



**What's next  
after leaving  
year 11 or 12?**

There are many different choices available to young people after leaving school or during college. As of 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age was introduced. This means that after year 11, all young people must continue in education, employment, or training until turning 18 years old. Therefore, it is important that young people have the knowledge and tools to feel empowered about the right career or training path for them. To help we have put together a range of options below.

## Traineeships

A Traineeship is an option for those who don't feel ready to start an apprenticeship. This is a college course that lasts up to 6 months and is a mixture of college attendance and work placement with an aim of providing the necessary skills to start an apprenticeship or full-time employment. To be eligible to start a traineeship, you need to be aged between 16 to 24 (or 25 if you have an EHCP) with no higher than a level 3 qualification.

Find out more about local traineeships: [gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://gov.uk/find-traineeship)

## A levels

Studying an A level course is a way to gain deeper knowledge into a certain subject or possibly pick a new one to explore. A levels typically take two years to complete (year 12 and year 13) and are classed as a level 3 qualification. Whilst studying, you will normally be working towards completing an exam at the end of your course with a one-week work placement attached in year 12. Entry requirements for most A level providers are course dependant but are mostly 5 GCSEs Grade 9-4 (usually including English and maths) and depending on your GCSE results, you could study a combination of either 3 or 4 subjects.

There are many different places you could study A levels in the local area, and you can speak to the National Careers Service for more information: [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16)



## Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a paid opportunity to develop on the job skills whilst studying towards a relevant qualification (typically 80% workplace, 20% classroom). There are many employers looking to recruit apprentices and different levels of qualifications ranging from level 2 to degree level. Apprenticeships normally include attending a college or training centre for one day a week.

For vacancies and more information, please visit: [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

## Vocational courses

A vocational course is a great way to learn a skill or trade. It is a course focused on teaching you the necessary skills for a specific job and is more hands on and assignment based as compared to exams. You can complete a vocational course at level 1, 2 or 3 depending on your GCSE results and you could either progress straight into the workplace or go to university. Depending on the providers, you could potentially study a vocational course alongside A levels.

There are many different places you could study a vocational course in the local area, and you can speak to the National Careers Service for more information: [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16)



## T Levels

T levels are a new programme starting in September 2020. T levels have been created by employers and colleges to enable people to gain the skills needed in the workplace. T levels are a mixture of work-based learning and classroom work (typically 80% classroom, 20% workplace) and are classed as a level 3 qualification, equivalent to 3 A levels. Whilst studying, you will be required to complete at least 45 days in a workplace environment, and this takes two years to complete.

**Find out more about local T level providers: [tlevels.gov.uk/students](https://tlevels.gov.uk/students)**

## Employment / starting your own business

Some people decide to join the workforce following year 11 by going straight into employment or even starting your own business. There is plenty of support available with searching for a job, completing applications, preparing a CV and tips for job interviews such as Job Centre Plus, Youth Employment UK, and the National Careers Service. If a young person is thinking of starting their own business and are over the age of 18, the Prince's Trust have programmes available to support with every step of the journey.

Due to the Raising of the Participation Age, if a young person is under the age of 18, they would still need to be working towards an accredited qualification, this can be on a part time basis.

**For more information, please visit: [gov.uk/find-a-job](https://gov.uk/find-a-job)  
[princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business](https://princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business)**

## Supported internships

If a young person has an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan), they may be eligible to take part in a supported internship. These are for people aged between 16 to 24 years old that have additional needs and require support finding employment. This would be predominantly based in the workplace, learning transferable skills to prepare young people for the workplace and further support is provided from a college tutor and job coach.

**For more information on Supported Internships, speak to your school, local college or alternatively, you can speak to your Social Worker/Transition Worker**

## Exam retakes

If for one reason or another a young person did not achieve the desired grade in Maths and English, there is the option to resit their exams. This is an opportunity to achieve a higher grade than they currently have, and you can typically resit alongside a full-time course. There are several providers offering resits including local colleges and school sixth forms.

**To find more information, you can speak to the National Careers Service: [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/)**



**For more information on all of these options and local support please visit:  
[futuregoals.co.uk/education-and-training](https://futuregoals.co.uk/education-and-training)**