



Aylsham High School

What's Next After GCSEs?

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INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON POST-16 OPTIONS

1. What do you HAVE to do after GCSEs?

After your GCSEs, there is a statutory requirement for you to stay in Full-time Education or Work with Training until your 18th birthday

This means that you can choose to:

- Study full-time at a school sixth form, a college or with a training provider
- Start an apprenticeship, traineeship or training for work programme
- Work or volunteer full-time — with part-time study towards accredited qualifications

All 16 and 17 year olds in Norfolk are guaranteed an offer of an appropriate place in learning through the 'September Guarantee'. This means that you'll definitely be able to continue learning after Year 11 – but it's your choice whether that's at sixth form or college, or through an apprenticeship or work/volunteering, alongside part-time study.

The government decided to raise the participation age because it is widely recognised that if a young person stays in education or training they will have better career prospects, be less likely to experience unemployment and are likely to earn more over the course of their working lives. A more highly skilled workforce will also help the country compete in the world economy.

2. How to Make Plans

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 want to train for a definite career or 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 or career. You may need to change your plans if you don't quite get the grades for your

chosen course, or if there are no places available.

If you want to find an apprenticeship, you must apply for a place at college as well – in case you don't manage to get an apprenticeship in your chosen area.

Apply early and remember you can apply for more than one course

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.

Don't delay applying as some courses do get oversubscribed.

Applications open on the 1st October.

All our college applications should be made before the Christmas holidays.

3. Types and Levels of Courses and Qualifications

There are many different types of qualifications and levels, which can be a bit confusing when you start to look at courses. 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.

Level	Type of Qualification	Equivalent Apprenticeship Level
Entry Level / Foundation For students without any GCSEs who may need extra support.	Entry Level Essential and Functional Skills	Training for Work scheme
Level 1 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 or above. Can progress to a Level 2 course or an apprenticeship.	GCSE Grades 1- 3 Level 1 Diplomas and Certificates	Traineeship

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

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

- 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 only 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 4th 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 government and politics).
- 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 both maths and physics. Visit the following websites for more guidance.

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| <p>➤ The Russell Group 'Informed Choices' website https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/</p> <p>➤ The Uni Guide https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/</p> <p>➤ 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</p> |
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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).

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 equivalent to 3 A'levels. They have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.
- A distinction grade 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.

For 2021, T Levels are available in the following subject areas:

Design, surveying and planning for construction

Digital production, design and development

Education and childcare

Building services engineering for construction

Digital business services

Digital support and services

Health

Healthcare science

Onsite construction

Science

Students can study a T Level qualification at City College Norwich, Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form, Develop (IT) or Paston College. For more information, visit: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students>

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

- Students study a 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, Education and Childcare.
- Some of these courses (e.g. Childcare) 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 (just as an example, UEA do not accept the BTEC in Uniformed Public Services for admission onto most degree courses).

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.
- Level 1 learners can expect plenty of support to make a success of their programme and plan their next steps into work or continue on to 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

- Inclusive learning programmes are available for students who may not have any, or few, formal qualifications and who may find it difficult to move on 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 basic skills, learning new skills, gaining qualifications and preparing for work. 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 & active 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.

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

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

- If you achieve grade 1-3, and not grade 4, it is compulsory, until your 18th birthday, for you to retake these, alongside your course at college, or as part of your apprenticeship, in order to improve your grade to a 4.
- If you don't have a grade 1 in Maths or English, you may be enrolled on a Functional Skills course instead of GCSE.

5. Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship basics

- Get paid and receive work-based training.
- An apprenticeship is a job. You work for an employer and learn skills and knowledge whilst also being trained in the skills employers want. 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 qualifications to support your employment.
- There are many types of apprenticeship, covering a wide variety of occupations from surveying to accountancy to veterinary nursing. In Norfolk alone there are 250 types of apprenticeships.
- Apprenticeships can take between one and six years, depending on the level of apprenticeship, your ability and the industry sector you are working in.
- The minimum salary for an apprentice is £4.15 per hour. This applies to all apprentices aged under 19 or to those in the first year of their apprenticeship. However, research has shown that many apprentices are earning significantly more than this.
- Apprentices are expected to be employed and paid for at least 30 hours per week for a minimum of one year.

Training

- Most of your training will take place on the job, with the remainder usually taking place 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.

- Some apprenticeships also require you to complete an assessment at the end of the programme to assess your ability and competence in your job role.
- You may work towards qualifications that relate specifically to your job role, alongside GCSE or functional skills qualifications (e.g. Maths and English) and other elements that teach you what you need to know about your rights and responsibilities at work.

Levels of Apprenticeship		
Intermediate Apprenticeship	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).
Advanced Apprenticeship	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.
Higher Apprenticeship	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. Entrance Requirements: Level 3 Qualification or Advanced Apprenticeship
Degree Apprenticeship	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 3.

How to find local Apprenticeship vacancies

- Apprenticeships Norfolk - <https://www.apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/>

- Try the local papers such as the EDP.
- Contact employers directly to enquire about apprenticeship possibilities.
- Ask family and friends if the companies they work for have apprenticeship opportunities
- Register and apply for apprenticeship vacancies at the National Find an Apprenticeship website - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- 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

- 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 and short courses 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.

For details of these schemes, please visit **Help You Choose:**

<https://helpyouchoose.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.ajt&sid=334904&code=&tab=TW>

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

- Every year, 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. However, Aylsham High has a long-standing relationship with Gordonstoun School in Scotland, as well as local independent schools in Norfolk. 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:

Gordonstoun School, Scotland Norwich School Norwich High School for Girls Gresham's Langley School Framlingham College

8. The Armed Forces

The Army, RAF, Navy and Marines offer a variety of apprenticeships for young people, as well as bursary and scholarship schemes. These can be very competitive and you need to show a real commitment to wanting to study as well as entering the forces.

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

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/>

10. Money Matters

Financial help: post-16:

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.

Vulnerable Student Bursary:

- You can claim up to £1,200 a year if any of the following applies: you're 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 stay in full-time education your parents can continue to claim Child Benefit, unless one of them has an individual income of more than £50,000. Your parents may also be able to continue claiming other benefits such as Child Tax Credit. For up-to-date information go to the **Child Benefit** pages of GOV.UK.

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

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 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 <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

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

Sheringham High School and Sixth Form Centre

A Levels and some single BTECs equivalent to 1 A'level

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://utcn.org.uk>

Wymondham College Sixth Form

A Levels. Boarding provision available (fee paying)

<https://www.wymondhamcollege.org>

13. Timeline

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, teachers and/or tutor about your plans
- Arrange an individual guidance interview
- Attend virtual 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 Armed Forces careers offices 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 your Tutor or Careers Adviser
- Keep applying for jobs, training and courses
- 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 in school to make the transition to college.
- Research travel options for getting to your new sixth form or college. Tell your Tutor or Careers Adviser if you will need some additional support or training to make travel arrangements. Help is available through the County Council's TITAN service (see section above on Travel).
- Work hard to do as well as you can in your GCSEs in order to secure your place.

Things to do after Results Day – 19th August 2021 (tbc)

- 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

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 tutor and subject teachers - available to give you some advice on your choices and what studying their subject is like at a higher level
- Careers Adviser - the school's 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.

Help You Choose:

- Norfolk's Careers website which provides you with all the information you need about all courses, colleges and other support available for post-16 Learners. You will register for HYC and use it to apply for your courses.

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

The National Careers Service

This Government-funded service provides confidential information and advice about jobs, careers and training. You can get in touch with an adviser by phone or text. Advisers are available every day, from 8am to 10pm. Calls are free from landlines and most mobile numbers. You can ask an adviser to ring you back on your mobile or landline.

Phone **0800 100 900** Text **07766 413219**

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

Help You Choose

Help You Choose is 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

There is also advice about how to choose the best option for you and information about financial matters and transport.

Finally, 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/>

General Careers Advice:

- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.plotr.co.uk
- www.barclayslifefskills.com
- www.icould.com
- www.allaboutcareers.com
- www.allaboutschoolleavers.com
- www.bbc.com/bitesize/careers
- www.career-insights.co.uk
- <https://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>