avoid disappointment\*\***



## Further Education Colleges

Please note – Some Open Event dates have been announced to date for this academic year and are listed below – additional dates for some colleges may be added later. Some may be virtual. Please check websites regularly and before attending in case details have changed.

**\*\*Remember to book a place for Open Events – usually via a link on the College website, as with Sixth Forms\*\***  
**Some Colleges offer technical/vocational courses in: Art, Animal Management, Construction, Hair/Beauty, Computing, Game Design, Engineering, Motor Mechanics/Vehicle Maintenance, + more...**

College	Contact details	Dates of Open Events – 2021-2022
<b>BCA</b> Hall Place Burchett's Green Maidenhead SL6 6QR	Tel: 01628 824444  Website: <a href="http://www.bca.ac.uk">www.bca.ac.uk</a> Email Enquires: <a href="mailto:enquiries@bca.ac.uk">enquiries@bca.ac.uk</a>  Specialises in Animal Management, Agriculture + other areas – including Art, Sport, etc.	<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – 10-2pm</b> <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November – 10-2pm</b> <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 10-2pm</b> <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May – 5-7.30pm</b>  <b>Keep an eye on college website and BOOK Taster and Open days:</b> <a href="https://www.bca.ac.uk/">https://www.bca.ac.uk/</a>
<b>BCoT (Basingstoke College of Technology)</b> Worthing Road Basingstoke RG21 8TN	Tel: 01256 354141  Website: <a href="http://www.bcot.ac.uk">www.bcot.ac.uk</a> Email: <a href="mailto:nextyear@bcot.ac.uk">nextyear@bcot.ac.uk</a>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October – 4-8pm</b>  <b>Open events, Apprenticeship and Recruitment Fairs:</b> Please check further via college website
<b>Bracknell &amp; Wokingham College (Activate Learning)</b> Church Road Bracknell RG12 1DJ (RG12 1EH for sat navs) (part of Activate Learning Group of Colleges)	Tel: 0800 612 6008 – central telephone number for all Activate Learning Colleges  Website: <a href="http://Bracknell and Wokingham College (activatelearning.ac.uk) (activatelearning.ac.uk)">Bracknell and Wokingham College (activatelearning.ac.uk)</a> Website for all <b>Activate Learning</b> colleges: <a href="http://Activate Learning - Activate Learning">Activate Learning - Activate Learning</a>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am - 12.30pm</b> <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November – 4-7pm</b>  <b>For further Open events and Apprenticeship information:</b> Please check further via college website
<b>City of Oxford College</b> Oxford City Centre campus Oxpens Rd Oxford OX1 1SA  Technology campus Cuddesdon Way Blackbird Leys Oxford OX4 6HN	Tel: 0800 612 6008 – central telephone number for all Activate Learning Colleges <a href="http://www.activatelearning.ac.uk">www.activatelearning.ac.uk</a> <b>Oxford City Centre campus:</b> Courses in A-levels and business, Hair and beauty, hospitality and catering, furniture, sports and more!) <b>Technology campus:</b> Courses in IT and computing, construction, vehicle, plumbing, electrical)	<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am - 12.30pm</b> <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November – 4-7pm</b>  <b>For further Open events and Apprenticeship information:</b> Please check further via college website



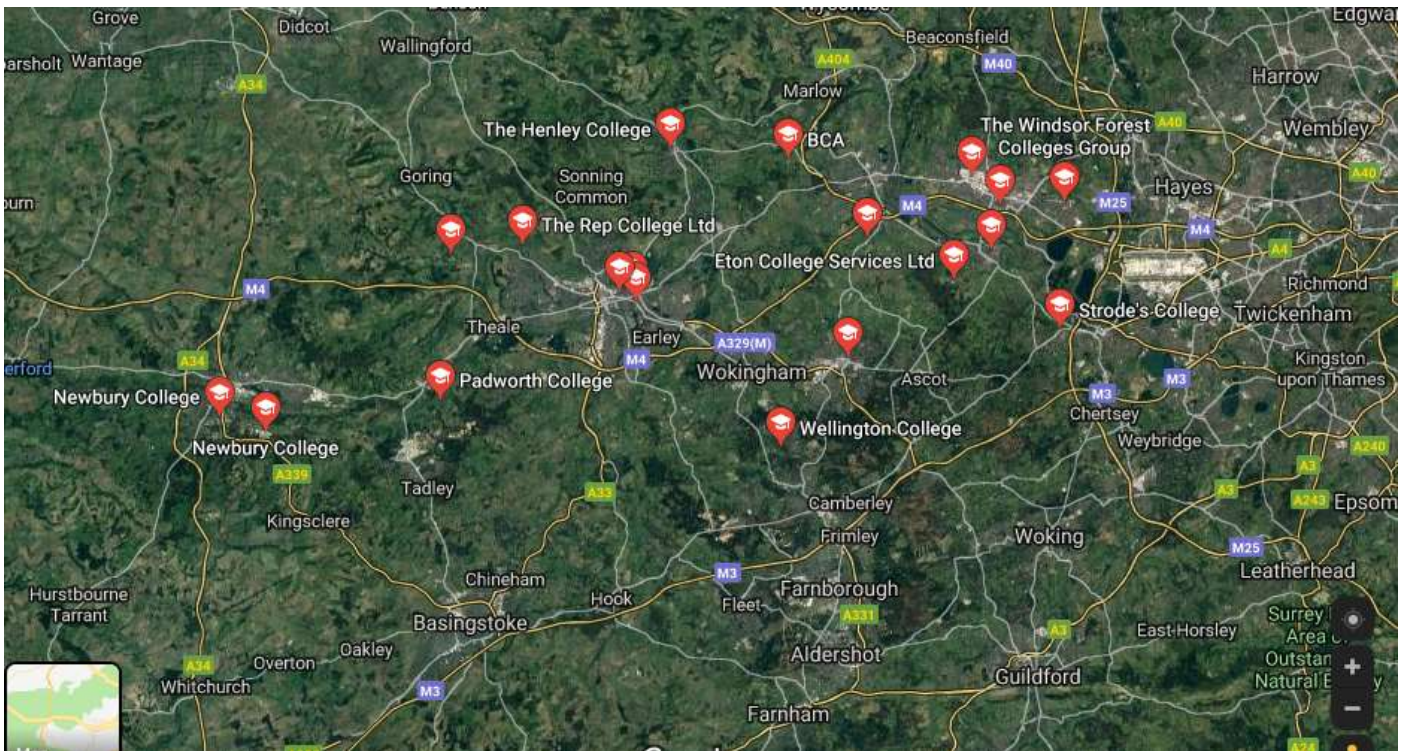
<p><b>Farnborough Sixth Form College</b></p> <p>The Sixth Form College Farnborough Prospect Avenue Farnborough Hampshire GU14 8JX</p>	<p>Tel: 01252 688200</p> <p>A level and BTEC courses</p> <p>Website: <a href="https://farnborough.ac.uk/">https://farnborough.ac.uk/</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@farnborough.ac.uk">admin@farnborough.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Open events</b></p> <p>Please check college website and see: <a href="https://farnborough.ac.uk/calendar">https://farnborough.ac.uk/calendar</a> (click on Open days event – purple link on calendar – 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2021)</p>
<p><b>Henley College</b></p> <p>Deanfield Avenue Henley RG9 1UH</p>	<p>Tel: 01491 579988</p> <p>A-level, Applied Levels, BTEC courses</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.henleycol.ac.uk">www.henleycol.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@henleycol.ac.uk">info@henleycol.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October – 6-8.30pm</b> <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 6-8.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Previously recorded virtual Open event:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NIZXHnoL7k&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NIZXHnoL7k&amp;feature=youtu.be</a></p>
<p><b>Langley College</b></p> <p>Station Road Langley SL3 8BY (part of <u>Windsor Forest Colleges Group (formerly East Berks College)</u>)</p>	<p>Tel: 01753 793 000</p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.windsor-forest.ac.uk/">https://www.windsor-forest.ac.uk/</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, 2nd November 2021 - 4.30 - 7pm</b> <b>More Dates posted here:</b> <a href="http://Open%20Days%20(windsor-forest.ac.uk)">Open Days (windsor-forest.ac.uk)</a></p>
<p><b>Newbury College</b></p> <p>Monks Lane Newbury RG14 7TD</p>	<p>Tel: 01635 845000</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.newbury-college.ac.uk">www.newbury-college.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@newbury-college.ac.uk">info@newbury-college.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Details about Open events can be found here:</b> <a href="http://Open%20Day%20(newbury-college.ac.uk)">Open Day (newbury-college.ac.uk)</a></p>
<p><b>Queen Mary's College (QMC)</b></p> <p>Cliddesden Road Basingstoke RG21 3HF</p>	<p>Tel: 01256 417500</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.qmc.ac.uk">www.qmc.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@qmc.ac.uk">info@qmc.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Open events</b></p> <p>Please keep an eye on the college website</p>
<p><b>Reading College</b></p> <p>Kings Road Reading RG1 4HJ (part of Activate Learning Group of Colleges)</p>	<p>Tel: 0800 612 6008 – central telephone number for all Activate Learning Colleges</p> <p><a href="https://reading.activatelearning.ac.uk/">https://reading.activatelearning.ac.uk/</a></p>	<p><b>Wednesday 13th October – 4-7pm</b> <b>Saturday 13th November – 9.30am-12.30pm</b></p> <p><b>For further Open events and Apprenticeship information:</b> Please check further via college website</p>
<p><b>Sparsholt College</b></p> <p>Westley Lane Sparsholt Winchester SO21 2NF</p>	<p>Tel: 01962 776441</p> <p>Specialises in agriculture and related courses.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk">www.sparsholt.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk">enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> <p>Please keep an eye on further details and booking information via: <a href="https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/opendays/">https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/opendays/</a></p>

<p><b>Strodes College</b> High Street Egham TW20 9DR (now part of Windsor Forest Colleges Groups)</p>	<p>Tel: 01784 437506</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://windsor-forest.ac.uk">Windsor Forest College (windsor-forest.ac.uk)</a></p> <p>Courses: A Levels, Applied Levels and BTECs</p>	<p><b>Thursday, 14th October 2021   4.30 - 7pm</b></p> <p><b>More Dates posted here:</b> <a href="http://windsor-forest.ac.uk">Open Days (windsor-forest.ac.uk)</a></p>
<p><b>Uxbridge College Uxbridge Campus</b> Park Road Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 1NQ</p> <p><b>Hayes Campus</b> College Way Coldharbour Lane Hayes, Middlesex UB3 3BB</p>	<p>Tel: 01895 853333</p> <p>Website for Uxbridge (both campuses): <a href="https://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/">https://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/</a></p> <p>Tel: 01895 853333</p>	<p><b>For more information about Open Events, please see here:</b> <a href="https://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/college-information/open-days.html">https://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/college-information/open-days.html</a></p>
<p><b>UTC Reading</b> Crescent Road Reading RG1 5RQ</p>	<p>Tel: 0118 938 1020</p> <p>Specialises in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering + Maths) subjects including A-levels and BTECs in IT and engineering</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.utcreading.co.uk">www.utcreading.co.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@utcreading.org.uk">enquiries@utcreading.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 21 September 2021 – 5.30-7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Book to attend here:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/utc-reading-open-evening-tuesday-21-september-2021-tickets-169449196107?aff=ebdsoporgprofile">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/utc-reading-open-evening-tuesday-21-september-2021-tickets-169449196107?aff=ebdsoporgprofile</a></p>
<p><b>Windsor College</b> St Leonards Road Windsor SL4 3AL (part of <a href="http://windsor-forest.ac.uk">Windsor Forest Colleges Group (formerly East Berks College)</a>)</p>	<p>Tel: 01753 793 000</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.windsor-forest.ac.uk">https://www.windsor-forest.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, 12th October 2021   4.30 - 7pm</b></p> <p><b>More Dates posted here:</b> <a href="http://windsor-forest.ac.uk">Open Days (windsor-forest.ac.uk)</a></p>

**Remember** – the more research you do, the more you will discover and the better decision you will be able to make about your next steps



## How to find out where colleges are located: Map showing F.E. Colleges in Berkshire



To find out where F.E. Colleges are located, you can use google maps:-

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/colleges+in+berkshire/@51.5724603,-0.9709554,10z/data=!3m1!4b1>



## Section 5: Higher Education (University + some Further Education (F.E.) Colleges (levels 4-8):



**Thinking about university?** Some of you may already be thinking you want to go to university. Some of you may need to attend to follow the career you would like (e.g. Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, plus a small handful more).

### **Some useful websites:**

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – The UK University application and information website

[www.sacu-student.com](http://www.sacu-student.com) – Personal Statement help and advice. Great student section

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

<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college> - help with A' level choice (also explore what the Russell Group university are)

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk) – useful information

[www.thestudentroom.co.uk](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk) - Forums on choosing universities / degrees / student life and much more!

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2019/jun/07/university-league-tables-2020> - ranks universities and university courses

\*Some F.E. Colleges also offer degrees and HNC (Higher National Certificates) and HND (Higher National Diploma) courses

**The Open University** - <http://www.open.ac.uk/> - Offer flexible ways to study





## Section 6: Apprenticeships:

Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular and are a great way to go if you like the idea of learning 'on the job', getting paid, and all while studying for and gaining a qualification.

**There are apprenticeships available with all sorts of companies (large and small), in all sorts of careers and from Level 2 – 7.**

If you are attracted to the idea of finding an apprenticeship to begin after Year 11, it is also important to apply for F.E. College/s / Sixth Form as back-up, as entry to Apprenticeships can sometimes be competitive. If you would like to find an apprenticeship after year 13, again, it is worth considering back-up options such as university, a Gap Year or finding a job.

**Check the qualification you will gain and how it will enable you to go further in your education and training.** If you need help with this, please ask. Information can be found via the website links below but a Careers Adviser can help you or ask one of your Teachers who can point you in the right direction.

Depending on your grades, you will be able to apply for a Level 2 (Intermediate) or Level 3 (Advanced) Apprenticeship after your GCSEs, and from Level 2-7 after you have completed Level 3 qualifications (including those gained via an apprenticeship).

**Here are the different levels of Apprenticeship (with a rough idea of common requirements, although they do vary from Employer to Employer so please do check :-**

- Intermediate Apprenticeship – GCSEs may be required.
- Advanced Apprenticeship – GCSEs usually required – employers may vary in number and grades required.
- Higher Apprenticeship – Level 3 qualification – some may require specific subjects/grades.
- Degree Apprenticeship – Level 3 qualification – some may require specific subjects/grades.

*\*\* English and Maths GCSE/functional skills are often, but not always looked for OR you may be able to take/re-take them via the Employer as part of your apprenticeship\*\**

### Helpful websites:

[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk) - the government website – probably includes widest number of apprenticeships available. Includes email alerts for new opportunities and great top tips about applications.

[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

[www.thestudentladder.co.uk](http://www.thestudentladder.co.uk) - excellent apprenticeship website offering placements with large high profile companies, as well as advice.

[www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk](http://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk)

[www.allaboutcareers.com](http://www.allaboutcareers.com)

[www.thebigchoice.com/School\\_College\\_Leavers](http://www.thebigchoice.com/School_College_Leavers)

<https://www.milkround.com/jobs/school-or-college-leaver-schemes/apprenticeships>

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) – Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

[www.university.which.co.uk](http://www.university.which.co.uk) – Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Guide

[www.careermap.co.uk](http://www.careermap.co.uk)

[www.adviza.org.uk](http://www.adviza.org.uk) – young peoples' section

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – apprenticeship section

[www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk](http://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk) – Degree Apprenticeships

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

[www.young-professionals.uk](http://www.young-professionals.uk)

[www.indeed.co.uk](http://www.indeed.co.uk)

**Look at the websites of companies.** They carry a huge amount of information on recruitment and opportunities

A great way to find out more about apprenticeships in general is via the 'Amazing Apprenticeships' website

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

It includes a vacancy snapshot, where the larger, more well-known companies offering apprenticeships information about applications – including when and how to apply.

You can also find out a great deal about apprenticeships and what they are like via the Youth Apprentice Ambassadors. **Many young people (those under the age of 25), choose to join YAAN – the Youth Apprentice Ambassadors Network**

You can learn from Apprentices via the following website (top tips for applications, what it's really like to be an apprentice, and the pros and cons), all via video links:

[Apprentice ambassador stories \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](http://apprenticeambassadorstories.apprenticeships.gov.uk)





## Section 7: Understanding Grades

### Academic Grades: GCSEs and BTEC Level 2 equivalent

#### GCSE's

	New grading structure	Old grading structure
	9	
	8	A*
	7	A
	6	B
Strong pass →	5	
Standard pass →	4	C
	3	D
	2	E
	1	F
	1	G
	U	U

#### BTEC Level 2 and GCSE grade equivalent

GCSE Grade	BTEC grade	Current points	New points
A*	Distinction*	58	8
A	Distinction	52	7
B	Merit	46	6
C	Pass	40	5
D		34	4
E		28	3
	L1 Pass	25	2.5
F		22	2
G		16	1
U		0	0

Link for further information and copy of table on following page:  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/understanding-our-qualifications/comparing-btec-to-other-qualifications/btec-ucas-points.html>

## Academic Grades: A-Levels, BTEC Level 3 and UCAS Tariff Points

Extended Diploma	Diploma	Foundation Diploma	Extended Certificate	Certificate	AS level	A level	UCAS tariff points
D*D*D*							168
D*D*D							160
D*DD							152
DDD							144
DDM							128
DMM	D*D*						112
	D*D						104
MMM	DD						96
		D*					84
MMP	DM						80
							78
		D					72
MPP	MM						64
			D*			A*	56
PPP	MP	M	D			A	48
						B	40
	PP		M			C	32
				D*			28
		P		D		D	24
					A		20
			P	M	B	E	16
					C		12
					D		10

## Section 8

### \*Top Tips\*

- **Use** a **notebook** or create a **file** – name it ‘Careers Ideas’ or something similar. **Record** your ideas and research as you go along. **Invest** time in YOU...You will not regret it!
- **Complete** Personality and Careers Quizzes
- **Explore** Job Profiles on Career websites
- **Talk** with your family, friends and Teachers/others who know you. Ask them how they see you and your unique strengths and skills. They may also be able to help you work through some careers ideas.
- **Keep** an ongoing list of your strengths & skills with examples
- **Research** your options after Year 11 – what steps will you need to take to reach your career goals?
- **Attend** your Careers meeting 😊. It will be 30 minutes long. Be as prepared as you can – complete quizzes, etc, beforehand if you can. If you wish, bring your research and ideas notebook or file
- **Visit** your Sixth Form, other Sixth Forms and F.E. Colleges (check Open Day / Evening dates and times – add them to your calendar (\*book a place if necessary))
- **Explore** Apprenticeships:

If you would like to do an Apprenticeship after Year 11 – register with the government website: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk) + the Amazing Apprenticeships website.

**Apply** for Apprenticeships via a variety of websites from January 2022 onward. Also, apply for F.E. College / Sixth Form/s as back up.

- **Apply** for as many Sixth Forms and/or F.E. College Courses as you like (3 or more recommended) – you just need to confirm or decline places once you get your GCSE results in August 2022. Some courses are very popular – **apply soon** + prepare of interviews.

**\*Believing in yourself is the secret to success\***

**-Inspiration –**

**And... Run Your Own Race...**

**Your journey is unique to you and you do not need to compare yourself to anyone else.**

**The best preparation for  
tomorrow is doing your best  
today.**

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



**“HARD WORK BEATS  
TALENT WHEN TALENT  
DOESN'T WORK HARD”**

**-TIM NOTKE**