

Higher Education

- If you want to do higher education you can go to college for two years after secondary school.
- Colleges offer a variety of A-level and BTEC subjects and qualifications and offer students the chance to continue their education in a familiar environment to Year 11.
- There are no students under the age of 16, and because they are open to the community, people older than 16-19 may also enrol in courses.
- Once students have completed their two years at sixth form or college, they can apply to university to study for a bachelor's degree.
- The majority of university degree programmes last three years, but some specialist courses such as medicine or dentistry last five years or more.
- There are over 100 different universities to choose from, each with its own academic specialisms and individual quirks. Some universities may rank higher for law or medicine, whilst others are known for having an outstanding modern foreign languages department.

<https://www.ucas.com>

- You have a lot more choice when it comes to choosing your degree subject and modules than you do at college or sixth-form. From modules about *Harry Potter* to degrees in ethical hacking and cybersecurity, there will be a university for you whatever your interests!

Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences.
- Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices spend at least 20% of their working hours completing classroom-based learning with a college, university or training provider which leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/what-is-an-apprenticeship>

- Benefits include paid employment with holiday leave and hands-on-experience in a career that might interest you.
- There are no student loan or tuition fees for an apprenticeship because it is funded by the government and the employer.
- If the apprentice is 16 to 24 and a care leaver, they will receive a £1,000 bursary payment to support them in their first year of the apprenticeship.
 - An apprenticeship can start at any level, but some may require:
 - previous qualifications such as English or maths GCSEs
 - additional training in English or maths to ensure the apprentice is at the right level.
- For National Apprenticeships Week 2023, BBC Bitesize did a live stream from the Science Museum in London. Get online and watch it back!

Connections / Networking

- Building connections is when you form a bond with another person. While you may create personal and professional relationships, both can benefit your professional career.
- As a result of connecting with people, you will become more versatile. When you encounter difficult situations, you have a network of individuals who can help identify solutions or otherwise support you.
- Connections allow you to benefit from the help you receive from others, and you can also offer support to them when they need it.
- You can meet new people and potential employers at school events, careers fairs or even out in the wider world and society.
- It's crucial to keep contacts and follow meetings up with a polite email or message.
- Always try to impress, find things in common and it's wise to ask for advice, rather than just asking for a job outright!
- It's also a good idea to think about your social media profiles and ensure they are free from any controversial or offensive material. This may be an employer's first impression of you.

Business / Freelance

- The law now requires all young people in England to stay in higher education or training until their 18th birthday but you can look at starting your own business eventually.
- Starting a business may come in time but essentially you need an idea and a reason why you are offering that service.
- You would require financial backing, need to have customers lined up and be prepared to do a lot of paperwork when creating a company.
- Freelancing is a type of self-employment where you might not work for the same business or company and instead, move around offering your services for a period of time.
- One advantage is that it is a flexible career path where you can decide who you want to work for and when and where you want to work.
- A disadvantage could be that it is a less secure option and there is pressure to find work when you need it.
- Remember, all this would need to be done alongside college, training or an apprenticeship for the next two years!

Volunteering

- Volunteering is when you spend unpaid time doing something to benefit others. Helping your close friends or relatives isn't volunteering!
- Volunteering should never be something you are made to do, and is not done for financial gain.
- The rewards are about the satisfaction of putting something back into society, about gaining useful experience and skills, meeting new people, and hopefully having fun!
- Volunteering does not guarantee you a job, but it can greatly improve your chances.
 - 94% of employers believe that volunteering can add to skills
 - 73% of employers would employ a candidate with volunteering experience over one without
 - 58% believe voluntary work experience can be more valuable than experience gained in paid employment

<https://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org/careers/volunteering/volunteering/>

<https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/news/articles/volunteering-key-to-improving-job-prospects/> (The report, [Social Mobility: Unleashing the Power of Volunteering](#), from Royal Voluntary Service, authored by Dr Eddy Hogg, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Kent set out to explore the potential volunteering has to improve life chances. In a study of current and recent volunteers*, volunteering was credited with improving job prospects for over half (58%), rising to 73% amongst the youngest volunteers (16-19).)

- If volunteering somewhere where you would like to work, employers want people who are passionate about their cause and willing to go beyond what

is asked of them when necessary. Failing to show up, poor communication and being late will not impress them!

- It's also your chance to meet new people, interact with current employees and begin developing sound relationships.