

Post 16 Pathways

A brief guide for parents and guardians



What are the choices at 16?

The main post-16 options for young people are:

- Full time education at a school or college e.g. A Levels or Vocational Qualifications;
- An Apprenticeship or Traineeship;
- Part time education or training - this must be in addition to employment, self-employment or volunteering for a minimum of 20 hours per week.

All young people must be in some form of education or recognised training until they are 18. Child Benefit stops on 31 August on or after your child's 16th birthday if they leave education or training. It continues if they stay in approved education or training. Child Tax Credit usually stops on 31 August after your child turns 16 but can continue for children under 20 in approved education, training or registered with a careers service.

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

Understanding Qualifications

Post 16 qualifications are offered at different levels.

The level of qualification offered for study will depend on the GCSE grades achieved.

Level 3: Requirements (dependant on college): At least five GCSE grades 4 /5 or above, including English, Maths, usually at grade 5 or above.

-Examples of qualifications: BTEC National, AS/A levels, Advanced NVQ

Level 2: Requirements (dependant on college): Mainly GCSE grades 3, including English, usually at grade 3, or a BTEC First Certificate/Award - merit/ distinction

-Examples: BTEC First Diploma, GCSE resits, Intermediate NVQ

Level 1: Requirements: No formal entry requirements required, however, an interest in your chosen subject/industry is necessary

-Examples: BTEC Level 1 Certificate, Adult Literacy/Numeracy, Level 1 National Certificate in Further Education (NCFE)

AS and A Levels

A Levels have gone through significant change over recent years.

All assessment for A Levels now take place at the end of two years and nearly all subjects will no longer include coursework assessment. Although AS Level exams can still take place at the end of the first year of study many colleges do not do this as these grades will not be included as part of the full A Level grade.

The A Level route gives the opportunity to study more than one subject. Choosing subjects of interest. Some A Levels require prior knowledge; for instance, Maths, Sciences and MFLs need good achievement in those subjects at GCSE level. However some A Levels can be studied without having taken them at GCSE level and colleges have their own requirements. Most colleges ask for five GCSEs at grade 5 or above and some subjects require particular grades in certain GCSEs. If there is a particular university course or career in mind you need to check the entry requirements; for instance, engineering degrees normally require Mathematics at A Level and primary teaching courses can be really specific about A Level and GCSE grades.

Where can A Levels lead?

- An advanced Apprenticeship
- A job that includes further training with your employer
- A vocational course that will qualify you to do a specific job

A Levels prepare you for Higher Education and employment



BTECs and other Vocational Qualifications

BTECs, City & Guilds and OCRs are particular types of work-related qualifications, available in a wide range of subjects. They can be taken if there is an interest in learning more about a particular sector or industry. Some colleges, including City College allow Level 3 vocational qualifications to be taken alongside A Levels.

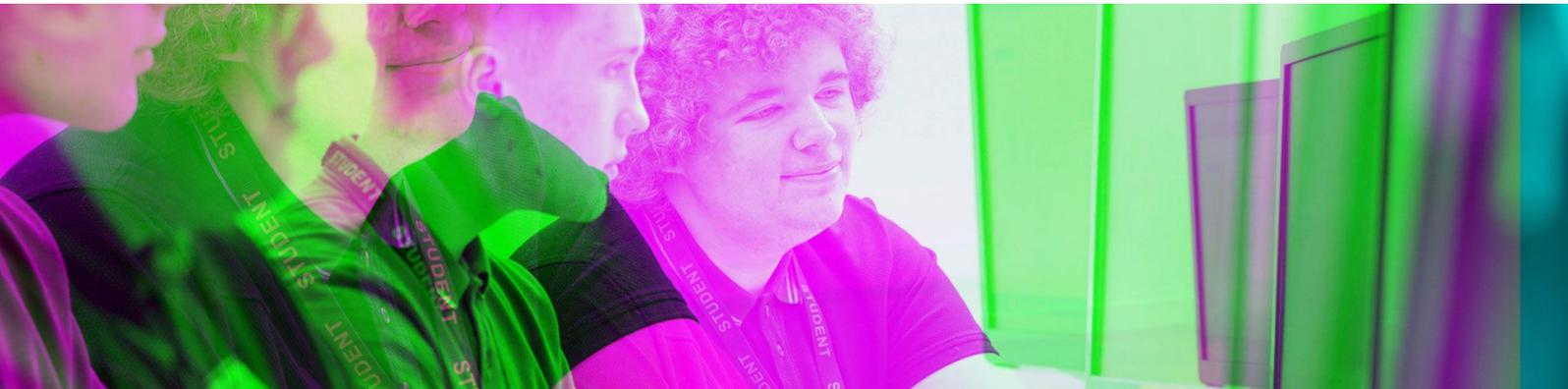
The qualifications have been designed in collaboration with industry, so they focus on the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for and have a mix of theory and practice plus there may be an element of work experience. BTECs are graded as Distinction, Merit, Pass and can be Level 1, 2, 3 or even higher qualifications.

BTECs are available in a wide range of subjects, including: Art & Design, Beauty, Business, Catering, Construction, Engineering, Hairdressing, Health & Social Care, ICT, Media, Motor Vehicle, Music, Performance, Public Services, Science, Social Sciences, Sport, Travel & Tourism.

Where can BTECs Lead? (The same places A Levels do)

- An advanced Apprenticeship
- A job that includes further training with your employer
- A vocational course that will qualify you to do a specific job

BTECs prepare for Higher Education and employment



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is working with an employer learning the skills of the job in the workplace. Whilst doing this recognised qualification/s are gained which demonstrates competence in the job. The theory work and preparation for exams is usually undertaken at a college or training provider premises then the rest of the time is with the employer.

Apprenticeship qualifications are usually awarded as NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications). These can be at Level 1, 2 or 3 (foundation, intermediate or advanced).

As apprenticeships are undertaken in specific skill areas (eg bricklaying, catering, engineering etc), pupils may be required to start at Level 2 even if they have already gained five 9-5 grades at school.

Apprenticeships can be very competitive.

English and Maths Grade 4

Since 2014, any pupil NOT gaining a grade 4 in English and/or Maths is required to retake these at college or as part of an apprenticeship.

Careers In School

Throughout their time at Haywood Academy careers has been introduced to students through subjects, trips, speakers and other opportunities. This year they will complete a range of careers activities focusing on what to do after Year 11 as well as independent advice from a qualified Careers Advisor.

What you can do to support?

- Encourage your child to think carefully about their skills, interests and ambitions to help them to work out what they might be potential employment possibilities for the future.
- Suggest they research jobs, colleges and courses they might be interested in and what they might need qualification and subject wise to get there.
- Encourage them to discuss their ideas at home and at school.

Useful Websites

Parent support:

Parent Zone -

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/all-questions/what-are-the-choices-for-my-child-at-16?/parent/info/what-are-the-choices-for-my-chil/> (used to help develop this guide).

UCAS -

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-finance-and-support/parents-and-carers/how-you-can-help>

Careers Support

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

This government website has salary, skills, routes and details for many careers.

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice>

This site has a quiz to help you to decide what might suit you. It also has detailed descriptions of hundreds of careers and the different routes you can follow to get there.

<https://www.unifrog.org>

This site allows you to compare colleges, universities and other post 16 and post 18 providers.

<https://www.careersbox.co.uk>

View videos about a range of different career areas.

<https://icould.com>

Excellent site with videos and real stories to inspire your career choice

Training and Apprenticeships

www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

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