



## Aylsham High School

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# What's Next After GCSEs?

Information booklet for year 11 students  
and parents/carers about post-16 options

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## INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON POST-16 OPTIONS

### 1. What do you HAVE to do after GCSEs?

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**After your GCSEs, there is a legal requirement for you to stay in full-time education, or work with training, until your 18th birthday**

This means you can choose to do:

1. **Full-Time Study** – this could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, this has to be 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.
2. **Apprenticeships** – this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.
3. **Traineeships** – this is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills, or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.
4. **Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering** – this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totaling 280 hours of learning per year).

The government decided that you should keep learning until you are 18 as this means you will have better career prospects, be less likely to experience unemployment and are likely to earn more over the course of your working life. A more highly skilled workforce will also help your local community to prosper and enable the UK to compete in the world economy.

### 2. How to make plans

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**Do your research**

As you explore your choices, it is a good idea to talk to your teachers, parents and friends about what you are interested in doing and your plans for the future. You need to think carefully about the following questions:

- Do you want to stay in full-time education?
- Do you want to go into employment, with part-time study, through an apprenticeship?
- Do you want to study subjects you enjoy already, or look for something new?
- Do you know what career area interests you or do you want to keep your options open?

You should also think about what you want to be doing in 5 or 10 years' time, as your future plans may affect the choices you need to make this year. For example, if you want to go to university, make sure that the subjects you choose will enable you to progress on to the course you want to do. During Year 11, you will receive information, advice and guidance to help you weigh up your options and decide on the most appropriate learning route for you.

### Have a back-up plan

Even if you know what you want to do, it's a good idea to think about other choices in case things don't work out the way you planned. This is particularly important if you're aiming for a very popular course at college. You may need to change your plans if you don't meet the entrance requirements for your chosen course, or if it is oversubscribed.

You can apply for multiple colleges and accept more than one offer until your plans are clearer.

If you want to find an apprenticeship, you must apply for a place at college as well. Apprenticeships are very competitive so you need a back-up plan in case you don't secure one.

### Remember you can apply for more than one course or college

If you are unsure about which course you want to do or which college you want to attend, you can apply for more than one. Keep your options open and then decide later in the year.

**Apply early as some courses get oversubscribed.**

**Applications open on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.**

**All college applications should be made before the Christmas holidays at the very latest**

## 3. Types and levels of courses and qualifications

There are many different types of qualifications and levels, which can be a bit confusing. For example, at City College, you could study the same subject at Level 1, 2 or 3.

Here is a guide to levels but please check entrance requirements for courses carefully as they can vary.

For some courses (e.g. hairdressing) you have to complete the level 2 course before progressing onto level 3, regardless of your GCSE results. All construction-related courses at City College have to start at Level 1.

Course Level	Type of Qualification	Equivalent Apprenticeship Level
<b>Entry Level and Foundation Learning</b> For students without any GCSEs who may need extra support.	Gateway qualifications, Essential Skills and Functional Skills	Training for Work scheme
<b>Level 1</b> Introductory level qualifications as an entry point to studying a particular subject. Vocational or skills based courses. Usually for students who have 2 GCSEs at grade 2/3 or above. Can progress to A level 2 course or an apprenticeship.	GCSE Grades 1- 3  Level 1 Diplomas and Certificates Level 1 NVQ	Traineeship

<b>Level 2</b> Technical / vocational qualifications for students who wish to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job. Normally requires 3 GCSEs at grade 3 or above. Can progress to Level 3 study, employment or apprenticeship.	GCSE Grades 4-9  BTEC and OCR Level 2 Certificates and Diplomas	Intermediate Apprenticeship
<b>Level 3</b> Academic qualifications such as A levels or qualifications such as BTECs which combine academic study with practical application. Normally requires 4 or 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above. Can progress to university, employment, higher apprenticeship	A levels  Level 3 BTEC and Cambridge Technical Extended Diplomas  Level 3 NVQ	Advanced Apprenticeship

As you progress through the levels, you will have to show greater knowledge, skills and understanding. Following is more information about the main types of qualifications you may be considering:

### 1. **A levels (offered at all Sixth Form Colleges including Paston and City Colleges.**

Sixth forms typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A\*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth.

Students can study:

**Traditional A-Levels** – Subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art, Computer Science

**Contemporary A-Levels** – Subjects like Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science and Environmental Science

**BTEC L3 Diplomas** – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. They are usually considered to be equivalent to an A Level. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include Criminology, Health and Social Care, Applied Science, and Engineering.

- Level 3, in-depth study of a subject over a 2-year linear course.
- Some subjects may have coursework but most of the assessment is by exams at the end of the course.
- Usually 3 subjects are taken. Occasionally, students take 4 but universities will make offers based on 3 subjects. Taking 4 can be very demanding and, in most cases, it is better to concentrate on getting the best grades you can in 3 subjects. An exception is further Maths, which can only be taken with Maths, and is often studied as an additional 4<sup>th</sup> subject.
- There are many subjects available. Not all sixth forms and colleges will offer the same options

and not all combinations may be possible.

- You can study subjects you have enjoyed at GCSE or take a new subject (e.g. psychology, law or economics).
- Sixth Forms and colleges have their own general entrance requirements which vary and you may have to get particular grades for certain subjects – e.g. Maths often needs a grade 7 at GCSE, science a grade 6
- Make your choices carefully to keep your options open for university. For example, if you want to do medicine, you will need chemistry and almost always biology. Engineering will be difficult unless you have Maths and physics/chemistry. Visit the following websites for more guidance.

➤ **The Russell Group 'Informed Choices' website** <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

➤ **The Uni Guide** <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>

➤ **Cambridge University advice on subject choices:**  
[https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/the\\_subject\\_matters.pdf](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/the_subject_matters.pdf)

## **2. Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**

- An 'EPQ' is offered by some Sixth Forms and usually taken alongside A levels. It is an independent research study of your choice, which is usually completed as an extra qualification in Year 12.
- Achieving an A grade in an EPQ usually results in a preferential offer from universities (one grade lower).

**Entry Requirements** – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A- Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 7 or above at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

## **3. T Levels**

- These are new qualifications. A few courses were offered for the first time in 2020.
- They are Level 3 qualifications, which are broadly equivalent to 3 A levels. They have been developed in collaboration with employers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.
- A triple distinction grade (DDD) at T Level carries the same UCAS (university entrance) points as 3 A grades at A level.
- They are academically rigorous qualifications which combine work and academic study — 80% of your time will be spent in college and 20% of your time (45 days) will be spent on a related placement with an employer.

T Levels are offered in the following subject areas – you will need to check college websites to see which of these courses are offered locally.

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| • design, surveying and planning for construction | • education and early years                      |
| • digital production, design and development      | • building services engineering for construction |
|   | • digital business services                      |

- digital support services
- health
- healthcare science
- onsite construction
- science
- accounting
- design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- finance
- maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing
- management and administration agriculture, land management and production
- legal services
- animal care and management.
- craft and design
- hairdressing, barbering and beauty therapy
- media, broadcast and production

Students can study a T Level qualification at City College Norwich, Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form, Easton College, Paston College, Poultec, Sheringham Sixth, Ormiston Victory Academy and Hellesdon High School.

For more information, visit: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students>

#### **4. Vocational (work-linked) Qualifications**

##### **Level 3 Applied General Qualifications – e.g. Pearson BTEC or OCR Cambridge Technical Qualifications**

- Students study a single vocationally-linked subject. There are a wide range of course, for example: Applied Sciences, Art and Design, Business, Creative and Digital Media, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality, Performing Arts, Uniformed Public Services and Sport, IT.
- Some courses have now been replaced by the new T level qualification.
- Students are required to have a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Maths. Plus 2-3 additional GCSEs at grade 9-4. Students should check entry requirements as individual providers may have specific entry criteria.
- Combines academic study with practical learning and sometimes placements.
- They are available in a range of 'sizes' which are equivalent to one, two, or three A levels, and can be taken in combination with other qualifications (e.g. A levels).
- A 2-year 'Extended Diploma' is equivalent to 3 A levels and carries comparable UCAS points for university.
- They are widely accepted by universities, with some exceptions – please check progression routes for the course you are applying for.

##### **5. Level 2 Vocational or Technical Qualifications**

- Focus on a specific industry or occupation and develop skills required by employers. For example, Level 2 qualifications are available in a wide range of areas including: construction, childcare, health and social care, land-based courses, hair and beauty.
- Involves more practical, work-based learning.
- Includes NVQs, some BTEC and OCR qualifications as well as diplomas and certificates from other awarding bodies such as City & Guilds.
- Students usually need a minimum of 4 GCSEs at Grade 3 including Maths and English – which

must be retaken alongside the level 2 qualification if the grade needs to be improved to a grade 4. Please check entrance criteria for individual courses.

- These are normally 1 year courses and students can then progress to a second year at Level 3 or onto an apprenticeship/employment, after completion of their course.

## 6. Level 1 Qualifications

- Vocational or technical qualifications, as above, for students who do not yet meet the requirements for Level 2 or who want to study for a vocational course such as construction, where all students need to learn the basics before they can progress – regardless of their GCSE grades.
- Typically, entrance requirements are a minimum of 2 GCSEs at grade 2 or 3.
- Level 1 learners can expect plenty of support to make a success of their programme and to plan their next steps into work or further study at Level 2.
- The programme can include retaking English and Maths at GCSE, to achieve grade 4, or functional skills.

## 7. Alternative Provision, Entry Level and Foundation Learning

- In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations both locally and further afield that offer a range of vocational courses for students, including **Motor Vehicle, Business Admin, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Construction, Personal Fitness, Hair and Beauty** and **Hospitality and Catering**, as well as support with **Maths** and **English** and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students:
- These settings may suit students who may not have had an interrupted education for health reasons. They may not have any, or few, formal qualifications and may find it difficult to move into an apprenticeship or to continue in full- time education.
- For students who need a more supported learning environment for a variety of reasons, including students who have an EHCP or SEND. Provision can often be tailored to each learner.
- Programmes vary in length, from a few weeks to up to a year, and many have various joining dates throughout the year. Courses are flexible to fit around the student and may not involve attending every day of the week.
- They offer flexibility and choice to try out a variety of options including: developing employability skills. Placements may be offered. They are designed to build self-confidence and self-esteem in order to move on.
- Students may study a range of subjects including: childcare, construction, sport and leisure, motor vehicle engineering, retail, hospitality, animal care or hair and beauty.
- Help may be available with such things as: travel, study aids and specialist equipment.

Settings include:

- **Poultec – (Mattishall and Norwich )** <https://www.poultec.co.uk/>
- **St-Eds – (Norwich)** <https://st-eds.org>
- **ACE – (Rackheath)** <https://ace-project.org.uk/>

For more information about the SEND Local Offer for post-16 education and training visit:

<https://helpyouchoose.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.send>

<https://www.ccn.ac.uk/support-and-advice/special-educational-needs-local-offer/>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/post-16>

## 4. English and Maths

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Many courses and apprenticeships will state in their entrance requirements that you must have English and Maths GCSE, at grade 3 or 4.

It is important to remember that if you get lower than a Grade 4 in your GCSE Maths and English exams, you will need to re-sit these qualifications as part of any course you study at college or as part of an apprenticeship.

It is nothing to worry about, as the college or training provider will help you with studying for these qualifications or if necessary, get you to complete an alternative qualification called Functional Skills Maths and English, which is available for any students who achieve lower than a Grade 3 in their GCSE Maths/English.

## 5. Apprenticeships

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Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular and are an ideal option if you have a clear idea of the career path you want to follow and would prefer a more practical and work – related approach to learning.

Apprenticeships involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and classroom learning at a college or training provider.

Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a wide range of industries, including childcare, engineering, law, construction, hospitality and banking and these can be started as soon as you are 16 and have left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand

- An apprenticeship is a full-time job (30 hours + a week). You will get paid and receive work-based training and nationally recognised qualifications.
- You will learn at a pace that suits you and are supported by a mentor.
- You spend 80% of your time working and learning 'on the job' and 20% of your time doing formal learning 'off the job', to work towards accredited and transferrable qualifications.
- There are many types of apprenticeship, covering a wide variety of occupations from surveying to accountancy to veterinary nursing.
- Apprenticeships can take between one and six years, depending on the level of apprenticeship, your ability and the industry sector you are working in.
- All apprentices must be paid a minimum of **£5.28** per hour (although many companies pay more). There are no fees for you to pay, your training cost is funded by the government and the



employer. However, many apprentices earn significantly more than this.

### Training

- Most of your training will take place on the job, with the remainder usually taking place online, or at a local college or work-based training provider. You may be attending your off-the-job training on day release or possibly over a number of days in a block which could be at a local or national training centre.
- You will need to complete an assessment at the end of the programme to assess your ability and competence in your job role.

Levels of Apprenticeship		
<b>Intermediate Apprenticeship</b>	Level 2 Equivalent to 5 GCSEs	Provides you with the skills and knowledge you need for your chosen career and might allow you to progress to more senior roles or into an Advanced Level Apprenticeship.  Entrance Requirements: vary but employers may ask for 2 GCSEs, grade 4, including English and Maths (but you could retake these).
<b>Advanced Apprenticeship</b>	Level 3 Equivalent to 2 A levels	You will undertake more complex tasks and learn further technical skills at an advanced level.  It can lead to professional qualifications or a Higher Level or Degree Apprenticeship.  Entrance requirements: 5 GCSEs (grade 9-4) or have completed an Intermediate Level Apprenticeship.
<b>Higher Apprenticeship</b>	Level 4, 5 HND or Foundation Degree	You work towards work-based learning qualifications and will study for a relevant professional qualification such as a Higher National Certificate or Diploma or a Foundation Degree. To be able to complete a Higher Level Apprenticeship you need to be training at a managerial or professional level.  It can lead on to a degree level apprenticeship.  Entrance Requirements: Level 3 Qualification or Advanced Apprenticeship
<b>Degree Apprenticeship</b>	Level 6 - 7 Degree	Degree Apprenticeships offer a real alternative to full-time higher education and make it possible for you to achieve a Bachelor's or Master's Degree as part of your apprenticeship, but without the tuition fees. You will be employed and working whilst also studying part-time at a university.  Degree Apprenticeships can take between three to six years to complete and require commitment and self-motivation as you will be working as well as studying.  Entrance Requirements: Very competitive grades at A level or Level 2

### How to find local Apprenticeship vacancies

- Register and apply for apprenticeship vacancies at the National Find an Apprenticeship website - <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>
- The Amazing Apprenticeships website is fantastic and provides lots of information and resources including a parent information pack: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>

The following apprenticeship sites are also very useful when trying to research and explore Apprenticeship opportunities.

- <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>
- <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>
- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships>
- <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-england>
- Apprenticeships Norfolk - <https://www.apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/>
- Contact employers directly to enquire about apprenticeship possibilities.
- Ask family and friends if the companies they work for have apprenticeship opportunities
- Help You Choose apprenticeship area - <https://helpyouchoose.org/>
- Recruitment Websites such as: total jobs, Indeed, jobs24 and the Government job search website (<https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk>)
- Apprenticeship Provider Websites such as City College and Poultec (links via Help You Choose).
- Social Media

### When to apply

- Contact companies or training providers at any time during Year 11 to ask if they will be recruiting apprentices in the summer, to start after you have finished your GCSEs.
- Some larger local and national employers will open their apprenticeship recruitment schemes for school leavers from October, so it's important to start looking early.
- However, most Norfolk companies will start their apprenticeship recruitment from January onwards, so keep looking all through the spring and summer terms.
- If you see an apprenticeship advertised but applications close too soon, contact the employer to express your interest and ask if they have flexible start dates or will be recruiting any more apprentices later in the year.

## 6. Training for Work Schemes, Traineeships and Short Courses

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- These are for young people who are not yet ready to go straight into an apprenticeship, or a full-time college course, and need extra time and support to develop their skills and confidence in order to make that next step.
- Work preparation programmes are short courses which can help to bridge the gap between school and work and develop employability skills. They vary in length from a few weeks to

up to a year, are usually tailored to the needs of the individual young person and many have start dates throughout the year.

- Courses are available in a range of areas including: retail, construction, hospitality, football coaching, health and social care, hair and beauty, motor mechanics and customer service.

Training for Work Provider Websites:

- YMCA, <http://www.ymcanorfolk.org/>
- St Ed's, Norwich - <http://st-eds.org>
- The Princes Trust, Norfolk and Suffolk - <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk>

## 7. Independent Schools

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- Some students choose to continue their education at an independent, fee-paying, school.
- Scholarships are available for students who excel academically and/or in the fields of: sport, music, art or drama. These awards are competitive and prestigious but generally carry a nominal financial value or sometimes (for example, at Norwich School) no monetary value at all. Financial assistance can be offered in the form of a means-tested bursary, after an assessment of need based on family income and circumstances. This can result in fee remission of up to 100% of the fees.
- Students have attended a wide variety of schools that meet their personal aspirations. For example, past-students have attended schools such as Millfield or Mount Kelly that offer swimming scholarships, or Bedales which excels in Performing Arts. So you may want to research and possibly apply to a school that suits you.
- Application deadlines, particularly for scholarships, are early (usually mid November).
- There are many schools to choose from and a full list can be searched here: <https://www.isc.co.uk/schools/?scholarship-and-bursary=true>
- Recently, students have successfully applied to the following schools. Please visit their websites for full admissions information and deadlines:

Norwich School	Norwich High School for Girls	Gresham's
Langley School	Framlingham College	

## 8. The Armed Forces

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The Army, RAF, Navy and Marines offer a variety of excellent apprenticeships for young people in a wide range of areas. They are consistently among the top apprenticeship providers in the UK.

Bursary and scholarship schemes are available. The application process is rigorous and you would need to show a real commitment to a Forces lifestyle and be willing to move away from home.

To find out more visit the Armed Forces Recruitment Office in Norwich at 2 Magdalen St, Norwich NR3 1HX and/or visit their recruitment websites to explore the roles that are available and entrance requirements.

**Army/RAF** - call 01603 624616    **Royal Navy/Marines** - call 01603 620033

## 9. Volunteering

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Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and to improve your confidence and self-esteem. It is something you can do in your spare time but you can also volunteer full-time after leaving school, provided you are also undertaking some part-time study or training towards recognised and accredited qualifications.

**The National Citizenship Service** is a scheme which is open to all 15-17 year olds, this programme helps you learn new skills for work and life while you take on new challenges and meet new friends. It runs throughout the summer following GCSEs and also in the Autumn Term. It costs no more than £50 (sometimes less) and bursaries are available.

For more information visit: <https://helpyouchoose.org/content/volunteering/>

NCS <https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/programmes/ncs-summer/>

## 10. Money Matters – how do I pay for post-16 education & training?

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### **Financial help: post-16:**

Education and training in the UK is free for young people until they turn 19.

If you are aged between 16 and 19 and study full-time, all your tuition and course fees will be paid, unless the course is at a private, fee-paying school or college. You will still need money to pay for: stationery, equipment and course books, transport to and from sixth form or college, and paying for your lunch. If you think you might struggle with the costs for education or training you may be able to get help from the bursary fund.

There are two types of bursary:

### **Discretionary Bursary for 16 to 19 year olds:**

- Available if you, or your family, are in receipt of means-tested benefits, or have gross earnings of £25,000 or less per year.
- The sixth form, college or other educational institution you are attending is responsible for managing this bursary and you can obtain further guidance and apply through them once you have a confirmed place.
- You will receive some financial support each half term and can also apply for extra funds to cover the cost of trips and one-off expenses.
- The amount is variable depending on funds available and the number of applicants. You need to apply through your college once you enrol.
- [www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund](http://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund)

### **Vulnerable Student Bursary:**

- You can claim up to £1,200 a year if you are in care or a care leaver or you receive any benefits such as Income Support or Universal Credit, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments paid directly to you in your own name.

### **Child Benefit:**

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an **apprenticeship**, they will no longer be considered your dependent and your benefits for them will stop. More information can be found via the **Gingerbread** website: <https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/information/benefits-tax-credits-and-universal-credit/money-when-your-child-turns-16/>

### **Free meals for students in further education (FE):**

- If you receive free school meals while you are at school or you or your parents/carers are in receipt of certain benefits you may be eligible for a free meal at your sixth form or college.
- You will need to speak to the college you are planning to attend, to find out whether you are eligible for free meals and how you apply for them. If you are eligible, you will be provided with a free meal on the days you are required to attend your study programme.

## **11. Travel and Transport**

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### **Post 16 Travel Scheme**

- Norfolk County Council provides a Post 16 Travel Scheme for travel to some sixth forms and colleges that are within your catchment area. This can sometimes be cheaper than buying a bus pass directly from the operator and means that you can buy the pass in termly / half-termly instalments. You should also check discounts offered by bus and train operators directly.
- Some of the Sixth Forms in Norwich (e.g.. Notre Dame or Jane Austen) are not covered as they are deemed to be out of catchment.
- Transport support is only provided for standard academic terms and at the official start and end of a standard college/sixth form day. It also does not include weekend or evening provision.
- If you do intend to travel at other times it may be more cost-effective to buy pre-paid tickets issued directly by your local bus or train operator if they offer a 16-19 discount. Please contact Sanders directly to investigate options.
- This scheme doesn't apply if you are on an apprenticeship.
- For more information, please discuss options with your chosen college or sixth form or visit the Norfolk County Council website, call 0344 800 8020 or visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/post16-travel-scheme>

### **Kickstart Moped Loans**

- If you will have difficulty getting to sixth form, college, work or training, Kickstart work in partnership with Norfolk County Council to offer assistance under the County Council's Post 16 Travel Scheme.
- Kickstart can provide moped and scooter loans across the whole of Norfolk.
- For more information and application details you can either phone Kickstart on 01362 699 923 or visit: <https://www.kickstartmopeds.org.uk/>

### **TITAN transport support and training**

- The TITAN transport support programme is provided by Norfolk County Council for young people who need additional support and training in order to be able to travel to educational settings independently. It can provide: travel training, a Summer Buddy Service (1:1 TITAN travel training during the summer holidays) or a specialist taxi service.
- For more information call 01603 638021 or email [titan@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:titan@norfolk.gov.uk)  
<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/transport-support-and-training/transport-support-and-training-titan>

## **12. College and Sixth Form Websites**

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Following are some of the colleges and sixth forms you might be considering. Due to COVID restrictions, some open days are now being run as virtual events. Colleges are also offering Zoom sessions, videos and other digital resources and some socially-distant tours for small groups. We will communicate details of these events as they are confirmed. Please check the provider websites for up to date information.

### **Access Creative College**

Music, performance, game design, digital media, event management

<https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/norwich-college>

### **City College Norwich**

A levels and a huge range of vocational courses.

<https://www.ccn.ac.uk>

### **Community Sports Foundation** (in partnership with Hellesdon High School)

Football Education Programmes and PE Teaching courses, incorporating Level 3 Sport Qualification

<https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/programmes/male-football-education-programme-carrow-road/>

### **Easton College (now part of City College)**

Vocational - including animal / land-based courses, sport, construction, public services

<https://www.eastonotley.ac.uk>

### **Hellesdon Sixth Form**

A levels and some vocational BTEC courses

<http://www.hellesdon.net/sixth-form/>

### **Jane Austen College, Norwich**

Arts, Humanities and Social Science A levels

In partnership with Isaac Newton College

<https://www.inspirationtrust.org/sixth-form>

### **Norwich School** (at the Cathedral)

A levels. Independent fee-paying school – scholarships and bursaries available.

<https://www.norwich-school.org.uk/admissions/how-to-apply/sixth-form/>

**Notre Dame High School Sixth Form, Norwich**

A levels

<https://www.ndhs.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=8>

**Paston College, North Walsham (now part of City College)**

A levels and vocational courses

<https://www.paston.ac.uk>

**Reepham College**

A levels

[www.reephamcollege.com](http://www.reephamcollege.com)

**Sheringham High School and Sixth Form Centre**

A levels and some single BTECs equivalent to 1 A levels

[www.sheringhamsixthform.co.uk](http://www.sheringhamsixthform.co.uk)

**Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form College, Norwich**

A levels in STEM subjects

In partnership with Jane Austen Sixth Form

<https://www.inspirationtrust.org/sirisaacnewtonsixthform>

**Taverham Sixth Form**

A levels, some BTEC courses and A level 2 'Access to Level 3' Foundation course

<http://www.taverhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk/Sixth-Form-Welcome>

**University Technical College, Norwich**

STEM A levels with engineering or computing pathways

<https://utc.norfolk.sch.uk>

**Wymondham College Sixth Form**

A levels. Boarding provision available (fee paying)

<https://www.wymondhamcollege.org>

## 13. Timeline

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### Things to do in the Autumn Term

- Use **Help You Choose** to research your options and search for courses
- Find out about careers or university courses that interest you and check entry requirements
- Contact colleges, sixth forms and training providers for information and look at their websites
- Talk to your parents and teachers about your plans
- Arrange an individual guidance interview with Mrs Durand
- Attend open days/evenings at colleges and sixth forms you are interested in
- From **1st October** apply online for college or sixth forms using **Help You Choose**
- If you're looking for a job or Apprenticeship in Norfolk, go to My Account and sign up for Jobmatching on **Help You Choose**
- Register with the Government's '[Find An Apprenticeship Service](#)' if you looking for an apprenticeship or traineeship
- Contact the Armed Forces Careers Office if you want to join the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines
- Make sure that you have a two year plan for your 16-18 education and/or training

### Things to do in the Spring Term

- Apply to college or sixth form through **Help You Choose** if you haven't already done so
- Prepare for any interviews you are asked to attend at colleges and sixth forms you have applied to.
- Revise your plans if your predicted grades change due to mock exams and other assessments
- Send off speculative letters to companies you are interested in working for to ask if they are looking for an apprentice
- Contact colleges, sixth forms and training providers about the 16-19 Bursary Fund if you are worried about money

### Things to do in the Summer Term

- If you haven't yet made any plans ask for support in school from the Careers Adviser
- Keep applying for apprenticeships if you would like to find a position
- Think about doing some voluntary work or work experience during the summer, or see if you can get a summer job
- Keep trying speculative applications if you are still thinking of doing an apprenticeship
- Ask for help in school if you will need additional support to make the transition to college.
- Research travel options for getting to your new sixth form or college. Tell the Careers Adviser if you will need some additional support or training to make travel arrangements.
- Work hard to do as well as you can in your GCSEs in order to secure your place.

### Things to do after Results Day – (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August – tbc for 2023)

- Hopefully, you will get what you need to confirm your place at college.



- You will then have to visit your chosen college on, or shortly after, results day to enrol and pick up joining information.
- If you don't meet the entrance requirements, don't panic. Most colleges will still have places available and will be able to offer you an alternative. You will need to go and see them to discuss your options.

## 14. Help and Advice

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With some big decisions to make, you may feel overwhelmed by how much there is to think about. Try not to worry as there is plenty of support available to help you with making your choices.

### **At School:**

- Your subject teachers - available to give you some advice on your choices and what studying their subject is like at a higher level
- Careers Adviser - Mrs Durand can offer you advice and guidance if you are not sure what you want to do or need help with your applications.

### **Sixth forms, colleges and training providers:**

- All colleges have open days and/or evenings. Some also have taster days where you can go along to get a real feel of what it might be like to study certain subjects. This gives you the chance to have a look around and talk to staff and students about the courses you're interested in. Prospectuses are available in school and there is lots of information on their websites.

### **Family and friends:**

- Your family and friends are the people who know you best and it can be really useful to talk to them about your plans. They know what you like and what kind of a person you are, but remember, what is right for your friends may not be right for you.
- You may also have family and friends who work in areas that interest you — they may be able to give you advice or even offer you an apprenticeship

## 15. Useful Websites

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Our amazing careers platform. All students have a log-in. This has masses of quizzes, careers videos and information about local employment and colleges, as well as university information.

<https://www.unifrog.org/>



Norfolk County Council's 'one-stop-shop' for Careers information, Advice and guidance for all young people and their parents and carers. It includes details of all post-16 colleges and sixth forms and the courses they offer and links to apprenticeship vacancies

Students apply through Help You Choose for courses at college. We recommend that students do this, rather than applying direct, as it makes it easier to apply for multiple colleges/courses using a standard application form. It also means that we can track students' applications to make sure that everyone has made plans.

<https://helpyouchoose.org/>

### National Careers Service

Explore careers Skills assessment Find a course Contact us Action plans Careers advice

This Government-funded service provides confidential information and advice about jobs, careers and training..

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

#### General Careers Advice:

- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)
- [www.bbc.com/bitesize/careers](http://www.bbc.com/bitesize/careers)
- [https://www.icanbea.org.uk](http://www.icanbea.org.uk)

#### Apprenticeships:

- <https://www.apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply->
- apprenticeship
- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>
- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk>

#### A level subject choice and university:

- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer>