



POST 16 OPTIONS





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CHOICES AT 16

The law states that all young people must continue to do some kind of education or training until they are 18. The good news is, there is more choice than ever about where you do your study or training.

Whatever you want in life, a good standard of education and training can increase your chances of success. Gaining skills and qualifications:

- Helps make the most of your potential
- Opens doors to employment and higher education
- Improves earning power

The range of places you can study / train are:

- At 16, you could go onto Sixth Form at Arthur Mellows Village College or another school / college, in order to study [A Levels](#) or other [vocational qualifications](#).
- [Further Education Colleges](#) such as Peterborough College and Stamford College offer a huge range of courses that can help at every stage of life from Level 1 courses through to degrees and professional qualifications. Colleges also offer short and part-time courses.
- [University Technical Colleges](#) such as Peterborough UTC are government-funded schools that offer 14 - 18-year-olds both academic and technical education related to specific job sectors.
- [Apprenticeships](#) offer a way to learn on the job while working for an employer, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same time.
- [T Levels](#) offer a way to learn on the job while working for an employer, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same
- Work or [voluntary work](#) with training towards a qualification.

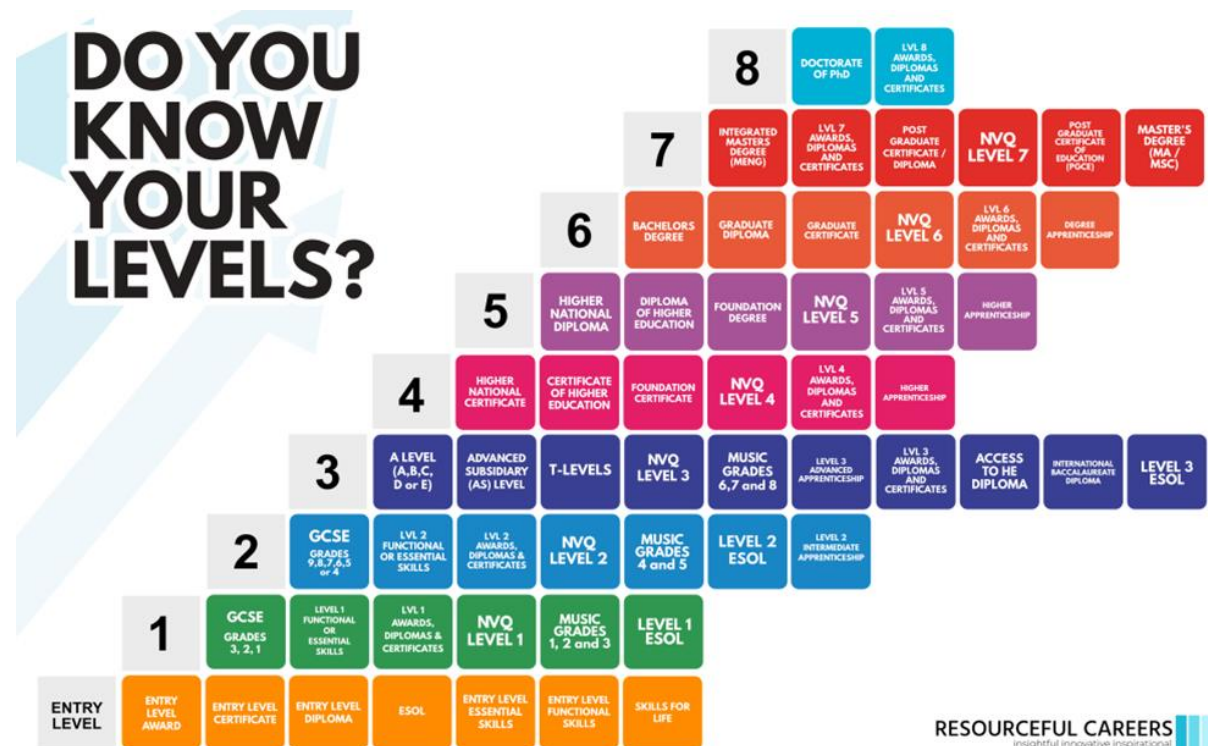
If you would like additional information on any path, please click through the highlighted text to external website links which should provide you with the information you need.

CHOICES AT 16

A good place to start planning your Post 16 options is to think of these three questions.

- Where am I now? (What predicted GCSE grades, skills, and interests do I have?)
- Where do I want to get to? (What would I like to be doing in 5 years time – job, living away from home, etc?)
- How will I get there? (What course, training or future job is likely to get me where I want to go?)

It is also beneficial to understand the various qualification levels ie an A Level and a Level 3 BTEC are of an equivalent level, and both count towards UCAS points to enable the option of university, for example. See the table below as a reference.



Of course, at 16, many do not necessarily know the answers to all these questions, but now is the time to start exploring information about careers, jobs and courses.



How can you support your child's career choices?

To help your child with career planning, it's important you:

- Remember that a career is the lifelong journey and not necessarily a job for life.
- Listen to your child, don't judge and discuss their options.
- Be open to ideas and encourage them to explore all of their options.
- Keep in mind that your child's choices and decisions should be based on their aspirations and abilities, not on what you think they should do.
- Remember that not everyone has a clear idea what they want to do so your child's career ideas may change as they get older.
- Impartial information, advice and guidance is available for the Careers Advisor at college for both students and parents.
- It is more important to understand individual skills and qualities and how they could relate to a breadth of job roles, than for your child to have a firm job title in mind.

**Consider long term
career goals**

**If not sure, opt for
subjects that interest
you and do not narrow
choices too much**

**Choose a subject /
subjects that motivate
and inspire**



How can you help your child's future?

To help your child to think about different choices, you can encourage them to:

- Talk about their career ideas and future plans and help them to consider the pros and cons of various options.
- Research various careers – use Unifrog and other tools available.
- Know about the breadth of options available in education, employment and training.
- Discuss ideas and options with teachers or the careers advisers at college.
- Find out about training, college, and university entrance requirements as well as what is needed for jobs they are interested in.
- Develop their skills by taking part in clubs and activities, both within and outside of school - this will help them stand-out when they are applying for courses or jobs.
- Find out about the world of work through work experience and extra-curricular activities by talking to relatives and family friends about the kinds of work they do.
- Go to careers events organised by the college and other institutions.

Support is available from the school's careers advisor, Mrs Clarke
Email: office@arthurmellows.org Phone: 01733 252235



POST 16 OPTIONS

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS?



CONSIDERING VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS?

There is such a broad choice when looking at vocational qualifications, here are the top five reasons to study one:

1. LESS OR NO EXAMS

Vocational qualifications are generally coursework focused which means that, depending on your course; you won't have to do many or any examinations to get your qualifications.

2. REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

They can provide you with real life experience in your industry which is very appealing for potential universities or prospective employers. They focus on real-life practical tasks and sometimes even provide work placements.

3. PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

They can be an excellent way to progress into university and nowadays 95% of universities accept vocational qualifications.

4. IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY AGAIN!

Unlike A Levels where a large chunk of your final grade is assessed by the exam, vocational courses may allow you to resubmit a piece of coursework so that you can get the best possible grade.

5. A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A REST

Everybody can get tired of doing the same thing, especially if you do not think that the traditional teaching method works for you.



CONSIDERING APPRENTICESHIPS?

There are lots of benefits to Apprenticeships, here are our top five:

1. PAID TRAINING

Not only will your organisation (or the Government) pay for all of your training, but you will be paid to do it. That means you could actually get paid to get your degree and have no debt!

2. RANGE OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are over 500 different Apprenticeships to choose from, in a range of industries. Whether you are interested in Law, Marketing, Construction or Engineering, you will find something up your street!

3. EARN AND LEARN

As an Apprentice, the minimum you'll earn is £7.55 an hour, but we have seen some Apprentices earn well over £30,000 a year! You could also get other employee benefits like gym memberships, paid holiday and sick pay.

4. GREAT CAREER PROSPECTS

Employers think apprentices are 15% more employable than those with other qualifications. In fact, many large employers train their graduates and apprentices together!

5. LEARN ON THE JOB

There is only so much you can learn when you just do a qualification. As an apprentice, you'll also get to learn on the job - whether that is designing amazing graphics, chopping vegetables or building engines.



CONSIDERING T LEVELS?

Check out the top five reasons to study for a T Level:

1. **CREATED WITH BUSINESS**

T Levels have been designed with leading businesses and employers to give you the knowledge and skills you need.

2. **LEARN YOUR WAY**

T Levels involve more classroom study than apprenticeships, which means you can experience an industry while you continue your studies.

3. **GET AHEAD IN YOUR CAREER**

They give you the chance to learn what a real career is like while you continue your studies, by including a 45-day work placement.

4. **QUALIFICATIONS THAT COUNT**

When you pass your T Level, you will get a nationally recognised certificate showing the overall grade you achieved - pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. It will also give details of what you learned on the course to help you move into skilled employment or a higher apprenticeship.

5. **AWARDED UCAS POINTS**

A T Level will be worth UCAS points – a T Level Distinction* is worth the same as 3 A Levels at A* and will be recognised by universities and other education providers so you can choose to continue studying if you wish.





POST 16 OPTIONS

WHERE TO STUDY





CONSIDERING SIXTH FORM

ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE COLLEGE SIXTH FORM

Arthur Mellows Village College prides itself on being a high performing comprehensive school, rated outstanding by Ofsted. It pursues high standards and offer excellent educational opportunities through the high quality of our teachers, its curriculum and its resources.

Now is the time to consider the options available to you at Post 16 and Arthur Mellows Village College could provide the appropriate learning environment for you to reach your full potential. Although you are currently, ardently studying for your GCSE examinations, it is important that you take time to select suitable courses.



Please find below links to find further details relating to the Open Evening and Application Process:

[Arthur Mellows Village College - Open Evening](#)

[Arthur Mellows Village College - Application Process](#)

Applications must be made online by 9.00 am on Monday 8 December 2025.

**Arthur Mellows Village College Sixth Form Open Evening:
Thursday 13 November 2025
(Head of Sixth Form talk at 6.15 pm and 7.15 pm)**

Prospectus

The latest prospectus can be downloaded by following the link at the bottom of the Application Process page and will provide you with the appropriate information to begin planning for study in Key Stage 5.

CONSIDERING SIXTH FORM

Other Useful Information

The link below will take you to the Sixth Form section of the Arthur Mellows Village College website. Here you will help find other useful information / insight, such as dress code, bursaries as well as details of any forthcoming events.

[Arthur Mellows Village College - Sixth Form](#)

Other Sixth Form Schools Locally

You may well wish to consider other local schools, in order to continue with Sixth Form education in a school environment. To follow is a list of local schools offering Sixth Form. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, these are the main schools we know ex-students have continued their education at:



CONSIDERING COLLEGE

Introduction

It may be that a Sixth Form or Further Education College may be the right choice for you. The environment within a College is generally more adult-like, where students take responsibility for themselves and their learning.

One of the first things you may notice when searching College options is that most Colleges offer a wider range of courses when compared to school Sixth Forms.

In the information to follow, you will find a list of the main local Colleges and a link to their course details, as well as other useful information.



Peterborough College offer a diverse and broad range of courses ranging from Entry Level to Level 6 qualifications. They have a strong emphasis on preparing students for the world of work. Peterborough College work with hundreds of employers across the region, delivering apprenticeships.

Details of all the open events and full-time courses available can be found via the link below:

[Peterborough College](#)

[Apprenticeship courses at Peterborough College](#)

If you would like to find out more about the apprenticeship courses at Peterborough College, please click through the link below:

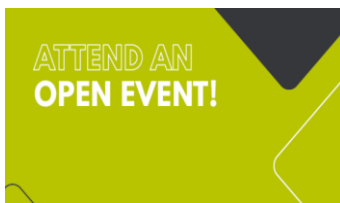
[I am a candidate | Peterborough College](#)



Stamford College offer a huge range of courses, including A Levels, vocational, Apprenticeships and higher education. They have a very comprehensive website section offering you all the details regarding the courses available. It can be found at:

[Stamford College](#)

From this link, you able to view Stamford College's open evening details, their prospectus, course guides and even have a tour of the campus!



The Greater Peterborough UTC is a £25million campus, which was opened in September 2016. It is a STEM-specialist school, offering subjects such as Engineering, Science, Maths, Design Engineering and Business Studies; and caters for students aged 11-19.

A full range of the courses can be explored via the below link:

[Sixth Form – Greater Peterborough UTC \(gputc.org\)](#)

Applications

Applications can be made via the below link. This link also provides an introduction to the principal and explains the principles of education at an UPC:

[Admissions – Greater Peterborough UTC \(gputc.org\)](#)



Cambridge Regional College have a campus in both Huntingdon and Cambridge. They offer a huge range of vocational courses, higher education and apprenticeships.

Full course details can be found via the link below:

[16+ Courses - Post GCSE Vocational Study Courses & Apprenticeships \(camre.ac.uk\)](http://camre.ac.uk)

Open Days

Details of forthcoming Open Days can be found via the link below:

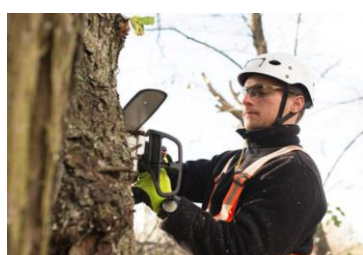
[Open Days - Cambridge Regional College \(camre.ac.uk\)](http://camre.ac.uk)



Moulton College is a local, specialist land-based college with almost one hundred years' experience in training young people and adults in skills associated with the natural, built and recreational environment. The college is one of a handful of local colleges that do specialise in Agriculture.

They have a very comprehensive website section offering you all the details regarding the courses available. It can be found at:

[Home | Moulton College](http://moultoncollege.co.uk)





POST 16 OPTIONS

APPRENTICESHIPS





Why should I choose one?

Apprenticeships are a great option for starting your career, particularly as an alternative to university. Apprenticeships offer a great opportunity to complete a qualification that interests you, as well as developing on the job skills to further your career.

How do I apply for an Apprenticeship?

To apply for an Apprenticeship, you can search vacancies on the following:

[Home - Student – Unifrog](#) (Use student school email address to access)

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#)

You will be able to find opportunities near you at the level you're looking for. You can filter the various searches based on industries, salary etc.

How much do I get paid?

You'll get paid a salary when you do an Apprenticeship. This includes your employer paying you when you're working, when you're studying and also when you're on holiday!

The rates change on 1 April every year. From April 2025, the rates are:

£12.21 (aged 21 and over)

£10 (aged 18 to 20)

£7.55 (aged under 18)

£7.55 (apprentice rate)

Many Apprentices pay much more than minimum wage – we have seen Apprenticeships at £36,000 in the past!

What is Apprenticeship training?

To find out about Apprenticeships you need to know all about the training that goes into the qualification. As an Apprentice, you will spend 20% of your training working towards a qualification that you can apply to your day job. It depends on your provider and employer on what you will be doing, you could study at work, at home or go to college or university to get your qualification. Some Apprenticeships even involve you spending weeks away at a time doing block release!

What types of Apprenticeships are there?

APPRENTICESHIP Levels in the UK



Who can do an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are suitable for anybody at any age, although most people think they are just for school and college leavers. Whether you are looking to start your career after school or university, or you want to change your career route – Apprenticeships are for everyone! Many employers even put their current members of staff on Apprenticeships to help them develop, this includes anything from Management to Engineering qualifications, so they learn the latest techniques!

How long do they last?

The minimum duration of an Apprenticeship is 12 months. This allows you the time to get your qualification and the industry experience required for your End Point Assessment (final sign off for your Apprenticeship). Apprenticeships at a higher level, such as Degree Apprenticeships can last up to 6 years, you will have a lot more coursework! Apprenticeships also tend to last longer in industries such as law or building surveying if you are working towards chartered status and qualifications.

When do Apprenticeships start?

Apprenticeships start throughout the year, so there are always opportunities available. If you want to find an Apprenticeship you must search them online!

Bigger companies who recruit Apprentices do have key hiring periods. These tend to be January, March and September however you should check employer websites to be sure about each employer, as they are all different.

Progression during an Apprenticeship

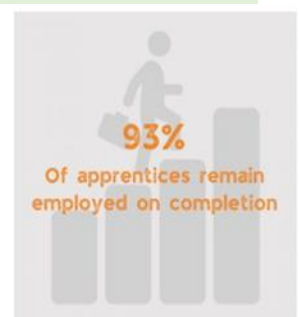
Opportunities for progression in an Apprenticeship can be vast, particularly with bigger organisations but also with small ones. This is because as you progress in your training and with the employer you can get more responsibility. Often, with taking more responsibility will also mean increments. You can also progress through the levels of Apprenticeships, so you could start at an intermediate apprenticeship and work up to getting your degree!

Some organisations also do rotations within the company which will give you understanding of lots of business areas. This makes progression a lot easier as you really understand the entirety of the business you work in.

What's after an Apprenticeship?

What you choose to do after your Apprenticeship is really up to you – there is lots of options! Many employers will ask you to stay after your Apprenticeship as you already know the ins and outs of the business – often this comes with a pay rise too! When you complete your Apprenticeship, you can choose to move to another organisation or even move onto a higher-level course to further develop your skills.

Once you've started your Apprenticeship you don't have to stay in employment, you still have the option to go to University or even to go on a gap year!





POST 16 OPTIONS

T LEVELS



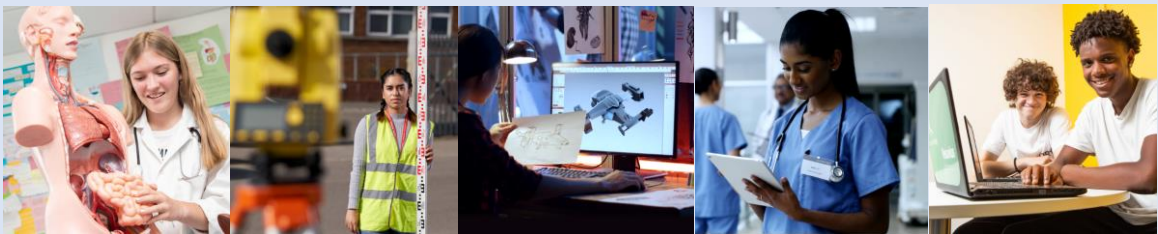
INTRODUCTION OF T LEVELS

What are T Levels?

T Levels are a technical qualification that you can do following GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels, other Post-16 courses or an Apprenticeship. They first launched in September 2020 and bring classroom learning and an extended industry placement together, on a course, designed with businesses and employers.

One T Level takes 2 years to complete and is equivalent to 3 A Levels.

The first 3 T Levels started in September 2020 at selected schools and colleges in England. There are now more than 20 T Levels available, covering everything from Agriculture to Craft & Design, and Engineering to Science.



Students can take a T Level in the following subject areas:

- Agriculture, Land Management and Production
- Animal Care and Management
- Management and Administration
- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- Craft and Design
- Media, Broadcast and Production
- Digital Data Analytics
- Digital Software Development
- Digital Support and Security
- Education and Early Years
- Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Health
- Science
- Accounting
- Finance
- Legal Services
- Marketing



How do T Levels work?

T Levels are to become one of the main choices for students after GCSE alongside:

- Apprenticeships for students who wish to learn a specific occupation 'on the job'
- A Levels for students who wish to continue academic education

T Level students typically spend 80% of the course in the classroom, learning the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where the skills are put into action. This varies from an Apprenticeship which is 80% work and 20% classroom learning.

T Levels have been designed with leading businesses and employers to give you the knowledge and skills you need. More than 200 businesses – including Fujitsu and Skanska – have been involved so you can be confident that T Levels will move you to the next level.

Following successful completion of all elements of the T Level, the student will receive a nationally recognised certificate. T Levels are equivalent to 3 A Levels and as such will accrue UCAS points based on grades achieved, should university be the progression route.

The Structure of a T Level

T Level courses include the following compulsory elements:
a technical qualification, which includes:

- core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
- specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- an industry placement with an employer
- a minimum standard in maths and English if students have not already achieved them

Industry placements

Every T Level includes an industry placement with an employer focused on developing the practical and technical skills required for the occupation. These will last a minimum of 315 hours (approximately 45 days) but can last longer. Employers can offer industry placements as a block, day release or a mix of these, and can discuss sharing part of the placement with another employer if necessary.

Providers will support employers offering industry placements. This will include assistance with the necessary paperwork, a careful planning process and support with designing the industry placement.

How does the Grading and certification work with a T Level?

Students who complete their T Level will receive an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. They will get a nationally recognised certificate which will show their overall grade and a breakdown of what they have achieved.

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*
- a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
- a separate grade for each occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction

It will also include confirmation that the student has:

- met the minimum requirements for Maths and English qualifications
- completed the industry placement
- met any additional mandatory requirements

A student's overall T Level grade will be worked out from the grades they achieved on the core component and the occupational specialism(s).

Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will get a T Level statement of achievement which will show the elements they have completed.

Progression following completion of a T Level

T Levels will provide several progression options to students. These include skilled employment, an apprenticeship and higher education.

To help T Level students get into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to the overall T Level grade. See breakdown below:

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A level
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	AAA*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

Find out more

If you're interested in finding out more, visit the following website:

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>



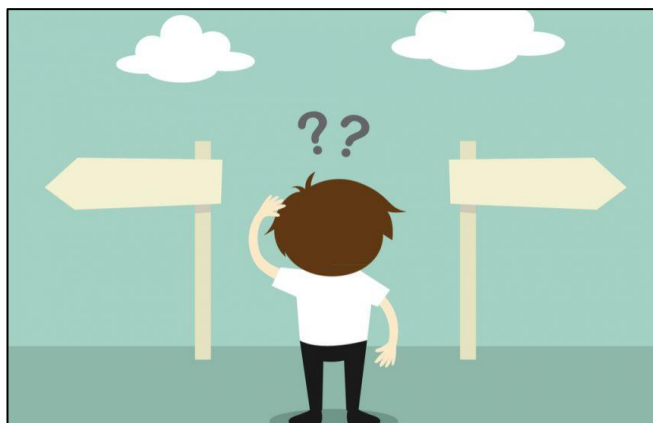
Support is available to help you decide on the right path for you!

Help can be given with applications and CV / personal statement writing.

Answering any of those queries you may have about your next steps.

Mrs Clarke is the School Careers Advisor.
Her office can be found in the Library.

Students are welcome to drop in during breaks or make an appointment to discuss in more detail.



PARENTS/CARERS WITH QUERIES MAY ALSO
CONTACT MRS CLARKE BY EMAIL AT
office@arthurmellows.org OR BY TELEPHONE
01733 252235