

Post 16 Pathways – Parent and Carer Information Session Q&A

1. When you turn 16, can you leave school without doing anything?

The answer is no. You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

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](#) or [traineeship](#)
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

Information found [here](#).

2. Can you access University with college Diplomas?

Classed as an alternative to A-levels, Level 3 Diplomas will allow access to a range of university courses. However, entry requirements are defined by individual courses and universities and may depend on the grade received and the diploma studied.

More information found [here](#).

3. What options are available for students with Special Education Needs?

There is lots of support for students with special education needs and EHCPs. Support for individual students can be discussed with their school or college, but may include things such as supported internships (mentioned in the slide deck). Young people may also wish to search for jobs or apprenticeships which display the 'Disability Confident' employer logo.

4. Do you need certain GCSEs to stay on or attend sixth form?

This will be dependent on the individual college/sixth form, and should be discussed with them directly or with your child's Careers Leader or Careers Advisor.

5. How do you apply for an apprenticeship? Is there somewhere which advertises these?

Apprenticeship opportunities are applied for like any job and do not have a general deadline, in the same way that UCAS applications do. This will depend on the individual companies – some of whom recruit throughout the year and others who recruit at specific points in the year. It is best to check the websites of companies you may be interested in and also keep an eye on the Cheshire and Warrington Opportunities portal (<https://www.candwopportunities.co.uk/>) and the apprenticeships.gov.uk website job portal, which you can find [here](#).

6. Do apprenticeships and T-level cover numerous subjects?

Yes! There is an apprenticeship out there covering almost every subject, including to become a solicitor, an engineer and even Medicine from September 2024.

There are now also over 20 T-level subjects available, which you can find [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

This will be covered in more detail at our Apprenticeship session on 5th Feb 24 and our T level session on 17th April

7. How long are apprenticeships?

Apprenticeship length depends on the level of apprenticeship, but can take between 1 and 5 years. Apprenticeship levels can be found [here](#).

8. Do companies who offer apprenticeships also offer work experience?

This will depend on the individual company.

9. What is the main difference between apprenticeships and T-levels?

Apprenticeships provide 80% on the job training with 20% training/studying towards a qualification. Apprenticeships are also a paid job in line with or above minimum wage requirements.

T-levels are an unpaid qualification with a 45-day work placement which you do not get paid for.

10. How many GCSE's do you need to get into an apprenticeship?

This will be dependent on the individual apprenticeship, so it's always best to do lots of research.

11. Who can do T-levels, what are the entry requirements and where do you go to complete a T-level?

T-levels are available for 16-19 year olds. T-levels are delivered in a range of local colleges. You can find a list [here](#). Entry requirements will depend on the individual T-level/college.

12. Is the BTEC the same as a T-level?

No, T-levels and BTECs are distinct qualifications with different specifications.

13. Can you apply for multiple courses?

College applications can be made to as many courses or qualifications as you would like. University applications, through UCAS, are limited to 5 choices.

14. How do Universities look at T-levels vs A-levels?

This will again depend on the course and University. Many Universities do accept T-levels, which are equivalent to 3 A-levels, but some do not. It is always best to check with the University and course directly before making a decision on the right path.

15. Can you tell us what the options are if the young person wants to go to college but fails Maths / English Language please?

Generally, resits at college. <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/exam-results/resits>

You'll have to retake GCSE English and maths if you're under 18 and did not get at least a grade 4.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible to take functional skills qualifications instead.

16. What is the best pathway for a student who would like to do less exam based qualifications?

Frequently Asked Questions

This will be dependent on their interests and the pathway they would like to take in the future. It would be worth investigating individual courses, colleges, and their offerings. For example, some A-levels may have more coursework than others. T-levels and BTECs are designed to provide more hands-on experience which may suit better.

17. Can you do a VTQ and then go to Uni?

Yes, but this will be dependent on the specific level of the VTQ studied and the individual universities/courses entry requirements.

18. Is 16-18 education free in all cases?

Yes, it is.

19. When do you have to apply for college?

Most college applications open August 1st, with submission due in January but again, this is dependent on the individual college or sixth form.

20. Is the resultant award for a T-levels the same level as A-levels?

A T-level is equivalent to 3 A-levels. Both are level 3 qualifications.