



## POST-16 OPTIONS

As a general rule, the options available will depend on two main things: a student's interests and their GCSE grades.

All year 11s have to remain in some form of learning until the end of the school year in which they turn 18 (in school this is "year 13"). Depending on their grades, interests and circumstances, they might consider:

- 📎 Staying at [Little Heath Sixth Form](#)
- 📎 A different school sixth form
- 📎 College – see links below
- 📎 [Apprenticeships](#)

There are other possibilities and combinations, but these are the main four.

With Grades 5 and above (including English and Maths): all options are possible. At this point a student will usually progress onto Level 3 courses at school or elsewhere - including A levels, T levels, vocational courses and apprenticeships,

With mostly Grade 4s including English and Maths, 6<sup>th</sup> form at school might be possible, but usually only for a combination of single or double-award technical courses. Otherwise, local colleges may offer "full time" vocational courses at level 3 or other job-specific training. Apprenticeships are usually still an option with these grades.

With Grades 3 or below most school-based options are ruled out. A few schools offer a Level 2, one-year bridging course which students can take before progressing onto their Sixth Form however, the choice of course (if offered) is very limited. More often, students with these grades focus on their options at local colleges (usually at level 1 or 2). With these grades, moving straight into an apprenticeship is unlikely – a student may wish to consider a course at college first or a traineeship may be an option.

In **ALL cases**, but particularly if there is uncertainty over whether the necessary grades will be achieved, it is important to think about back up plans. This takes some of the stress away from Results Day. Examples could include:

- 📎 If applying to school, consider applying to college as well, just in case
- 📎 Consider back-up subject ideas if a course doesn't run
- 📎 If an apprenticeship is the preferred option, apply to school or college as well, just in case a job offer isn't made or falls through

## Things to consider

When considering course or career options:

- Entrance requirements – are they achievable?
- What the career/course actually involves – does this match with expectations? Organising work experience, even a day, might help test reality versus expectation
- Why it's appealing – again, it's important that the option offered meets with expectations
- Is it well suited to the student? – at some point they will need to 'sell' themselves in an application or at an interview. They will need to be confident in themselves first before they can convince others to give them the job or offer a place on the course
- Are there any negatives about this career? There are likely to be some negatives to any option – some are easier to live with than others! Skills and knowledge can be learned, but if a person is having to try too hard to be someone they're not, then it might not be the right choice
- Are there good alternative options which haven't been considered yet? It's always worth checking jobs or courses that are similar as you might find something with even more positives and less negatives!
- Potential salary is important but the option must suit the person first and foremost – it's a long time between pay days if you're unhappy!

## Suggested Actions

- Use free time to access the websites below to do careers research and find out as much as possible about ideas and options – little and often is better than last-minute panicking. Some options, like medicine, are quite rigid about steps to follow – I need to know if my choices will keep my future options open.
- Consider post 16 options carefully and plan a back-up, such as college, particularly there is a possibility of not achieving the necessary grades. It is ok to apply to more than one option – this just means final decisions can be made after the Results Day.
- If there is any interest in an apprenticeship, register on [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) from Autumn of year 11 onwards (big companies, like AWE, often start their recruitment process, including open days, before Christmas)
- College applications open from October onwards. Prospectuses are available in school.
- Schools will set their own application process (e.g. online application form or downloading a form to email) and will each have their own application deadline – check these carefully with each school.

## Useful Resources

A comprehensive set of resources can be found in the school's [Career Companion](#) or it can be accessed via the "Quicklinks" tab on the main page

For information about the Sixth Form at Little Heath:  
<https://www.littleheath.org.uk/sixthform>

For careers ideas and labour market information (LMI):

[Unifrog](#) – for information about careers, CVs, university options, apprenticeships, LMI – students should already have a log in for this. They can reset forgotten passwords using their school email address.

[eClips Online](#) – for information on different careers, job sectors and LMI. Use the school 23-24 password to log in: xiasti08

[Berkshire Opportunities](#) – to explore options, jobs and courses in Berkshire

[Careerninja](#) – for a careers quiz that matches personality types to suited jobs

[NHS Careers](#) - for a wide range of detailed NHS careers information, including the NHS values and a career quiz and NHS-specific labour market information

[Medschools](#) – for our aspiring future medics

[iCould](#) – careers information videos and the Buzz quiz

Alternatives to school:

[Find an Apprenticeship](#) – for advice about apprenticeships (including Higher and Degree apprenticeships) and live vacancies

[Activate Learning](#)  
for Reading & Bracknell  
[BCA, Maidenhead](#)

[BCoT, Basingstoke](#)  
[Henley College](#)  
[Newbury College](#)

[QMC, Basingstoke](#)  
[Sparsholt, Winchester](#)  
[UTC Reading](#)

Thinking further ahead:

[UCAS](#) - The main university application and information website

[Uni Taster Days](#) – online activities, workshops, visits for aspiring university students

[The Complete University Guide](#) – including university rankings

[Informed Choices](#) – Russell Group information and advice

[Not Going to Uni](#) – alternatives to university