

## Timeline for applying for post-16

Students will begin applying for their post-16 options in Autumn **2024** and the application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year. Here is a projected timeline for **2024-25**:

<b>All students</b>	Year 10 & 11 1:1 personal guidance interview with Level 6 Careers Adviser (by appointment) <a href="mailto:srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk">srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk</a> Year 10/11 Wednesday lunch time drop-in session (Careers office)
<b>June 2024</b>	Personal statement guidance in English lessons.
<b>June - July 2024</b>	Taster days at local FE colleges and schools.
<b>June 2024</b>	Year 10 mock interview workshop
<b>July 2024</b>	Year 10 1:1 employer interview.
<b>June - July 2024</b>	Personal statements to be completed during Tutor time and handed in to HOY by end of year 10.
<b>Sept - Nov 2024</b>	Further Education and Apprenticeship assemblies.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sept - 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2024</b>	College applications to be completed during Tutor time.
<b>Sept - Oct 2024</b>	Parent forum on post 16 options.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>	Sixth form and college courses for <b>2024-25</b> visible on application sites.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>	All college applications to be completed.
<b>November 2024</b>	Open days / evenings at further education colleges.
<b>December 2024</b>	Year 11 1:1 employer interview.

<b>Dec 2024 – Feb 2025</b>	Students invited to sixth form/college interviews.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	Probable closing date for sixth form applications <b>NOTE:</b> Colleges do not have the same deadlines but early applications are still advised!
<b>Feb - Mar 2025</b>	Students begin to receive offers from sixth forms and colleges.
<b>March - July 2025</b>	Students accept or reject offers for different courses.
<b>May- June 2025</b>	Apprenticeships on websites.
<b>September 2025</b>	Applications for 2024/ 2025 close for most colleges and last-minute clearance.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/> - The government's apprenticeship portal, which allows students to make an account and search and apply for apprenticeships.

**NOTE:** Apprenticeship and Traineeship applications run throughout the academic year and students must be 16 and have finished full-time education before starting. Apprenticeships have a much more detailed application process than sixth form or college and may require students to find their own placements if taken via colleges.

# Careers

## Post-16 Education – What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

**Full-Time Study** – this could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

**Apprenticeships** – this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

**Traineeships** – this is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

**Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering** – this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

### **How do I pay for post-16 education and training?**

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a **16-19 Bursary Fund** to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - [www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund](http://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund)

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an apprenticeship, they will no longer be considered your dependant and your benefits for them will stop. More information can be found via the **Gingerbread** website:

<https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/information/benefits-tax-credits-and-universal-credit/money-when-your-child-turns-16/>

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

### **Useful Links:**

<http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk/help-information/raising-the-participation-age-rpa>

<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

# Careers

## Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A\*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study:

**Traditional A-Levels** – Subjects like **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art**

**Alternative A-Levels** – Subjects like **Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science**

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

**Entry Requirements** – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A-Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

**BTEC L3 Diplomas** – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include **Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.**

**T Levels** - Some colleges offer T Levels which are an alternative to A levels but are equivalent to 3 A levels. T Level students spend 80% of the course in their learning

environment, gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where they put these skills into action.

**Apprenticeships**- An apprenticeship can be done directly after leaving school. Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to get paid while developing the skills required to work in that type of employment. Students would look for an advanced apprenticeship (Level 3 - which is A level equivalent) on the following website, <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> from the May/June of the year they are leaving school or approach companies directly.

# Careers

## Local College Information

Hailsham Community College <https://www.hccat.net/>

Seaford Head School <https://seafordhead.org/>

Heathfield Community College <http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/>

Plumpton <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/>

East Sussex College Group <https://www.escg.ac.uk/>

Bexhill Sixth Form College <https://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/>

BHASVIC <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/>

**Private Schools/ Colleges** – Parents should be aware that both schools offer fully or partially funded scholarships for post-16 education, as long as specific criteria are met.

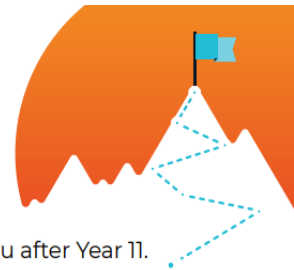
Eastbourne College <https://www.eastbourne-college.co.uk/>

Bede's School - <https://www.bedes.org/>

**Smaller Training Providers** – In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations around the city and further afield that offer a range of vocational courses for students, including **Motor Vehicle, Business Admin, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Construction, Personal Fitness, Hair and Beauty** and **Hospitality and Catering**, as well as

support with **Maths** and **English** and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students:

# POST 16 OPTIONS MADE SIMPLE



Use the information below to help you understand the options available to you after Year 11.

IF I ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING GCSEs ...	I CAN MOVE ONTO LEVEL ...	AND CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS ...	AND APPLY FOR ...
<p>5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ inc. English Language and Maths at a Grade 4 Exact requirements vary according to the subject</p>	3	A LEVELS	3 or 4 SUBJECTS
<p>4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ inc. English and Maths at a Grade 4 and above</p>	3	T LEVELS	1 SUBJECT
<p>4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ inc. English and Maths at a Grade 3 3+ 3+ 3+ 3+ Exact requirements vary according to the course 2+ 2+ 2+</p>	3 2 1	VOCATIONAL COURSES	1 SUBJECT COURSE
<p>4+ 4+ Exact requirements vary according to the employer 3+ 3+</p>	3 2	APPRENTICESHIPS	APPLY FOR VACANCIES
<p>What if I get grades below 2 ?</p>	ENTRY	VOCATIONAL COURSES	1 SUBJECT COURSE

Speak to your Careers Adviser to help you explore the options in more detail.