



**TALKING  
FUTURES  
KEY STAGE 4  
PARENTS' and  
CARERS'  
CAREERS  
INFORMATION**



Marshland High  
School

Jan 2024

## What you need to know

- Introduction to education and careers options – including post 16 options and an overview of the support we offer to help you and your child make decisions
  - How you can help your child make decisions that are right for them
  - Where you can find further information and support and who to contact if you have questions
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# EDUCATION AND CAREERS OPTIONS AN OVERVIEW



# Post 16 options

## What's next?

- Young people in England are required by law to stay in education or training until age 18.
- There are a range of options available including traineeships, apprenticeships, vocational qualifications, A-levels and the new T-level qualification
- There is a lot to consider when making this decision - here is an overview of the options and things to think about.



The infographic is a grid of 12 panels. The top row contains three panels: the first states that the next step will help shape options at age 18 and beyond, accompanied by an illustration of a diverse group of young people; the second asks to think about key questions like 'Where do I want to go?' and 'What's important to me?', with a signpost showing 'OPTION ONE', 'OPTION TWO', and 'OPTION THREE'; the third shows a group of people with speech bubbles asking questions like 'What is an offer (locally)?' and 'Who can help me find out more?'. The middle row has four panels: the first asks 'What does life at 18 look like?' with a person's head and floating question marks; the second is titled 'Working full-time' and shows a person at a whiteboard; the third is 'Studying full-time' and shows a person at a laptop; the fourth is 'Combination of work and study' and shows a person at a laptop with a graduation cap. The bottom row contains five panels: the first is titled 'some options' and lists 'go 16 to start exploring' with a signpost; the second describes a T-LEVEL as a two-year course with employer-designed skills, illustrated with a head containing tools; the third gives examples of T-levels like digital design and construction, with an illustration of a person at a computer; the fourth describes APPRENTICESHIPS as combining practical training with a paid job, illustrated with a person holding a stack of money; the fifth describes A-LEVELS as a two-year course with three subjects, illustrated with books; the final panel lists other options like BTECs, traineeships, and more, with an illustration of a person surrounded by icons for various careers.

# What is your next move? Post-16 options

	A levels	International Baccalaureate	BTEC Nationals	T-Levels (England only)
Qualification type	General Certificate of Advanced level qualification	International Baccalaureate Diploma	Business and Technology Education Council Diplomas <i>(Level 3 are similar standard to A Levels, with subsidiary diploma equivalent to one A level, BTEC diploma equivalent to 2 A levels and extended diploma equivalent to 3 A levels).</i>	Technical Level Qualification
Type of learning	Mostly theory. Can depend on the subjects taken	Mostly theory, some practical. Can depend on the subjects taken	Combination of practical and theory	Classroom learning (80%) with industry placement (20%)
Qualifications needed to sign up	At least x5 GCSE grade 4 – 9. At least grade 5/6 in the subject/s chosen for A level	Set by the school, up to 5 GCSEs	Up to 5 GCSEs	Up to 5 GCSEs
Subject choices	Three subjects	Up to six subjects (three standard level and three at higher level plus some compulsory modules including an extended essay)	Three vocational subjects	One industry field, such as construction (includes design, surveying and planning) or Education (includes early years, assisting teaching and supporting and mentoring students)
Commitment	<b>2 years full time</b>			
Tuition costs	<b>Free (unless parents choose to pay privately)</b>			
UCAS points awarded for passing	56 points – A* 48 points – A 40 points – B 32 points – C 24 points – D 16 points – E	56 points - Higher Level 7 48 points - Higher Level 6 32 points - Higher Level 5 24 points - Higher Level 4 12 points - Higher Level 3	For subsidiary diploma: 56 points – D* (distinction) 48 points – D 32 points – M (merit) 16 points – P (pass)  <i>Points are doubled for diploma and tripled for extended diploma</i>	168 points - Distinction* 144 points - Distinction 120 points - Merit 96 points – Pass (C or above) 72 points – Pass (D or E)
Can lead to	University, further study, training or work	University, further study, training or work	University, further study, training, professional development programmes or work	University, further study, training, professional development programmes or work

## What is your next move? Post-16 options

	Cambridge Technicals	Other qualifications	BTEC apprenticeship	Other options
Qualification type	A Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (equivalent to an A level) or Cambridge Technical Diploma (equivalent to x2 A levels)	City and Guilds; National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) or Tech Bac (similar to Baccalaureate)	Advanced Level 3 (equivalent to x2 A levels)	Traineeship / Volunteer with training / internship – all to help your child get enough skills to take on an apprenticeship or other form of qualification if they do not already have the minimum qualification requirements.
Type of learning	Practical course with lots of coursework based on real life case studies	Dependent on the qualification, most contain practical on the job training	Work based including off-site learning	Work based
Qualifications needed to sign up	At least x5 GCSE passes	x5 GCSE passes	Advanced Level 3 - depends on employer, some require at least 3 GCSEs	None
Subject choices	Range of vocational subjects	Range of vocational subjects	Range of vocational subjects, driven by the job offered	Range of vocational subjects, driven by the job offered
Commitment	2 years	2 years (level 3)	1-2 years	6 weeks – 6 months
Tuition costs	Free (unless parents choose to pay privately)			
UCAS points awarded for passing	Cambs Tech level 3: 56 points – D* (distinction) 48 points – D 32 points – M (merit) 16 points – P (pass)	In most cases no UCAS points are awarded but there are some exceptions.	n/a	n/a
Can lead to	University, further study, training or work	Further study, training, professional development programmes or work	University, further study, training or work	Further study, apprenticeships or job offers

Advanced level qualifications (known as 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.

You normally need:

- at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4/A\* to C
- at least grade 6 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.

To find out more use the link below:

<https://www.ucas.com/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/levels>

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/category/a-level/>

### **What are T Levels?**

T Levels are a two-year vocational qualification equivalent to three A-levels. They involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

**To find out more use the link below:**

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can be a fantastic career path, whether started after GCSE or sixth form. They offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment resulting in a professional qualification. There are no tuition fees (these are covered by the employer and the government) and the salary can cover living expenses. Entry levels vary from 2 (equivalent to GCSE level) to 7 (degree level).

Apprenticeships used to be associated with trade industries (such as electricians, mechanics or plumbers). Nowadays, apprenticeships can be taken in a wide range of industry sectors and provide entry to all types of careers, including accountancy, banking, IT, law, management and television.

Taking an apprenticeship is not an easy option and competition can be fierce. It takes organisation and dedication to balance work, where your child will be expected to contribute to the same standards as everyone else, and study. Holidays are far fewer than at college or university. However, if they have a more practical, work-related bias towards learning this will suit them well and they will obtain valuable experience which will strengthen opportunities in finding rewarding work when the apprenticeship is over.

**To find out more visit the website:**

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

## Levels of Educations

The Parents' Guide to  
www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

Level	Qualification / educational route				
8	Doctorate (PhD)		NVQ 8		
7	Masters degree (MA)		Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7		
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4		
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D,E,F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route	Applied / work route	

## What we offer

### Using Unifrog to explore your options

You should all have your log in to Unifrog. There are two ways you can use this to help you choose your GCSE options

#### Careers library

✓ Careers favourited

Go to tool >

#### Method 1

*I know the job  
or industry I  
want to work in  
after school.*



#### Method 2

*I have no idea  
what I want to  
do after school!*



#### Interests profile

✓ Quiz last taken 23 Nov 21: A and E and S

Start >

unifrog

- Unifrog believe that destinations - where students end up after school - is even more important than their academic performance. They partner with schools to support students to progress into the best opportunity for them.
- Unifrog do this by providing a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully choose their next steps at each transition.

## Post 16 options – Year Plans

### What we offer in Year 10

Continued use of Unifrog including opportunity to access the Careers Library, Subject Library and Webinars.

Tutor time Careers activities - see curriculum plan for content Careers assemblies with guest speakers

Student Ambassadors from local Post 16 provider

A 1:1 careers guidance meeting with a qualified careers advisor

Post 16 provider visits

Assembly from Springwood High School and College of West Anglia.

Sixth form or college taster day. Experience life as a student studying post-16.

Mock interview day with employers and employees from local businesses.

A weeks work experience.

### What we offer in Year 11

Continued use of Unifrog including opportunity to access the Careers Library, Subject Library and Webinars.

Tutor time Careers activities - see curriculum plan for content Careers assemblies with guest speakers

Post 16 provider visits

Assembly from Springwood High School, College of West Anglia, Apprenticeships & Independent Training Provider

Completion of Post 16 applications

### Sixth form transitions

Most sixth forms or colleges offer transition days post-GCSE examinations. They will contact the students directly to inform them of these days.

### What we offer

Most students will have had the opportunity to meet the West Norfolk Academies Trust Careers Advisor 1:1. Should they need further support they can request a follow up appointment by discussing this with Mrs Whitehouse.

Your appointment can help you with

- Exploring options available to you
  - Researching where to look for information and supporting decision making
  - Managing setbacks and strategies to move forward
  - Plan your career ideas and help you realise them
  - Decide on an action plan for you to work on with the support that is needed
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### What we offer

To make the most of your careers appointment

- Write down what you want to discuss before you come to the interview, include any specific questions
  - Discuss your ideas with significant people around you – family, carers, friends
  - Make a list of things that you are really good at, think about both academic areas and skills, include things in and out of school
  - Use internet resources such as Unifrog, Skills Builder, UCAS or take the National Careers Quiz to discover your skills
  - Talk to your tutor or your subject teachers
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**CAREERS  
DECISION-MAKING  
HOW CAN YOU  
HELP?**



### How can you help?

As parents and carers, you will have the opportunity to support your child's decision making at several points in their education, and these decisions will impact their future career choices.

So how can you help them make decisions that are right for them?

- Talk regularly about careers, aspirations and interests as part of everyday conversation, not just at key decision-making points.
- Share your experiences, the choices you made and your skills with your child, whether you currently are in work, you are a full-time parent, you are seeking work or you are retraining.
- Encourage your child to be curious and work with them to research their options even if you don't know the answers yourself.
- Use the links on the school website to support researching careers, pathways and qualifications.
- Monitor the Careers Google Classrooms for useful and up-to-date links and information about upcoming activities that are optional.
- Consider work experience options.

### Voluntary work experience

- Voluntary work experience supports in building many general employability skills such as:
  - Communication
  - Time keeping
  - Problem solving
  - Commercial awareness
  - Team working
  - Practical skills
- Voluntary work experience can help with CV writing and provides opportunity for discussion during interview.
- Voluntary work experience can be based in a work place relevant to future career aspirations for first hand experience, but does not have to be to build the necessary skills.

### Virtual work experience

- Many organisations provide virtual work experience opportunities. Some are opportunities that are available at any time, with modules to complete building key employability skills whilst learning about a specific environment. Others are live events so the student needs to join live to complete the modules learning about a specific career sector.
- Virtual work experience usually involves the completion of activities or a project and a certificate is awarded for this.
- Virtual work experience builds skills such as:
  - digital skills
  - Team working
  - Communication
- Virtual work experience can be found at:
  - Speakers for Schools <https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/vwex/>
  - Barclay's Life Skills <https://barclayslifefutures.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/virtual-work-experience/>
  - Springpod <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/search>

## What is NCS?

NCS is a space where young people can become world ready and work ready, and raise their voice to make a positive difference together. Where they can explore who they are and who they want to be, with no fear of judgement or failure.

Where they can step out and step up, and get a taste of independence on their own terms. A space for everyone to feel at home, no matter where they're from. To connect with other like-minds, learn new skills, make an impact in their community and better their employability.

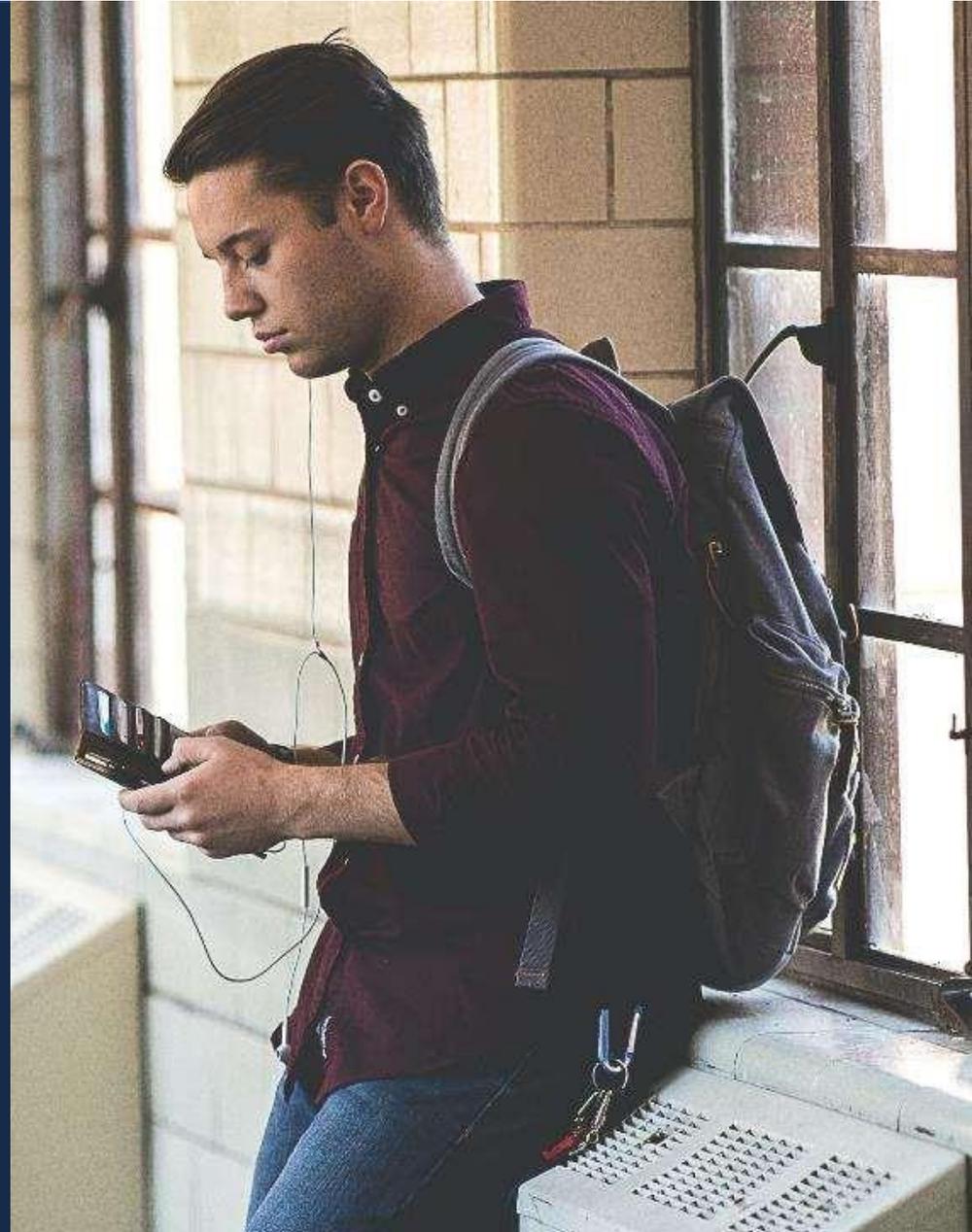
NCS lets them say 'No We Can'.

NCS run local and residential activities for young people transitioning from GCSE. Information will be sent home during Year 11 with information about summer activities.

## NCS Vision

A country of connected, confident and caring citizens where everyone feels at home.

# OPTIONS AND CAREERS FINDING FURTHER INFORMATION



# Using Talking Futures

- Talking Futures has a range of resources to help you do further research and develop your careers conversations:
- Activities to try at home include:
  - Creating a family action plan to map out what you will do to explore the different options.
  - Supporting your child to complete a pathway planner to help them to consider all the decisions they need to make and who they need support from.
  - A conversation starter activity to prompt your discussions with your child.
- Resources and information including the films and more information on the routes available and external sites that can provide more detail.

[www.talkingfutures.org.uk/parents/](http://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/parents/)

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### Useful sites

- [unifrog.org](http://unifrog.org)
- [skillsbuilder.org/benchmark](http://skillsbuilder.org/benchmark)
- [parentalguidance.org.uk](http://parentalguidance.org.uk)
- [icanbea....](#)
- [ucas.com/careers-advice](http://ucas.com/careers-advice)
- [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)
- [apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://apprenticeships.gov.uk)
- [tlevels.gov.uk](http://tlevels.gov.uk)

### You can contact

- Mrs Whitehouse at Marshland High School
- Email [MHS-careers-leader@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:MHS-careers-leader@marshlandhigh.co.uk)