Dear Parent/Carer

This week Year 10 attended a session on Apprenticeships to get them thinking about the options available to them post 16.

Our students can also choose A levels, [T levels](https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/#:~:text=T%20Levels%20are%20an%20alternative%20to%20A%20levels%2C,industry%20placement%20that%20lasts%20at%20least%2045%20days.) and vocational Diplomas. A [guide for parents and carers of children age 11-24](https://www.cipd.co.uk/Images/parents-and-carers-guide-2019_tcm18-17811.pdf) is helpful in explaining the choices your son will face in Year 11, and [Post-16: What next? - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6ws47h) is a useful conversation starter.

Although this may seem a long way away, we are keen to get conversations both at school and home started early about your son’s next steps. Apprenticeships in particular are often advertised in the Autumn term of Year 11 and therefore if your son is considering this as an option, we need to ensure they are prepared and know the application process before the end of Year 10.

A great place to start is to explore [Amazing Apprenticeships](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeships/). There are over 700 apprenticeship types (“standards”) available, and ever growing! The complete list can be seen [here](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?). You will see the breadth of opportunity; apprenticeships are no longer the traditional practical trade role that parents were familiar with when they were at school.

You will also see the availability of degree apprenticeships – a fantastic way of avoiding the debt associated with a University pathway. [Degree apprenticeships](https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/what-you-need-know-about-apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships-0#:~:text=Degree%20apprenticeships%20combine%20working%20with%20studying%20part-time%20at,on%20the%20programme%20and%20requirements%20of%20the%20employer.) are incredibly competitive and there are some really exciting vacancies.

You can explore the local apprenticeship vacancies within your area at [Find An Apprenticeship.](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) We recommend that you and your son create an account so you can set your criteria to receive notifications of local vacancies within the sector your son is interested in.

Finally…

* Help your son to identify their strengths and key skills – have a go at the [buzz quiz](https://icould.com/buzz-quiz/) together to see their personality attributes.
* Talk to them about their preferred learning style – exams, coursework, ongoing assessment etc.
* Take a look at [Career Mag](https://careermap.co.uk/careermag-parents/) - a really supportive publication covering topics such as supporting your child on results day, and topical career spotlights.
* Look at labour market information. You can compare different jobs and salaries at Careerometer

The more informed you and your son are, the better choices they will make and the easier the transition to post 16 education and training will be.

Please do get in touch if you wish to discuss anything further.

Yours faithfully

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