

Options After Year 11

Your Connexions Careers Adviser is John Plaiter. I am based in the Careers Office in the Vale Building in school (between Rooms 18 & Room 19). I am in school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

You will all stay in education in some form until your 18th birthday. What do you need to think about?

Your Career ideas – what skills, qualities and qualifications will you need?

- What GCSE grades are you likely to achieve?
- What subjects are you considering studying in Year 12?
- A-Levels / BTEC Diploma / T Levels – which one is right for you? (may depend on GCSE predictions and end results)
- Which Sixth Form or College?
- Would you rather do an apprenticeship?

Where can you find this information?

- Internet based information – ask your Connexions Adviser for details.
- Sixth Form/College prospectuses, 6th Form / College Open Events.
- Talk to parents, family members, Teachers, Connexions Advisers.

Which courses can you study after Year 11?

A-Levels

- Theoretical, two year course, 100% assessed by examination.
- Entry requirements vary but many Sixth Forms and Colleges ask for a minimum Grade 6 or 7 in the subjects to be studied at A Level because **A-Levels are a lot more challenging than GCSEs**. You usually also need GCSE English Language and Maths at Grade 5+ minimum. Generally, you choose 3 A Level subjects, though some 6th Forms / Colleges still do 4 A Level subjects in Year 12.

Where can you study them?

- **6th Form**, e.g. Wellington, Blessed Thomas Holford, Altrincham College of Arts, and local Grammar Schools.
- **6th Form College** (16-18 year olds) e.g. Loreto College, Xaverian College, Sir John Deane's College

- **Further Education (FE) Colleges**, e.g. Trafford College, The Manchester College, Salford College, Stockport College.
- **You will receive full listing of all local 6th Forms & College Open Events in Year 11.**

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do I understand the challenges and the amount of work involved in A-Level study?
- Do I know which A-Levels I could study and which subjects I am likely to be good at and enjoy?
- What careers and university degree courses would be open to me with my choice of A-Level subjects?

T Levels

- From September 2020, a new qualification will be available for school leavers following their GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A-Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.
- T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

The first 3 T Levels will be available at selected colleges, schools and other providers across England in September 2020, these include:

- design, surveying and planning for construction
- digital production, design and development
- education and childcare

A further 7 T Levels will be available in September 2021 with the remaining courses starting in either 2022 or 2023 as shown below.

T Levels - 2021	T Levels - 2022	T Levels - 2023
building services engineering	legal	animal care and management
digital business services	finance	agriculture, land management and production
digital support and services	accounting	craft and design
health	maintenance, installation and repair	cultural heritage and visitor attractions
healthcare science	manufacturing and process	media, broadcast and production
onsite construction	design, development and control	hair, beauty and aesthetics
science	human resources	catering
	management and administration	

Local availability: Log onto: www.tlevels.gov.uk/, where you can add your postcode to find colleges, schools or other providers in your local area who will be delivering T Levels from 2020 onwards.

BTEC National Extended Diploma

- Vocational 2 Year course, linked to a specific career path e.g. Business, IT, Creative Media, Art & Design, Catering & Hospitality, Child Care, Health & Social Care, Travel & Tourism, Music.
- You choose ONE subject area (the qualification is equivalent to 3 A-Levels).
- Prepares you for direct entry into employment, higher/degree apprenticeships or progression on to university.
- Assessment is mainly through projects and coursework, with some exams.
- You will need 4/5 GCSEs at 9-4, including Maths and English Language (and sometimes Science - entry requirements vary so please check course details carefully for colleges/courses of interest).

Questions to ask yourself:

- Would I enjoy a more practical approach to learning and focus on just one subject?
- Do I feel ready to choose a career path offered by the BTEC route?
- Which BTEC Extended Diplomas are available?
- Will a BTEC allow me to study my subject of choice at University?

BTEC Level 2 Diploma

- A one year vocational course available for students with 4/5 GCSEs at grade 3, including Maths and English Language.
- Available in a variety of subjects (as above).
- Progression onto BTEC National Extended Diploma is possible the following year, depending on performance (Merit grade is usually required), plus you will need to have gained a minimum grade 4+ in both GCSE Maths & English Language.
- All students on these courses will do English and Maths in some form – either GCSE resits or Functional Skills level 2 qualifications (speak to your Connexions Adviser if you wish to discuss).

Entry Level/Level 1 Diploma

- One year vocational courses for students achieving grades 2 and below in their GCSE's.
- Available in a wide variety of subjects, you will need to check what subjects are available at different colleges.
- Include English and Maths, as above.

Where can you study BTEC National Extended Diplomas, Level 2 Diplomas and Entry Level courses?

- College, e.g. Trafford, Salford & Manchester (Loreto & Xaverian also offer BTEC qualifications, mainly at Level 3, with just a few at level 2 and below).
- Some School Sixth Forms offer BTEC's, e.g. Ashton on Mersey Sixth Form, please check the websites/ask your Connexions Adviser for details.

Apprenticeships

- Work and learn at the same time and get paid.
- You will complete a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)
- Available in a variety of areas – e.g. accounting, engineering, IT, business, media, catering, childcare, sport and fitness, hairdressing, construction.
- Relatively easy to get into some areas e.g. business administration and hairdressing. Can be very difficult to get into other areas e.g. veterinary nursing & media due to shortage of vacancies.
- Most apprenticeships require at least grades 3 at GCSE, with many asking for grades 4, in particular for Maths and English Language and in some cases IT and Science (dependent on the type of apprenticeship).

To find out more about apprenticeships talk to your Connexions Adviser. You should also register on the National Apprenticeship Service website; www.apprenticeships.org.uk.