

## Post 16 Pathways

In England, the change in government law, known as Raising the Participation Age (RPA) means pupils will be required to continue in education or training until your 18th birthday. This doesn't necessarily mean staying on at school. The main options at the end of year 11 are:

- To continue your education full time, either at school or college
- To start working and continue learning in the workplace, perhaps through an Apprenticeship or Traineeship.
- Full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part-time education or training

### Full – time Education

**A levels** - allows you to continue to study, to a deeper level, the subjects that you are good at and interest you most, while perhaps also giving you the opportunity to learn a new subject.

Assessment is mainly through formal exams at the end of two years, although coursework and practical assessments can count towards the final grade in some subjects.

You will need at least five to eight GCSEs at grades 9-5, with grade 6+ and above for subjects to be studied at A level. They prepare students for University, Degree Apprenticeship and Employment.

**Vocational Qualifications** – These are offered in Colleges and some Sixth Form institutions.

BTEC Level 3 Diploma (similar standard to A levels) - BTECs are designed for young people interested in a particular sector or industry but who are not yet sure what job they'd like to do.

They available in 14 sectors: **Applied Science, Art and Design, Business, Childcare, Construction, Engineering, Media, Health and Social Care, Hospitality, ICT, Land-based, Performing Arts, Public Services, Sport, Travel and Tourism.**

Many of these are well regarded by universities, further education colleges, and employers. A BTEC National qualification can lead to employment, continuing study, or professional development programmes

**BTEC Level 2 DIPLOMA** = 5 GCSEs at grade 9-4

4/5 GCSEs grades 3(Maths & English) required for entry

1 year course

GCSE Maths & English can be taken alongside

Course work-based (some units are assessed by exams)

**BTEC LEVEL 1 DIPLOMA** = 5 GCSEs at grade 3

GCSEs grades 2 (Maths & English) required for entry

1 year course

Course work-based (some units are assessed by exams)

**ENTRY LEVEL** = 5GCSEs at grade 2

GCSE profile of 1(Maths & English)

1 year course

Course work-based

### Local Sixth Forms/Colleges Information

- Ashton On Mersey 6th Form, [www.aomsixthform.thedeantrust.co.uk](http://www.aomsixthform.thedeantrust.co.uk)
- Altrincham College, [www.altrinchamcollege.com](http://www.altrinchamcollege.com)
- Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, [www.agsb.co.uk](http://www.agsb.co.uk)
- Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, [www.aggs.trafford.sch.uk](http://www.aggs.trafford.sch.uk)
- Blessed Thomas Holford, [www.bthcc.org.uk](http://www.bthcc.org.uk)
- Loreto Grammar School, [www.loretogrammar.co.uk](http://www.loretogrammar.co.uk)
- Sale Grammar School, [www.salegrammar.co.uk](http://www.salegrammar.co.uk)
- St. Ambrose College, [www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

- Stretford Grammar School, [www.stretfordgrammar.com](http://www.stretfordgrammar.com)
- Trafford College, [www.trafford.ac.uk](http://www.trafford.ac.uk)
- Urmston Grammar School, [www.urmstongrammar.com](http://www.urmstongrammar.com)
- Wellington School, [www.wellington-school.co.uk](http://www.wellington-school.co.uk)
- Loreto College, [www.loreto.ac.uk](http://www.loreto.ac.uk)
- The Manchester College, [www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk](http://www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk)
- Xaverian College, [www.xaverian.ac.uk](http://www.xaverian.ac.uk)
- Salford City College, [www.salfordcc.ac.uk](http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk)
- UTC@MediaCityUK, [www.utcmidiacityuk.org.uk](http://www.utcmidiacityuk.org.uk)

### **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships involve structured training in the workplace together with off-the-job training that may be undertaken, for example, at a training centre or college - perhaps one day a week or through block release. Apprenticeships are designed to develop your competence to undertake a particular job, and will lead to relevant qualifications or industry-recognised standards.

Apprenticeships are available at different levels - from level 2 up to, in some cases, level 7. The great majority of Apprenticeships currently available are at level 2 or level 3. (N.B. Level 2 is equivalent to GCSEs at grades 9-5/4 or A\*-C, and level 3 to A levels or equivalent qualifications.)

For information on various sector click on this link: <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/apprenticeship-by-industry-sector/>

### **Some useful Websites for Apprenticeships**

- National Apprenticeship website: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)
- Get in go far : [www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk)
- All about school leavers: [www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk](http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk)
- The Growth Company Education & Skills: [www.gceducationandskills.ac.uk](http://www.gceducationandskills.ac.uk)
- Careermap: [info@careermap.co.uk](mailto:info@careermap.co.uk)