

NEXT STEPS AFTER GCSE: 16+

Finishing school and preparing to make your own decisions is very exciting, yet with limitless possibilities and a variety of career development options available it can be confusing deciding which path to follow. That's why we are here to help, and have provided you with steps that you can further research to understand the process and weigh your options.

SIXTH FORM/ COLLEGE

Further Education and Higher Education Colleges and School Sixth Forms offer a wide range of courses in numerous subjects, many of which can provide a route to University studies, providing qualifications such as A-levels, BETEC, Advanced Diplomas and Foundation Degrees.

If you have an idea of the course you would like to study at University it is wise to check the entry requirements to help you understand the qualifications you will need. You can do this through UCAS.

www.ucas.com

Alternatively, take a look at the guide to qualifications on **Prospects** or directly through the university's websites.

www.prospects.ac.uk

The Education and Skills Funding Agency also offer guidance on full time enrolment in further education and sixth form colleges.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-time-enrolment-of-14-to-16-year-olds-in-further-education-and-sixth-form-colleges>

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships provide opportunity to study for qualifications while gaining paid working experience and new skills for ages 16 years or over. After completing an apprenticeship you can continue with another qualification or develop within your role.

Take a look at the websites for further guidance and information.

National Apprenticeships Service: www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships

Apprenticeships Wales: gov.wales/apprenticeships-skills-and-training

EMPLOYMENT

In the UK, you must stay in education or training until you are 18, after that you can be in full time employment.

You can explore the type of jobs available, their requirements and responsibilities at:

UCAS:

www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcse/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk

Youth Employment UK:

www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub/

Then you can explore job posts at:

Indeed:

www.indeed.co.uk/School-Leaver-jobs

Totaljobs:

www.totaljobs.com/jobs/school-leaver

You can also search google for roles specific to your interests or go directly on the company's career site.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Starting a business can be challenging and there are many elements you need to consider, but there is plenty of support to encourage you to start small and gauge if this is the path for you. Although you must be in some sort of education or training until you are 18, you can start developing your idea or business part-time before that.

Find out more information on how to get started on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
www.gov.uk/browse/business/setting-up

GAP YEAR

Traineeships provide the crucial skills to prepare you for apprenticeships if you require further qualifications from your GCSE's and/or potential future employment through short training courses with work experience.

Tip: If your aim is to find employment once you have completed your traineeship, look for employer led traineeships as they can lead to potential job offers!

Find out more about how traineeships and school leaver programmes work through:

UCAS

www.ucas.com/further-education/apprenticeships-and-traineeships/traineeships-and-school-leaver-programmes

Gov.uk

www.gov.uk/find-traineeship

Youth Employment UK also provide guidance and advice for school leavers as well as free Young Professional training to also boost your work skills if you are aged 14 – 24.

www.youthemployment.org.uk

FURTHER SUPPORT

If you would like further support, you can talk to **National Careers Service** who offer information, advice and guidance with your decisions on careers, courses and work.

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/about-us

Student Ladder also support students aged 16 – 24 years through career development, with advise on apprenticeships, universities, jobs and more, to help you decide on your next steps!

www.studentladder.co.uk

