

Aylsham High School



Your choices in year 11 Key information

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It's time to plan your next steps after AHS

Now that you have reached year 11, you have to make some choices about what you will do when you leave school next summer, after your GCSEs.

It's an exciting opportunity for you to decide on the right pathway for you. You need to decide *what* you want to study and *where* you want to go, to continue your education or training. You'll be taking the next step towards the career you would like to have in the future.

Remember:

After your GCSEs, by law, you have to stay in full-time education, or work with training, until your 18th birthday

This means that you can choose to:

- Study a full-time course - at another school's sixth form, a college, or with a training provider
- Start an apprenticeship, traineeship or training for work programme
- Work or volunteer for 20+ hours a week — with separate part-time study, in your own time (for 280 hours+ a year), towards nationally accredited qualifications

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
- 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.

This booklet provides:

- Key dates for open days, events and assemblies to help you find out about colleges and courses this term
- Guidance on entry requirements and recommended pathways based on your expected GCSE results.

EVERYONE must apply to college or sixth form – even if it's a back-up plan as you'd prefer an apprenticeship

'To do list'



Tick the box when you have completed the task:

Register for Help You Choose (HYC) www.helpyouchoose.org This will happen during one of your maths lessons.	
Research potential courses using Help You Choose and college websites	
Check job profiles on Unifrog and university entry requirements on UCAS to make sure that your choices will keep options open for future degree courses and jobs that interest you.	
Visit the library or the careers' office to pick up college prospectuses. You can also contact colleges directly for these yourself.	
Agree with your tutor which college assemblies you will attend in tutor time (some are compulsory and some are optional)	
Put dates for college open days, evenings and taster days in your diary. Parents and carers are welcome to attend with you too. Some of them require registration beforehand so check details on college websites.	
Chat to friends, family and your tutor about your ideas for the future and try some of the quizzes on Unifrog .	
Make an appointment with the careers advisor if you need to talk about your plans or you don't know what to do. You can seek advice at break, or lunch (in room 38 Tuesdays & Thursdays) from Miss Wiseman in the careers office opposite room 12 (food preparation) or email careers@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk	
Find out about apprenticeships using the links on the school careers website - https://www.aylshamhigh.com/ahsoptionsandcareers or Help You Choose.	
Make applications to college/s via HYC, ideally BY THE END OF OCTOBER (half term) and by Christmas, at the very latest. Some courses are oversubscribed and fill up on a first-come, first-served basis.	
Decide on a plan B , and even a plan C , in case you don't make the grades for your first choice, and make further applications. Remember you can apply for more than one college.	
Attend interviews and remember to respond to the conditional offers you receive.	
Carry on working hard towards your GCSEs so that you get the grades you need.	


www.unifrog.org

College and sixth form open days, open evenings and taster days



Tick the ones are you interested in attending and put the dates in your calendar:

<p>Norwich School (Independent) – A Levels Scholarships and means-tested financial assistance available</p>	<p>Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 9th October 5pm – 7pm, registration required via school website.</p>	
<p>Sheringham Sixth Form A Levels</p>	<p>Open Evening, Thursday 9th October, 6:30pm - 9pm</p>	
<p>Taverham Sixth Form A Levels and Access to Level 3 foundation course</p>	<p>Thursday 9th October, 7pm to 9pm.</p>	
<p>Paston College, North Walsham A Levels and Level 3 vocational courses</p>	<p>Thursday 25th September 4:30pm - 7:00pm Open day Saturday 8th November 10am – 1pm See Paston college website for in-person campus tour dates throughout the year.</p>	
<p>Langley School Sixth Form (Independent, boarding), A Levels & Sport/performing arts/criminology BTEC and EPQ. Fully funded Nelson Fellowship and Anthony Arthur Coward Scholarships and how to apply can be found on the school website.</p>	<p>Saturday 27th September 9am Please see website to sign up</p>	
<p>Reepham College A Levels</p>	<p>Thursday 2nd October 6pm-9:30pm. Please see website for further info.</p>	
<p>City College Norwich A wide range of vocational (work based and technical) courses, at all levels, and A Levels</p>	<p>Open Evening Autumn Term Event, Friday 3rd October, 4pm to 7pm A-Level Open Evening, Tuesday 11th November 4pm-7pm Open Day, Saturday 4th October, 10am to 1pm</p>	
<p>Wymondham College A Levels (with boarding provision)</p>	<p>Open Evening: Friday, 3rd October, 17:45-20:30 Open Morning: Saturday, 4th October, 09:00-11:00 Please see website to sign up.</p>	

Norwich High School for Girls (Independent) – A Levels	Open Morning whole school Saturday 27 th September. Please book directly online.	
Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form, Norwich STEM A Levels *Sister college to Jane Austen College	Wednesday 8th October 5.30pm – 8.30pm Tuesday 14th October – 5.30pm – 8.30pm See website for further information and link to a virtual open evening.	
Jane Austen College, Norwich A Levels in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Languages, Music. *Sister college to Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form.	Tuesday 14 th October – 5.30pm – 8.00pm See website for further information	
University Technical College Norwich (UTCN) Engineering, STEM A Levels, Health Science.	Please see website for details.	
Easton College Land-based courses (e.g. agriculture, countryside management), animal care, public services and sport. All levels of courses.	Open Evening, Friday 10th October, 5pm to 7:30pm Open Day, Saturday 11th October, 10am to 1pm	
Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form A Levels and vocational courses	Tuesday 21 st October. 6:30pm-9pm	
Hellesdon Sixth Form A Levels and vocational courses in Health and Social Care and Sport/Football (in partnership with the Community Sports Foundation).	Wednesday, 5th November, 7pm - 9pm	
City of Norwich School (CNS) Sixth Form A Levels	Thursday 6th November 5.30pm onwards	
Access Creative College Creative and digital vocational courses in music, games design, media, graphics. Computing, e-sports.	Open Day: 18 th October 11am-2pm Please register on the website.	
Notre Dame Sixth Form, Norwich A Levels	Open evening - Thursday 13th November 5.30pm - 8.30pm	
Community Sports Foundation Education Programmes Cambridge National Level 3 Sport qualification, with football. Also PE Teaching course. In partnership with Hellesdon Sixth Form.	Showcase and trials – usually in October. Dates tbc. Please visit the CSF website or social media for further details.	

Please find all latest key information about colleges, including dates of open days, on college websites, or via Help You Choose: [Latest Events](#) (helpyouchoose.org)

For links to the main sixth forms/colleges on the school website please click here: [Year 11 Choices - College Applications - Aylsham High School](#)

Assemblies with colleges and sixth forms - in school, during tutor time

Many of these are compulsory for all year 11 students. Some are optional assemblies; tick the ones you are interested in attending and let your tutor know. *If you are not attending, you must go to tutor time as usual.*

Date	Provider	Attendance	Where?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 4 th September	Introduction to careers assemblies – Mr Bridge	Compulsory for ALL	Main hall	
Thursday 18 th September	CCN/Paston/Easton College	Compulsory for ALL	Main hall	
Wednesday 24 th September	Sir Isaac Newton and Jane Austen	Compulsory A-Level students only	Main hall	
Thursday 2 nd October	Access Creative Norwich	Interested students in creative, music and digital courses	Main hall	
Wednesday 8 th October	Notre Dame Sixth Form	Compulsory for L-Level students only	Main hall	
Thursday 16 th October	Sheringham Sixth Form	Compulsory for ALL	Main hall	
Wednesday 22 nd October	Reepham College	Compulsory for ALL	Main hall	
Thursday 6 th November	UTCN Technical College	Interested in Science, Engineering, Health Sciences	Sports hall	

Types and levels of qualifications

Types of qualifications

There are three main **TYPES** of qualifications:

1. **Academic qualifications (A Levels)**
These are subject based and usually assessed by exams at the end of the 2-year courses. Students study particular subjects in-depth which can then lead on to higher education (university), a higher/degree apprenticeship, or employment.
2. **Applied general qualifications (BTEC, Cambridge National. T Level)**
These cover broad work-based (vocational) areas and give students an introduction to a particular industry, such as travel and tourism, engineering, health and social care, sport or public services. They combine academic study with practical learning and are usually assessed by a mixture of coursework and exams. They can lead on to higher education (university), a higher or degree apprenticeship or employment.
3. **Vocational or technical qualifications**
These courses are for students who have a clear idea of what you want to do – for example, construction or hospitality. They focus on a specific industry or occupation and are usually assessed by a mixture of coursework and practical, work-based tasks. They recognise the skills and knowledge you need to do the job. They include NVQs, some BTEC and OCR qualifications, as well as diplomas and certificates from other awarding bodies such as City & Guilds. They will prepare you primarily for employment or further training through an apprenticeship.

Levels of qualifications

There are also different **LEVELS** of qualifications:

- ★ Qualifications are grouped together into levels of difficulty. There are nine levels from entry level to level 8 (PhD/Doctorate). Each level of qualification has different entry requirements.
- ★ Students taking GCSEs will achieve results at either level 2 (grades 9-4) or level 1 (grades 3-1). The grades students achieve in their GCSEs will determine the level of course students can go on can study at college.
- ★ For many work-related courses (e.g. construction) students may need to take a qualification at either the same or a lower level than GCSE (Level 1 or 2) rather than progressing to a higher level (level 3). This is because for a skills-based course (such as construction or hair or beauty) you need to learn the basics first to be able to move on and be safe in a workplace.
- ★ *Please check entrance requirements online via college websites or [Home helpyouchoose.org](http://Homehelpyouchoose.org) as requirements vary for specific courses or subjects.
- ★ Requirements for BTEC and T Level courses **vary** and are **very specific to each course**.

Following is a summary of the different types and levels of qualifications for learners aged 16-18.

COURSE LEVEL	TYPE OF QUALIFICATION	EXAMPLES OF QUALIFICATION
Entry Level and Foundation Learning	For students without GCSEs. Students would usually have an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) and may need extra support and a more flexible approach to learning.	Gateway qualifications, Essential Skills and Functional Skills
Level 1	Vocational or technical skill-based courses. Introductory level qualifications as an entry point to studying a particular subject. 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 City & Guilds E.g. construction (bricklaying, carpentry).
Level 2	Technical and 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 E.g: Hair and Beauty, Sport, Public Services, Media
Level 3	Traditional academic qualifications – A Levels Applied General Vocational Diplomas. Combines academic study with practical application. T Levels include 45 days' work experience. Normally requires 4 or 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above. Can progress to university, employment, higher or degree apprenticeship	A levels Level 3 BTEC and Cambridge Technical Extended Diplomas T Levels

College entry requirements

College / Sixth Form	Qualification Type	Qualification Level	Grades required*
Access Creative College, Norwich	Creative and digital vocational courses in music, games design, media, film and photography, vocal performance, graphics	2 and 3	Level 2 – usually 4 GCSEs at grade 1-3 Level 3 – usually 4 GCSEs at grade 4 including English Language. Plus a passion for your subject. Sometimes a portfolio or audition.
Action Community Enterprises - ACE (Rackheath)	Vocational and inclusive learning courses – catering, childcare, construction, engineering, employability.	Entry Level, Level 1 and 2	Flexible – some entry level and Level 1 courses do not require any qualifications.
City College Norwich	A very wide range of vocational courses including: construction, hair & beauty, art, performing arts, sport, digital etc. A Levels T Levels Please check entry requirements carefully online as they are specific to each course and vary.	Level 1, 2, 3 and entry level and inclusive learning	Level 3 vocational courses and T Levels – 4 or 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, usually including both English Language and Maths and sometimes another subject related to the course. Level 2 vocational courses – usually a minimum of 3 or 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English Language and Maths. Level 1 technical or vocational course – usually 2 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English Language and Maths. A Levels – minimum of 6 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English Language and usually maths, plus higher grades in subjects related to selected A Levels.

City of Norwich School (CNS) Sixth Form	A Levels	Level 3	5 grades at 5+ including English Language and Maths at Grade 4 or above. Plus at least a grade 6 in the subject to be continued.
Community Sports Foundation Education Programmes (sport with football)	Cambridge National Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity.	Level 3 (equivalent to 3 A levels)	5 GCSEs at grade 4+, including English Language and Maths.
Dereham Education and Soccer Academy (DESA) – part of Dereham Sixth Form College	BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport	Level 3	5 GCSEs at grade 4+
Easton College	Land-based courses, public services and sport	Level 1, 2, 3 and entry level and inclusive learning	A wide range of courses at Level 1, 2 and 3. Entry requirements as for City College, above.
Hellesdon High School Sixth Form	A Levels Level 3 health and social care and sport/football	Level 3	A Levels – 6 GCSEs at grade 4+ plus higher for certain subjects. Level 3 vocational – 4 or 5 GCSEs at grade 4+
Jane Austen College, Norwich	A Levels in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Languages. Music	Level 3	6 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including Maths and both English Language and English Literature. Higher grades in subjects selected for A Level.
Langley School Sixth Form	(Independent, boarding), A Levels & Sport BTEC.	Level 3	Flexible but including a grade 5 or 6 in the same or related subject.
Norwich High School for Girls (Independent)	A Levels	Level 3	6 GCSEs at grade 6 or above, an interview and a school report.
Norwich School (Independent)	A Levels	Level 3	6 GCSEs at grade 6 or above. Higher grades in subjects selected for A Level.

Notre Dame Sixth Form, Norwich	A Levels	Level 3	42 points in total from best 8 GCSEs (e.g. 7 x grade 5 and 1 grade 4) including Maths and English Language. Higher grades in subjects selected for A Level. In addition, individual subjects have their own minimum entry requirements which are as follows (all grades refer to GCSE qualifications)
Paston College, North Walsham	A Levels and equivalent BTEC qualifications Level 3 vocational courses in digital media, childcare, art & design, computing, sport, health & social care, business.	Level 3 Inclusive Learning course in multi-enterprise	A Levels - 2 GCSEs at grade 6 or above, plus 3 GCSEs at grade 4 or above. Higher grades in subjects selected for A Level. Level 3 vocational – 4 or 5 grade 4s at GCSE with specific requirements for each course. Inclusive learning – no specific requirements.
Reepham College A Levels	A Levels	Level 3	7 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English Language and Maths, Higher grades in subjects selected for A Level.
Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form, Norwich	Science and Maths (STEM) A Levels	Level 3	6 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including Maths and both English Language and English Literature. Higher grades in subjects selected for A Level
Thorpe Sixth Form	A Levels and vocational courses including T Levels in Digital and Childcare	Level 2 and 3	6 grade 4s, including English Language and Maths and subject requirements
Sheringham Sixth Form	A Levels and some single BTEC qualifications Some Level 2 courses – e.g. motorcycle mechanics	Level 3 and some Level 2	To join Sheringham Sixth Form, students generally need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths, and a grade 6 or equivalent in the subjects they wish to

			<p>study at A Level. For specific A Levels like Maths and Computing, a grade 7 in GCSE Maths is usually required</p> <p>Level 2 – various – please see website</p>
St Edmunds Society (St Eds)	Vocational courses – catering, childcare, construction, mechanics, hair and beauty	Level 1 and 2	Flexible but usually 2 x grade 3s for construction courses
Taverham Sixth Form	A Levels 'Access to Level 3' 1-year foundation course	Level 3 Level 2	<p>6 GCSEs at grade 4+, including English Language and maths plus subject requirements.</p> <p>Access course - 5 GCSEs at grade 4+ as well as Grade 3 English Language and maths</p>
University Technical College Norwich (UTCN)	STEM courses – Engineering, Science A Levels, Health Science T Level.	Level 2 and 3	<p>A Levels – 40 GCSE points from best 8 GCSEs, including grade 5 in maths, grade 4 in English Language and grade 6 in chosen subjects</p> <p>T Levels in Health and Engineering – 32 GCSE points including grade 5 in maths, 4 in English Language (and 5,5 in science for Health)</p> <p>Level 2 T Level Transition - 32 GCSE points including 4 in maths, 3 in English Language.</p>
Wymondham College	A Levels (with boarding provision)	Level 3	An average GCSE of Grade 5.5 across the best 8 subjects At least a Grade 4/5 or 5/4 in both English Language and Maths. Specific course requirements –6+ in chosen subject or most similar.

Guidance on recommended pathways

Target grades shown on report	Most likely grade outcomes	Suggested pathways
Majority of target grades are 7+	Mostly Grade 7, 8 or 9	A Levels T Levels, Level 3 BTECs and T Levels and applied vocational courses
Majority of grades are 5+	Mostly Grade 5 and 6	A Levels or other Level 3 courses A Levels, T Levels, Level 3 vocational and applied vocational courses. However, may need to choose A Level subjects carefully to ensure requirements are met for particular subjects. For example, maths and science at A Level require a minimum of a 6, preferably 7.
Majority of grades are 4+	Mostly Grade 4 and 5	Level 3 vocational Vocational and applied courses and possibly A Levels. May need to consider if A Levels are the best pathway and choose subjects carefully to ensure requirements are met for particular subjects. For example, maths and science at A Level require a minimum of a 6, preferably 7. Should consider an applied general course (BTEC / T Level) as an alternative to an A Level route, or as a back-up option. These qualifications include more coursework, to reduce pressure on performance in exams at the end of A Levels.
Majority of grades are 3+	Mostly Grade 3 and some Grade 4	Level 2 vocational Vocational and applied courses. Transfer to a Level 3 course will usually be possible in the event that mostly grade 4s are achieved.
Majority of grades are 1+	Grades 1 and 2	Level 1 Vocational and technical courses or inclusive learning courses for students with EHCPs.

