



Next Steps... Routes after Year 11

**Information on all routes
for Parents & Students
to help make the best decision
for each individual student**



**THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY**



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Legally... All students must remain in education or training until age 18. There are many different options; some are all education, some may be in the workplace with perhaps 1 day a week of education.

Maths & English GCSE - If a student doesn't gain a grade 4 or above, they will continue studying these subjects on all routes.



What can I do after Year 11?

Sixth Form

Entry Grades: To get into Sixth Form you will usually need a minimum of 5 grade 4s

- **A Levels** - perfect if you are getting grade 5s and higher. See entry requirements for each course - You will likely need a grade 6 or above in your subject of choice.
- **BTECS** – more accessible subjects if have grades 4/5, lot of coursework, less exams, but still give university points.

Sixth Form will help you keep your options open, as you study several subjects, to progress onto a wide variety of careers.

*Choosing Subjects: Take subjects YOU enjoy, visit the Sixth Form Open Evening, talk to the teachers about the content of the course, do they think it is a good choice for you? If you know the career you want, research and make sure you take any required subjects. Complete <https://sacu-student.com> subject cloud to see which subjects match your interests. *Revise well*, put a little time aside starting now, to make sure you achieve the entry grades you will need for the courses you would like to do.*

Apprenticeships

This is going straight into the workplace. You will likely earn £4.81 per hour. To go into the workplace you must do an apprenticeship, as it is illegal to be just in employment until age 18.

College: An apprenticeship usually has a day at college so you become qualified. You/your employer need to arrange a college place on a relevant course which has 'apprenticeship' in the title. There will be entry grades, usually just Maths & English, you will need either at least a grade 3 or 4. In both subjects.

Advantages: You have employment and become qualified in that trade.

Who are apprenticeships for?

- Proactive students who will take the time & support to apply for jobs.
- Students who already have paid work/ relevant work experience on their CVs. If you didn't do work experience in the type of work you want to go into - arrange it now for a day or 2 in the next school holidays.

Vocational Courses

Advantage: Great if you have decided which vocational career you would like as you will get experience & a qualification in this i.e. Hairdressing, Motor Vehicle, Carpentry, Construction or Agriculture. Make sure you have had work experience & know what the career will be like.

Disadvantage: narrowing your studies can limit career opportunities: ie completing a carpentry course and not finding any local apprenticeships in this.

Check the entry grades - many courses need 4 subjects at grade 4 or 3.

There are Level 1, 2 and 3 courses. Level 3 BTEC or T Level is equivalent to Sixth Form qualifications, students can progress to university with this. Study hard to achieve the highest entry level you can. Look into travel/ bus costs- For lower income families the college may provide a bursary, which can be used towards transport (see college website).

T- Levels: you can choose to study a T level in college, this combines workplace with study.

Colleges: Check subjects offered at local colleges/ specialist colleges ie for Dance, Performing. **Independent Training Providers** also offer courses.

Traineeships

Perfect for students with less than 4 grade 2s, or those who really want to go into the workplace, but lack the CV experience or confidence to get an apprenticeship

Usually involves couple of days taking Maths/ English classes and other days in an unpaid work placement, ideally in your career of interest.

A traineeship builds workplace experience for your CV and self-confidence.

Venues:

[Somerset Skills & Learning](#) in Frome, Shepton, Yeovil, Bridgwater & Taunton.

World of Work Level 2 course at some Sixth Forms

Traineeships courses at local colleges

All routes involve resitting Maths & English if grade 4 or above is not achieved



The Different Routes I Could Take...

Watch [this animated video](#) explaining the different routes students can take after Year 11 (5 mins).



Click on the picture or the link in the text above. You may need to press the Ctrl key & left click the mouse!

Other Resources:

[Choose Your Paths](#)
(routes poster)

[Levels of the different routes](#)
(video)



Local Colleges

Click on a link to view each College website, open days info or video!



[Bath College](#) – Campuses in Radstock & Bath. [Open Days](#)



[Bridgwater & Taunton College \(BTC\) Cannington](#) for Agriculture. [Open Days](#)



[City of Bristol College](#) - [Open Days](#)



[Richard Huish College \(Taunton\)](#) [Open Events](#)



[Strode College](#) – In Street (A Levels or Vocational BTECs) [Open Days & virtual tour](#)



[South Gloucestershire & Stroud College \(SGS\)](#) [Open Days](#)



[Weston College](#) - [Open days](#)



[Wiltshire College Trowbridge](#). Lackham for Animal/Agriculture



[Yeovil College](#) - [Open Events](#)



More Specialist Colleges/Independent Training Providers



[Boomsatsuma - Media/Film. Open days](#)



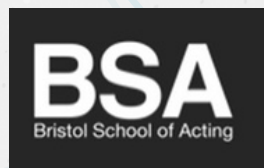
[Access Creative College- Media/Music/Games. Open days](#)



[The Big Act- Bristol](#)



[Bath Dance College – Radstock](#)



[Bristol School of Acting](#)



A Levels

- ▶ You can take A Levels in schools with Sixth Forms and at some Further Education Colleges.
- ▶ They are academic qualifications, mostly taught in a classroom, with exams at the end of the 2 years.
- ▶ Really good preparation, if you are thinking of going onto University.
- ▶ If you are not sure of your career plans, as they can keep your options open.
- ▶ You normally choose 3 subjects.
- ▶ You can also take a mixture of A levels & BTECs.

How should I decide what to take?

- ▶ Read the course guide for the Sixth Form/ College you are considering- can often be found on their website
- ▶ Attend open days and subject taster days.
- ▶ If you have a career path in mind, make sure you take any required or helpful subjects.
- ▶ Choose subjects you like /are interested in. Not because someone else thinks you should.
- ▶ Make sure you are likely to get the entry grade for the subjects you choose- A Levels have a high academic focus.

Resources (Videos): [Why Choose A Levels?](#)

[How to Choose Your A Levels](#)

Check out [My Learning My Future](#) for the subjects you are interested in studying



BTECs/Vocational Courses

These are a great choice for students who:

- ▶ Have a strong idea of their career path.
- ▶ An interest in one specific subject.
- ▶ Prefer to gain practical workplace knowledge rather than academic.
- ▶ Prefer assessments/ coursework to solely examinations.

BTECs:

- ▶ Have an emphasis on work experience as well as time in class.
- ▶ They have been designed in conjunction with employers, trade organisations, professional bodies & Universities.
- ▶ BTECs can lead to apprenticeships or employment.
- ▶ Level 3 BTECs can lead to university or degree apprenticeships.

Where can I study BTECs?

- ▶ Single BTECs are often offered in Sixth Forms alongside A Levels (you would pick 3 separate subjects; this could be 2 A Levels).
- ▶ At college you tend to study 1 subject:
 - Your BTEC would be a triple BTEC
 - At level 3 this would be an “Extended Diploma” which gives UCAS (Uni) points similarly to studying 3 separate subjects in Sixth Form



BTECs/Vocational Courses

Level of BTEC and Entry Grades:

- There are different levels: 1, 2 or 3.
- If you study level 3 you can progress to university- entry grades for this are usually 4 or 5 grade 4s & above.
- If you don't have the entry grades for level 3, you may be able to do 1 year at level 2 then progress onto the 2-year level 3 course. (Students are funded by the government for 3 years of further education).
- Entry onto a level 2 course is often 4 subjects at grade 3 or above.
- Some of the very practical trade subjects would require you to start at level 1; i.e. bricklaying.

(See individual courses on the college website for exact entry requirements, as the above is a guide).

BTECs are available in many vocational subjects:

- Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Conservation and Animal Care.
- Performing Arts, Art and Design, Crafts, Media & Publishing.
- Finance, Enterprise, Business and Law.
- Health & Social Care and Child Development & Wellbeing.
- Construction, Planning & The Built Environment.
- Engineering, Manufacturing Technologies & Transport Operations
- Information & Communication Technology
- Leisure, Sport, Travel & Tourism
- Retail, Hospitality & Commercial Enterprise
- Science & Mathematics
- Sociology & Social Policy



T-Levels

T-Levels (Technical Levels) have been developed in collaboration with employers, (e.g. IBM, Lloyds Bank & EDF Energy) who have been amongst many sitting on T-Level development panels. This means that the course content is up to date and reflects the needs of the industry. They combine classroom theory, practical learning and an industry placement to ensure students have the skills to thrive in the world of work. Students can earn Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

What qualifications do I need to study T-Levels?

Often a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5 is required.

Can I still apply to University with T Levels?

Yes. Both A Levels & T-Levels hold UCAS points - you can apply to university with either qualification.

Find a T-Level near you:

Postcode Search [here](#).

[List of T-Level subjects available.](#)

You'll find what they involve and careers they can lead to. Some are very new so you may not find specific courses near you!

Some T Levels are new – so don't assume they are all available at your local college!

Click the link below & see which T Levels are running at your local college:

[Wiltshire College](#), [Bath College](#), [Strode College](#), [Yeovil College](#), [Bridgewater & Taunton College](#), [SGS Filton Campus](#), [Weston College](#), [Mendip \(Somerset\) Studio School](#) - Writhlington & Midsomer Norton Sixth Form, [Access Creative College](#) - Bristol



T-Levels

Videos & More Information on T Levels:

[What Are T-Levels](#) – 6 min video

[What are T-Levels](#) – Govt. website; 2 min video & info

1 min video - Some [subjects you can do a T-level in](#)

Watch industry placement videos to hear from students and employers who have benefited from T-Level industry placements: www.tlevels.gov.uk/

[Business & Admin](#) T-Level video (3 min)

[Science](#)

Watch [this 1 minute video](#) of a T Level Student doing their construction placement with Wilmott Dixon... since the video was made she has now been offered employment with the company!



Subjects T levels will be available in, from Sept 2023:

- Accounting
- Agriculture, land management and production
- Animal care and management
- Building services/ engineering for construction
- Catering
- Craft and design
- Design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- Design, surveying and planning for construction
- Digital business services
- Digital production, design and development
- Digital support and services
- Education and childcare
- Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- Finance
- Hair, beauty and aesthetics
- Health
- Healthcare science
- Legal
- Maintenance, installation & repair for engineering & manufacturing
- Management and administration
- Media, broadcast and production
- Onsite construction
- Science



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are ideal if you know the career you would like, and would prefer to be mainly in the workplace. Most of your learning will be via working in your company, you will also receive training; which could be 1 day studying at college.

Apprenticeships aren't the 'easy' option. You need to put in a lot of effort applying for many jobs advertised or send a speculative CV to companies. You will be interviewed. It can be competitive.

- ▶ Network: Ask family to mention on social media the type of apprenticeship you are looking for.
- ▶ Sign up with a Recruitment Company- often employers ask them to fill their positions.
- ▶ Send speculative applications – google local employers & send a covering letter & CV asking if they may be interested in taking on an apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships Information

Higher Apprenticeships & Degree Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Search



Traineeships

A traineeship is a skills development programme that includes a work placement. It can last from 6 weeks up to 1 year, though most traineeships last for less than 6 months. It provides:

- ▶ help with getting work, such as writing a CV and finding a job
- ▶ a work placement of 70 hours or more
- ▶ help with the skills you'll need for an apprenticeship or job in the area you want to work in
- ▶ a job interview or feedback from an employer
- ▶ help with English, maths and basic digital skills (if you need it)

You won't be paid, but you may be given expenses for things like travel and meals.

Where can I do a traineeship?

[Somerset Skills and Learning](#) are a Traineeship Provider with sites in Frome, Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Bridgwater & Taunton. If you live near those towns, contact them for a chat- they will find you a traineeship (pre-apprenticeship)

Local colleges often also offer Traineeships.

Search for a Traineeship [here](#) Information & Video [here](#)





aat Accountancy/Finance

Any students who want to break into finance and don't think that university is right for them: studying an AAT accounting qualification can be the perfect solution and land them an exciting, well-paid career in virtually any industry. For information see the [AAT Website](#).

They can study as a course, or alongside an accountancy apprenticeship. See becoming an apprentice [here](#).

AAT qualified professionals receive exemptions if they choose to continue to chartered study. This can support them to start their own accounting practice.

Search for your nearest training provider [here](#).

There are also courses at [Writhlington](#), [Bath](#), [Bristol](#), [Weston College](#), [Richard Huish College](#).

AAT is made up of three levels: Foundation, Advanced, and Professional, as well as the AAT Bookkeeping Qualifications that can be taken separately. You don't need any previous qualifications or accountancy experience to begin studying AAT. Anyone, from school leavers aged 16/18 to career changers, can start the qualification.





Universities & Higher Education (HE) Providers

- ▶ After Sixth Form/College, one of the options is for students to attend University.
- ▶ Sometimes Parents and Students would like more information on entry into specific degrees... to help their decisions regarding which path the student chooses post 16, or which subjects they elect to study.
- ▶ All universities and their courses and entry requirements, can be found on the [UCAS website](#).



Tools & Resources

To help you consider what type of subject career you would like to pursue

Computer Tests

- ▶ <https://sacu-student.com> Creates a cloud of careers for you & subjects it think you will enjoy
- ▶ <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/tools/skillshealthcheck>

The Pathways App will help you explore the best courses to achieve your long term goals/ ambitions:

- ▶ Not sure what you want to do as a career? www.strode-college.ac.uk/courses
- ▶ Know what you want to do as a career? www.strode-college.ac.uk/explore-by-career

National Careers Service

Students or parents can phone a highly qualified careers advisor, from the comfort of home for advice & ideas. Make sure you plan a couple of questions.

- ▶ Telephone: 0800 100900. Open between 8am & 10pm, 7 days a week.
- ▶ Facebook /nationalcareersservice Twitter @nationalcareers

Careers Websites

- ▶ <https://targetcareers.co.uk>
- ▶ www.icould.com
- ▶ www.careerpilot.org.uk
- ▶ www.plotr.co.uk
- ▶ www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk

