

Post 16 Guidance

YOUNG PEOPLE IN YEAR 10, AND THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS

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Why This Matters

The Virtual School

- By law, young people must stay in education, employment or training until the age of 18.
- Choices made now influence future careers, university options, and earning potential.
- The earlier you start researching options and talking to your career's advisor, the more prepared you are to make the right choices for you.

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What Pathways Are Available After Year 11

1. Full-Time Education

- A Levels: Academic route, usually 3 subjects over 2 years. Best for university entry.
- Vocational/Technical Qualifications:
 - BTECs: Coursework-based, practical learning in sectors like business, health, engineering, hair and beauty, health and social care.
 - T Levels: New technical qualifications combining classroom study with industry placement.
- Other Level 1/2/3 courses: For those needing to build skills or retake GCSEs.

2. Work + Study

- Apprenticeships: Paid work with training; available in many sectors, from trades to digital.
- Traineeships: Short-term programmes to prepare for apprenticeships or work.
- Supported Internships: For students with additional needs.

3. Part-Time Education + Work/Volunteering

- At least 20 hours/week working or volunteering, plus accredited training.

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Timeline For Year 10 & 11

- **Year 10:** Start researching options, attend open days, talk to careers advisors. Having an idea of what you want to do, what courses interest you and the qualifications needed will help you and your parent/carer be more organised when the Y11 application window opens.
- **Autumn Year 11:** Applications open for colleges and apprenticeships. The earlier you apply, the more chance you have of getting on your chosen course.
- **Spring Year 11:** Interviews and offers.
- **Summer:** GCSE results confirm your next step.

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For More information On Opportunities Available in Your Local Area

Career Pilot - Explains these pathways in more detail, contains a map of local colleges, schools, and training providers and offers some additional information on career pathways.

Gloucestershire: What Next? - explore our brochure on post 16 pathways and support in Gloucestershire.

SPIED Bulletin - Gloucestershire Youth Support Team put together a monthly bulletin with detailed information about local courses and opportunities.

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Further Help If You Find Yourself Out Of Education Or Work

The Gloucestershire Youth Support Team offer support and advice for young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education or work.

Gloucestershire Employment and Skills Hub support people aged 16 and over to find work and develop skills needed for the workplace through volunteering, courses and workplace experiences.

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Key Things To Consider

- **Learning Style:** Academic (A Levels) vs practical (BTECs/T Levels/apprenticeships).
- **Career Goals:** Some careers need specific subjects (e.g., sciences for medicine).
- **GCSE Results:** Most Level 3 courses require five GCSEs at grade 4+, including English and Maths but there are many courses where you have the opportunity to retake English and Maths. Level 1 and 2 courses offer lower grade options and English and Maths too. Finding out what your projected scores are will give you an idea about the courses open to you.
- **Flexibility:** Choices now don't lock you in forever—many routes allow progression later and transition options across to other courses.
- **Have a backup option:** Some courses are competitive and if you are considering an apprenticeship, you will be applying for a job in competition with others so always look at a plan B in case your chosen route is not available this time. REMEMBER: apprenticeships can be started at any time and can be applied for when opportunities arise with local employers, so it is important to stay patient.

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Where To Get Help With Post 16 Options

Your first source of support will be your School Careers Advisor (available to offer guidance to students from Year 8–13).

The National Careers Service - This website offers lots of information and advice and you can speak to an advisor over the phone or via webchat to help you with your options if needed.

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Applying For An Apprenticeship

Amazing Apprenticeships - this website covers everything you need to know about apprenticeships; there is a parent / carer zone, a student zone, and lots of information to help you find and understand apprenticeships.

You can search for apprenticeship vacancies on the following websites

- Find Apprenticeships: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- UCAS <https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships/>

TIP: Although a lot of employers advertise their apprenticeship vacancies on these sites there are some that won't, so it is worth searching local companies' websites and local job boards for additional opportunities.

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Videos To Help You With Your Choices

Further Education & Post 16 Guide
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLpHTfrqOec>

Post 16 Pathways Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkOnHVgKV_g

Step Forwards Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdFGpTQINbo>