

Brymore **CAREERS**



Careers Information Guide

Post 16 Options



Young people must be in education or training until they are 18

My options post 16 are:

Continue studying:

- A levels
- IB
- Diplomas

Or combine work and study:

(Technical and Vocational Qualifications)

- T Levels
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Supported internships

It can be overwhelming - but the more you know, the easier it will be to decide when the time comes.

Don't be influenced by friends and trends!

Always keep in your mind your personal situation, strengths and interests!

Continue studying:

A levels

- Two-year courses that end in an overall exam, and a grade from A*-E.
- Similar structure to GCSEs, but looking at the subject in more depth.
- You usually choose 3 (sometimes 4).
- Study a subject you took at GCSE, or choose a new one like Economics, Law or Psychology.
- Examples include Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art, Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science
- Alongside you could do something called the **Extended Project Qualification** (EPQ). It is an independent project on something that interests you, and can be on a topic completely unrelated to your A levels!

Diplomas

- Diplomas are more specific subjects designed for young people interested in a particular career area, but who are not yet sure what exact job they'd like to do.
- There is **continuous assessment** throughout the course. This means it often suits pupils who find that they do better in coursework than exams.
- It is Graded D* (Distinction) to P (Pass).
- There are 3 options:
 - Extended Diploma** (equivalent to three A levels) – *advised option for a pupil with a good GCSE profile*
 - Diploma** (equivalent to two A levels)
 - Extended Certificate** (equivalent to one A level)
- There's flexibility - at some colleges you could do a Diploma alongside A-Levels.
- There are 2,000+ qualifications available across 16 sectors! These include Business Studies, Applied Science, Art and Design, Engineering, Construction, Childcare, Media, Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Performing Arts, Computer Science and ICT, Sport, Public Services, Travel and Tourism... and so much more!

International Baccalaureate - IB

- This is an academic programme where you take more than the 3 subjects typical at A level. It is much **broad**er, and includes Maths and Science.
- Students take a broad mix of six subjects to standard level.
- They then continue with three subjects to higher level.
- There are exams and course work, and it includes **an extended essay** focused on one of the subjects you are studying, and the study of the **theory of knowledge**.
- You also complete activities to help your **personal development**, physical activity and service in the community (150 hours).

Or combine work and study:

Technical & Vocational Qualifications:

- Vocational Qualifications are **practical** qualifications that relate to a specific job or career sector.
- They teach you how to do tasks that relate to the industry and role you want to be involved in.
- An example is an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification), and the one's that follow below.
- Vocational qualifications are a good option if you have a clear idea of what type of career or trade you'd like to work in.
- They can help you to get the specific skills you will need, but may not be a good option if you're not sure yet what you want to do.

T Levels

- These are fairly new and many parents won't know much about them!
- It involves 80% classroom learning and 20% work placement.
- It includes a **minimum 45-day industry placement** with an employer(s).
- The first courses have included Construction, Digital, Business, Education and Childcare, but the list is growing each year. For the latest offer see here: [T Level subjects | T Levels](#)
- They suit students who know what occupation or industry they want to work in, or who want a qualification that involves a significant workplace experience.
- One T Level is the equivalent of 3 A levels.
- Examples include Accounting, Agriculture, Land Management and Production, Animal Care and Management, Finance, Healthcare, Hair, Maintenance, Engineering and Manufacturing, Management and Administration, Media, Broadcast and Production.

Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships combine **working (80%) with study (20%)**. You may attend college one day a week or in a block.
- As an apprentice you will work at least 30 hours a week and receive the national minimum wage for apprentices. Some employers pay more.
- They can take between one and four years to complete, depending on the level.
- Examples include pretty much ANYTHING now! E.g. Engineering, Graphic Design, Software Development, Hair and Beauty and Catering, Cyber...
- Start at a level to suit you. Apprenticeships come in four different levels and you can progress up the levels:

Intermediate/Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Maths/English at GCSE

Advanced/Level 3 (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+

Higher/Level 4-5 (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires L3 or A-Levels

Degree/Level 6-7 (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar

Traineeships

- A work-preparation course.
- It gets you ready for work or for an apprenticeship by making sure you are work-ready and have functional skills (Maths and English)
- An unpaid training course with work experience from 6 weeks to 1 year
- Students are not paid for taking part.
- You'll spend a minimum of 70 hours in a work placement with the rest of your time in college or a training centre

Supported Internships

- For young people with learning difficulties or learning disabilities, who need extra support to get a job.
- It is a study programme that includes an unpaid work experience offered by a local employer.
- It will last between six and twelve months.
- It is a personalised programme that meets your needs and helps you to progress.

Find out more!

Watch and read [here](#) at BBC Bitesize

Department of Education [animation](#)



Where can I study?

Local Colleges:

- **Bridgwater & Taunton College**, TA6 4PZ <http://www.btc.ac.uk/>
- **Yeovil College**, BA21 4DR <http://www.yeovil.ac.uk/>
- **Strode College**, BA16 0AB <http://www.strode-college.ac.uk/>
- **Exeter College**, EX4 4JS <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/>
- **Richard Huish, Taunton** TA1 3DZ <http://www.richuish.ac.uk>

(many of the above have more than one campus)

All colleges also offer general supported learning programmes. These allow students to continue to develop their basic skills in English, Maths and ICT (including the option of retaking GCSE Maths & English).

Local Schools with sixth forms:

- **King Alfred School** TA9 3EE [The King Alfred School \(tkasa.org.uk\)](http://tkasa.org.uk)
- **Wadham School** TA18 7NT, <https://www.wadhamschool.co.uk/sixth-form.html>
- **Holyrood Academy**, Chard TA20 1JL
<https://www.holyroodacademy.com/academy/sixthform>
- **Huish Episcopi Academy** Langport, TA10 9SS
<https://www.huishepiscopi.net/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=7>
- **Axe Valley Academy** EX13 5EA <https://axevalley.devon.sch.uk>
- **Colyton Grammar** EX24 6HN <https://www.colytongrammar.com/sixth-form/>

Other popular choices:

- **Weston College**
- **Hartbury College**
- **Bicton College**
- **Sparsholt**
- **Army Foundation College**, Harrogate: www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/our-schools-and-colleges/afc-harrogate/

If you have an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan there may be different and more suitable options available to you.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What do the different levels of study mean?

Most qualifications have a difficulty level. Simply the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is.

Qualification Level	Academic Awards	Vocational Awards, Certificates and Diplomas	Apprenticeship Level
Level 4	Level 4 Qualifications	Degree, Foundation Degree, HNC or HND NVQ Level 4/5	Higher Apprenticeship
Full Level 3	Minimum 2 x A-Levels	NVQ Level 3, BTEC Awards, Certificates, Diplomas at Level 3, BTEC Extended Diplomas, OCR Nationals, Cambridge Technicals Level 3	Advanced Apprenticeship
Full Level 2	5 x GCSEs A*-C or Grade 4-9	NVQ Level 2, BTEC First Diploma, Functional Skills L2, OCR Nationals, Cambridge Technicals Level 2	Intermediate Apprenticeship Traineeship
Level 1	GCSEs D-G	NVQ Level 1 Introduction Diploma, Certificate, Cache Diploma, Skills for Working Life, Functional Skills L1, OCR Nationals/ Foundation	Access to Apprenticeship/ Traineeship

- **How do I pay for post-16 education and training?**

Education and training in the UK are **free for young people until they turn 19**.

There is a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

- **Who will help me make my decisions?**

You will be guided by your teachers, tutor, family and friends. In Year 10/11 (age 14-16) you will receive a one-to-one personal guidance meeting with a careers advisor. They will talk to you about your interests and course options available to you.

- **I feel worried about my future.**

Don't! Although we can plan, ideas and interests change regularly. Did you know in your lifetime you will have at least 10 jobs! The best thing you can do is focus on your **SKILLS**. These are transferrable across different jobs.

For now, focus on trying your hardest and enjoying your learning. Follow your heart (not other's opinions or trends), and **pursue what interests and motivates you**. If plan A fails there are 25 other letters left in the alphabet, and plan Z is often the winner....! J

Feeling overwhelmed? Request a careers appointment with Mrs Featherstone at Harriet.Featherstone@brymoreacademy.co.uk

