



Heath Lane Academy

Careers Guide

WHAT TO DO AFTER YEAR 11?



Making Decisions

It's time to decide what you want to do at the end of year 11. There's more than one way to get into most kinds of work.

You must then do one of the following until you're 18:

- Stay in full-time education, for example at a college.
- Start an apprenticeship, traineeship or a job with accredited training.
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training.

Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Foundation Learning and a job without training are other possible routes to go until you're 18.

Remember the decision about your future is your own choice. Take advice and approach with care. All jobs are open equally to men and women don't narrow your choice.

Help from your Careers Adviser

To help you make up your mind, there's loads of information about each option. Talk to your Careers Adviser who can help you make the best choice for you in terms of career progression. If you have problems that might be stopping you from getting on with your life, your Careers Adviser can signpost you to appropriate agencies.



Foundation Learning, First Diplomas, A Levels, BTEC National Diplomas and NVQ's

Whether you choose a school sixth form or a college, you will be able to progress onto further courses at college or school, higher education, employment or apprenticeships. You will need to consider carefully the type of course you want; some are vocational (work-related) so that they link into a specific occupational or career area. If you are aiming for higher education, you may need to take a specific subject to get onto the course you want.

When you are deciding which course is right for you, you'll need to think about:

- Course content and style of study
- Does it lead to higher education or the job that you want?
- Will you get the grades at GCSE to get on the course?
- Is it offered at a school or college that you can travel too easily?
- Are the qualifications offered at the right level?
- How is the course assessed - exam or coursework?

Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning provides flexible learning programmes at Entry Level and Level 1. So, if you don't feel ready for any of the qualifications mentioned below a Foundation Learning Programme could be for you. These are personalised learning programmes designed to support you and can help you progress onto Level 2 learning, employment or apprenticeships. Foundation Learning is offered by colleges and training providers.

T Levels

T Levels are a two-year qualification for 16–19-year-olds designed in collaboration with employers. Each T Level is equivalent to 3 A Levels, with the aim to support the young person to develop their skills, knowledge and to thrive in the workplace. Students choose different T Level specialisms, and develop the key skills required in industry. T Levels offer a mixture of classroom learning and 'on the job experience' through an industry placement.

A levels

A Levels are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work. You can normally study three or more A levels over two years. They're usually assessed by a series of examinations.

What grades do I need to take A levels?

You normally need:

- At least 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) including maths/ English.
- At least 5/6 grades (B grade) in the specific subject(s) you want to study.

However, the specific requirements needed to study A levels will vary across schools and colleges. It's important to check what you will need with the school or college you are looking to study at.

BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

BTECs are qualifications that give you the chance to study in a particular vocational area. They allow you to relate your learning to real life situations. They may include work experience. Each one is made up of a number of units and you will need to be able to provide evidence of your competency in each unit. They are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction, and involve course work and some externally assessed work.

NVQ's

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are work based qualifications which recognises the skills and knowledge a person needs to do a job. NVQs are competency based and the candidate produces evidence of what they do in their work situation which becomes the basis of a portfolio that is assessed against the relevant occupational standard. Candidates need to demonstrate that they have the suitable skills, knowledge and understanding to carry out the tasks associated with their job role.

Going to work

If you've decided you are ready to leave full-time education and enter the world of work, you can look at:

- Apprenticeships
- Jobs with training
- Jobs without training (alongside part-time study if you are under 18).
- Traineeships/ Foundation Learning Programmes (see your Careers Adviser for more details)

Apprenticeships

There are apprenticeships in hundreds of different kinds of work. Apprentices are employed by a company and study for recognised qualifications either with the employer, a college, or a training provider.

All Apprentices get:

- A training plan that shows what you will be doing.
- A minimum wage.
- Training agreed with your employer to give you the skills to do the job.
- Key Skills training in communication, numeracy and information technology.
- In some cases, day release or block release to college.
- Training towards a recognised qualification.
- A Technical Certificate.

Training Provider

Everyone doing work-based learning is supported by a training provider. They are experts with many years' experience and work alongside employers to deliver your training. You will have an individual plan that could include:

- Attending the training provider's premises.
- Practical experience with an employer.
- Assessments at your workplace of the skills you are learning.
- Confidential help if you are having any problems.

Foundation Learning is also available through some training providers and will include some elements of work experience.

Jobs with Training

Some employers run their own training programmes. You will be employed by the company and be paid a wage for the work you do.

Take care though; some firms claim to offer training but it may not lead to qualifications and may not help you make progress in your chosen career. Ask the company to let you have details of their training programme and talk to your Careers Adviser before accepting the job.

Traineeships

Traineeships are for young people who do not have a job and who need to gain experience in the workplace. They are, effectively, an unpaid work experience programme for young people who need extra help before moving on to an apprenticeship or employment.

They last anything from six weeks to a maximum of six months with the content tailored to the needs of the individual trainee.

The main elements of a Traineeship are work preparation training, English and maths for those who need it, and a high-quality work experience placement with the aim of giving young people the skills and experience those employers are looking for.

Useful Websites

National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

National Careers Service - Provides information on over 800 job profiles, detailing skills, qualifications, work environment, pay, and career prospects.

Apprenticeships: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

GOV.UK Apprenticeships Official government portal for applying to apprenticeships and traineeships.

ECLIPS Online: www.eclips-online.co.uk (Password: Careers)

Comprehensive career information with descriptions of jobs, entry routes, training options, and live-streamed labour market info.

Informed Choices: www.informedchoices.ac.uk

Assists students in understanding how A-Level subject choices impact university options, particularly for Russell Group Universities.

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk

Prospects Offers a career planner, job matching tool, and more than 400 job profiles, with advice on routes into different careers and related work experience.

UCAS: www.ucas.com

UCAS The main application service for UK universities, providing guidance on courses, entry requirements, and university options.

iCould: www.icould.com

Features free career videos, detailed job profiles, and advice on choosing careers, with insights into the world of work.

Start Profile: www.startprofile.com

A platform that helps users explore personalised career options and courses based on their skills and interests.

All About School Leavers: www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk

Offers information on school leaver programmes, apprenticeships, and other pathways for students leaving school or college

Useful Contact and Websites

Ash Green 6th Form

Website: www.ashgreenschool.org.uk. Phone: 02476 366772

Birmingham Ormiston Academy

Website: www.boa-academy.co.uk. Phone: 0121 359 9300

Brooksby College

Website: www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk. Phone: 01664 855224

Coventry College

Website: www.coventrycollege.ac.uk. Phone: 02476 932932

The Coleshill School 6th Form

Website: www.thecoleshillschool.org. Phone: 01675 462435

Eden Girls School

Website: www.edengirlscoventry.com. Phone: 02476 220937

Etone College 6th Form

Website: www.etonecollege.co.uk. Phone: 02476 757300

Heart of England Training

Website: info@hoet.co.uk Phone: 0800 028 1576

Higham Lane School

Website: www.highamlaneschool.co.uk Phone: 02476 348148

Hinckley Academy

Website: www.hinckleyacademy.co.uk. Phone: 01455 632183

JCC Skills Training Limited

Website: www.jcc.ac.uk Phone: 0121 472 0141

King Edward 6th Form College

Website: www.kecollege.co.uk. Phone: 01384 398100

Landau Forte Academy, Tamworth 6th Form

Website: www.lfatsf.org.uk. Phone: 01827 301511

Leicester College of Performing Arts

Website: www.lcpa.co.uk. Phone: 0116 251 6433

Midland Group Training Services

Website: www.mgts.co.uk. Phone: 02476 630333

Nicholas Chamberlaine 6th Form

Website: www.nicholaschamberlaine-gst.org. Phone: 02476 312314

North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

Website: www.nwslc.ac.uk Phone: 0330 0583000

The Polesworth School 6th Form

Website: www.thepolesworthschool.com Phone: 01827 702205

Prince's Trust

Website: www.princes-trust.org.uk Phone: 0800 842842

Solihull College

Website: www.solihull.ac.uk Phone: 0121 678 7000

South Staffordshire College

Website: www.southstaffs.ac.uk Phone: 01785 710546

Stratford College

Website: www.stratford.ac.uk Phone: 01789 266245St

Thomas More 6th Form

Website: www.st-thomas-more.net Phone: 02476 642400

Warwickshire College

Website: www.warwickshire.ac.uk Phone: 0300 4560047