

# MOVING ONTO POST 16 EDUCATION

Mrs Dorgan – Careers Leader



# Key Dates for Year 11

- **Thursday 1 October 2026** – Post-16 Guidance & Revision Strategies Evening
- **Monday 2 – Friday 20 November 2026** – November Mock Exams
- **Wednesday 7 January 2027** – Year 11 Parents' Evening
- **Monday 22 – Friday 6 March 2027** – Core Mocks (English, Maths, Science)
- **Monday 26 April – Friday 18 June 2026 – GCSE practical & written exams**
- **Wednesday 24 June 2027** – Leavers' Assembly (3:00–4:00pm)
- **Wednesday 30 June 2027** – Year 11 Prom (attendance linked to conduct, effort & attendance)
- **Wednesday 23 June 2027** – National Exam Contingency Day #1
- **Thursday 19 August 2027** – GCSE Results Day
- **November 2026 (date tbc)** – Certificate Presentation Evening

(Exam dates not confirmed by Exam Boards yet!)

# Exam Conduct & Revision

- Exams follow **JCQ guidance**— silence on entry, follow invigilator instructions, all students scanned before exams to ensure no phones, watches, or devices
- Students must **arrive early** – late arrivals cannot sit exams
- Success depends on **engagement and effective revision**:
  - Begin now – aim for regular revision (up to 2 hours daily, including homework)
  - Use short, focused sessions with clear goals
  - Make full use of school support: Revision Hub, Period 6, tutor-led study strategies



# Post 16 Careers Support at TBHA

- Christine Joslin, Elev8Careers - Advanced Careers Guidance Practitioner
- Careers interviews
- College/apprenticeship application support – Mrs Dorgan
- Assembly presentations from all local colleges and sixth forms.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October, we have a number of business volunteers in school to carry out mock interviews to help students prepare for their college interviews.

# Post 16 Careers Support at TBHA

- Careers interviews will be emailed to student's school email a few days before and will contain a video explaining what will happen
- The meeting will take approx. 30 minutes.
- Students should prepare by watching the information video in the interview invitation email.
- The aim of the interview is to provide students with information on courses locally which relate to students interests and how to plan to reach any further goals.
- The careers adviser will **NOT** tell students which subjects/careers they should be looking at



# College Applications

- **Deadline:** All colleges have different deadlines for submission of applications. **The earliest are BHASVIC and Varndean which have a deadline of the first Friday in December.**
- Submitted by students, most applications are online direct to colleges.
- We recommend that **ALL** students apply to at least **TWO** colleges.
- Once they make an online application, email Mrs Dorgan with which college and which subjects.
- If your son/daughter needs help completing an application, email Mrs Dorgan.



# Important Notes for completing college applications

Students should not guess their predicted grades. We will be supplying them with grades to use in this section.

References – I am the only person in the Academy who completes references. Please use my email address.

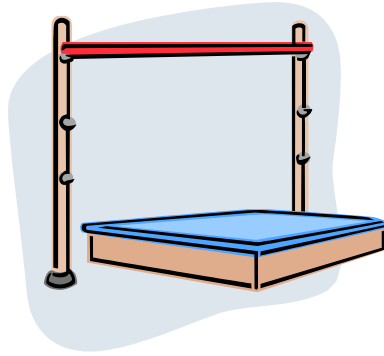
Ensure that your son/daughter uses a personal email address that they check regularly on their contact details. This is how they will be advised of their interview date. **It should not be the school email address as this email will cease in August 2026.**

**Write down their login details – they may have several different colleges to remember!**

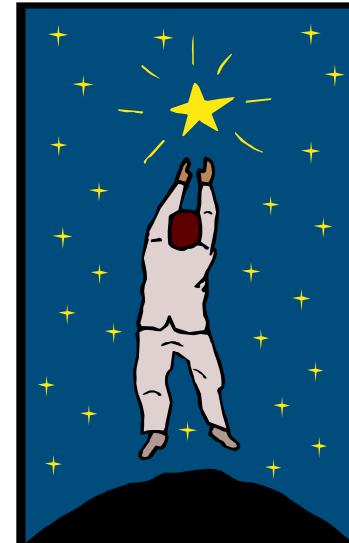
# How to Choose?

- ❖ Research the college and the courses using online prospectuses
- ❖ Look at how the course is assessed % coursework / exams. Most A levels will be 100% exams but the Applied A levels and BTECs will have practical elements. What works best for them?
- ❖ Get a feel – is this what they expected? Can they see themselves there? Does it feel right?
- ❖ Find out about the courses and talk to the staff; don't just look around. What are the entry requirements?
- ❖ Explore the pastoral support, social side...
- ❖ How will the college support any extra learning needs that they might have?
- ❖ List the pros and cons for later comparison
- ❖ What are their results for the subjects that they want to study?





## Minimum requirements versus maximum achievement.....



# College interviews

- College interviews will usually start to take place November – all interviews take place at the colleges.
- If students need to miss school...**NOT A WHOLE DAY OFF SCHOOL!**
- What to take:
  - Latest tracking sheet showing current performance
  - Personal statement and tutor statement
  - Results slips e.g. year 10 exams, mock results

# College References

All references are completed by Mrs Dorgan and sent off by the Academy.

They ask for information on:

- Punctuality and attendance
- Effort and attitude
- Mock grades
- Whether courses are appropriate for the student
- An honest review of performance at school

We do not supply 'open' references

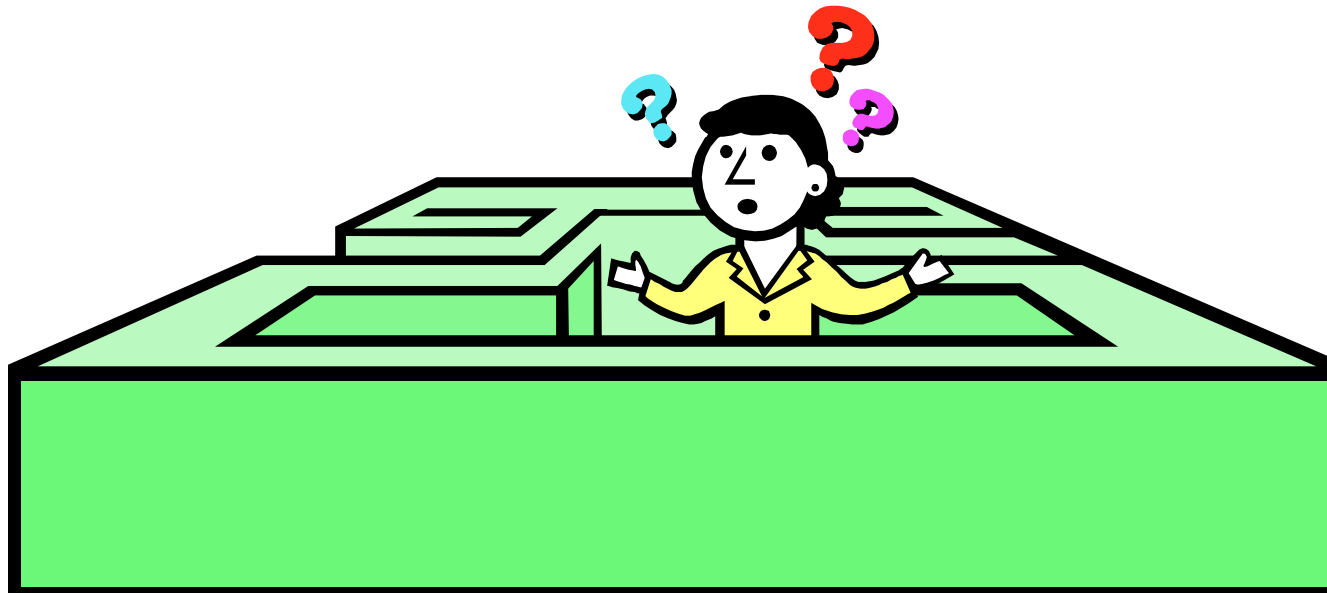
# They are more than just qualifications!!!

- ❑ Students should amend/update their CV's which were created in Year 10.
- ❑ Personal statements **MUST** be finalised by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Tutors will also provide a Tutor Statement.
- ❑ It is important that students think about ways of improving their CV and personal statement. **Part time jobs, volunteering, supporting their local community.**
- ❑ These are all ways of making them stand out against growing competition.

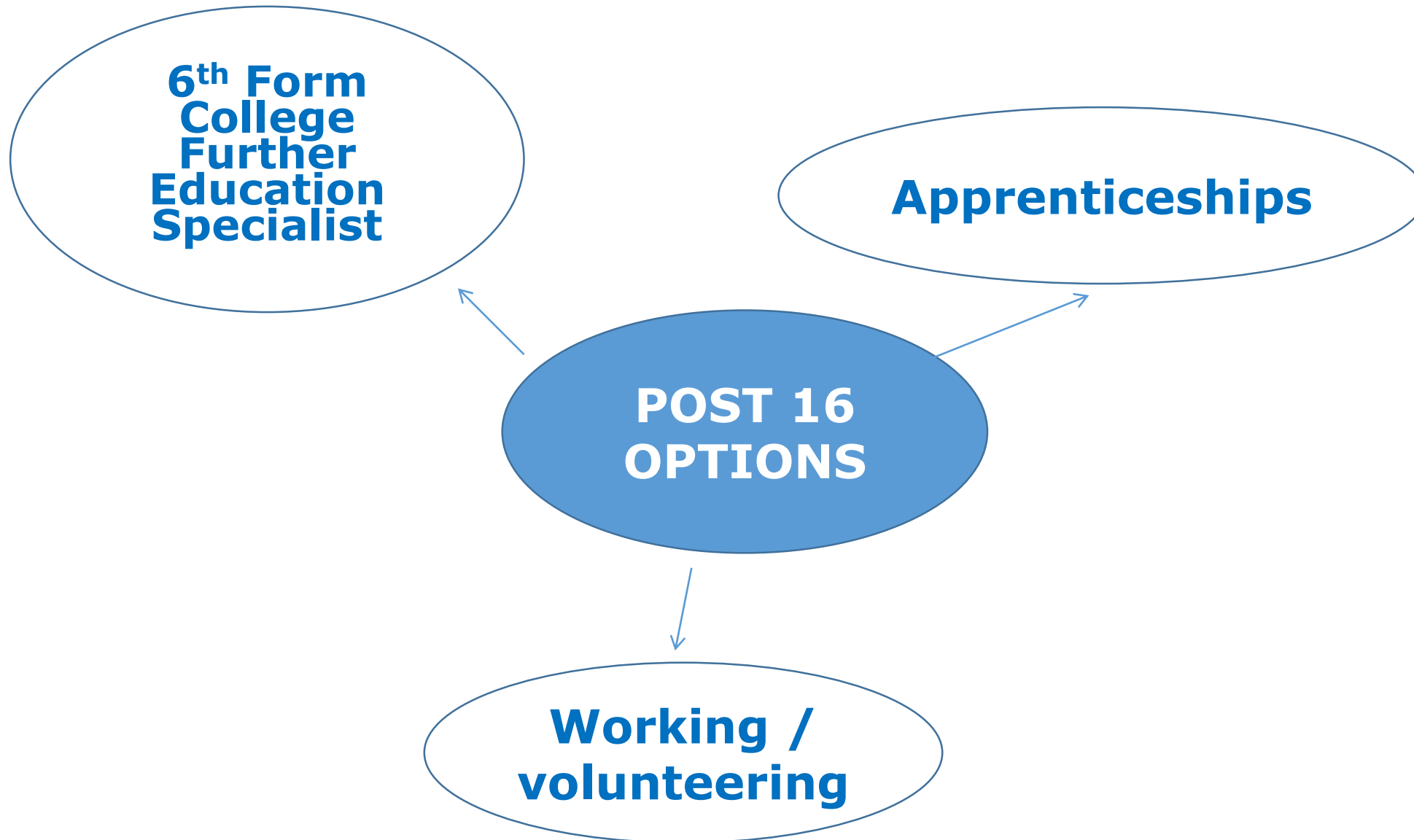
# MOST IMPORTANT

- Students need to check their emails (personal and school) at least once a day.
- Colleges will email information on interview dates and links to accept offers of places for September.
- All careers interview dates and college/apprenticeship information will be sent out via email

# Routes after Year 11



# What are the options?



Up until the age of 18 students must be in:

- Full-time education, such as school or college
- an Apprenticeship
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

(If a student has a job but not an apprenticeship they will still have to be engaged in some formal part time learning)



# College Options Locally

## Colleges/6<sup>th</sup> Forms

- St Pauls 6<sup>th</sup> form
- Haywards Heath
- Varndean
- BHASVIC
- Collyers
- Worthing
- Any school 6<sup>th</sup> form

## Independent 6<sup>th</sup> Forms

- Burgess Hill Girls
- Ardingly College
- Christ's Hospital
- Worth College
- Hurst College
- Roedean College
- Brighton College

## FE Colleges

- Brighton MET
- East Sussex College Group (Lewes)
- Crawley College
- Northbrook MET
- Chichester
- Plumpton

## Specialists

- Football Academy
  - Sussex Cricket Foundation
  - Table Tennis Academy
  - Construction Academy
  - Digital Media
  - BIMM
  - BRICCT
  - DV8
  - Crawley Town FC
  - Crawley Town Basketball Academy
  - Russell Martin Academy
  - BN1Arts
- Run via BACA

# What level is my child at?

| LEVEL | QUALIFICATION                 |                               |                     |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 8     |                               | DOCTORATE                     |                     |
| 7     | LEVEL 7 NVQ                   | MASTER'S DEGREE/ POSTGRADUATE |                     |
| 6     | HIGHER, DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP | HONOUR'S DEGREE               |                     |
| 5     |                               | FOUNDATION DEGREE, HND        | DipHE               |
| 4     |                               | HNC                           | CertHE              |
| 3     | ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP       | LEVEL 3 NVQ                   | AS/ A LEVEL         |
| 2     | INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP   | LEVEL 2 NVQ                   | GCSE- grade 9 to 4  |
| 1     | TRAINEESHIP                   |                               | GCSE- grade 3, 2, 1 |
| ENTRY | SKILLS FOR LIFE               |                               |                     |
|       | WORK-BASED LEARNING           | VOCATIONAL TRAINING           | ACADEMIC LEARNING   |

T Levels

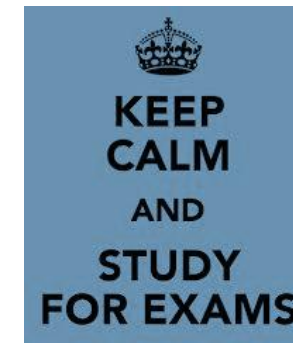


# BHASVIC AND VARNDEAN COLLEGE

- These colleges run a joint application system
- Students cannot apply to both colleges
- They MUST pick one to apply to
- BHASVIC does not offer any Level 2 qualifications so if your son/daughter is borderline on meeting entry requirements, ensure that they have back up applications to other colleges.

# Qualifications – A (Advanced) Levels

- A levels are a 2 year course
- Students usually choose 3 subjects
- In some colleges, they can be mixed with BTEC style courses
- The exams are taken at the end of year 13
- GCSE grades will determine how many & which A levels they are offered to take



# V-Levels

- V Levels are **Level 3 vocational qualifications** set to be introduced from **September 2027**. They provide a **flexible, career-oriented alternative** to traditional academic A-levels and technical T-levels, allowing students to explore different sectors before specialising. Each V Level is equivalent in size to one A-level, enabling students to **mix and match academic and vocational subjects** to suit their interests and career ambitions
- The first V Level subjects will be in **Education and Early Years, Digital, and Finance and Accounting**, with additional subjects such as business, care services, construction, engineering, health, legal, sales, and sports, fitness, and exercise science expected in later years

# Qualifications - Applied General: Level 3 courses

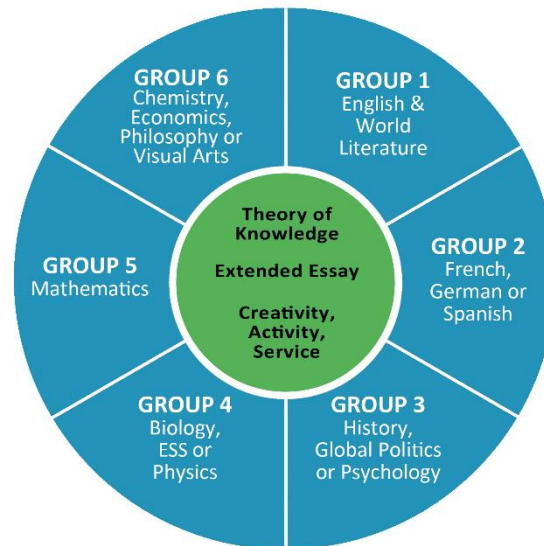
BTEC/UAL/CACHE/NCFE/CamTech/WJEC

- Level 3 Applied Generals are a 2 year course
- They can be a single/double/triple option
- Some colleges can mix them with A levels
- Assessed by written exam/course work/practical
- GCSE grades will determine which subjects they can take and what will be offered



# International Baccalaureate – Varndean College

- A challenging alternative to A Levels, which is taught worldwide and is internationally recognised and understood by universities and employers as an excellent preparation for further study and employment.
- The IB takes two years and is broadly equivalent to four A Levels.
- Students will need to be organised, be interested in studying a broad range of subjects and should be expecting to achieve at least 6 GCSEs at Grades 9-6 including English and Maths
- Universities accept this qualification but students should check course requirements to ensure that the IB is accepted for the course they may wish to study
- IB Specific talk at Varndean College on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm



# Qualifications – T Levels

- 2 year technical qualification
- Equivalent to 3 A levels (stand alone course)
- 900 hours study per academic year (includes 45 days of industry placement)
- Pass to Distinction grading system

## T LEVELS AVAILABLE LOCALLY

### Brighton MET – T Levels in;

Design, Survey and Planning for Construction, Education and Early Years, Digital Business Services, Digital Support Services, Health

# Qualifications – T Levels

**ESCG – Lewes** – T Levels in;

Health, Education and Early Years, Management and Administration

**Crawley College** – T Levels in;

Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction, Engineering, Digital Production, Education and Childcare, Health and Science, Installation and Repair, Management and Administration

**Haywards Heath** – T Level in;

Education and Childcare

# The general rule is.....

- To apply for a Level 3 course your son/daughter will need:
- Minimum of English and Maths at 4/5 grade or above
- They will need at least a total of 5 different subjects at 4/5 or above – this is the minimum required – **check with individual colleges**
- Some A levels such as Maths and the Sciences will require higher GCSE pass grades
- Any BTECs will have to be a Merit/Distinction grade and they will still need at least 4 GCSEs at 4 grade or above including maths and English

# Qualifications: BTEC/Level 2

- Not all colleges offer level 2 courses
- If students have not achieved a grade 4 in English / Maths, this must be taken
- In addition to retakes, usually one other L2 Btec choice equivalent to 3 GCSEs
- Might include compulsory work experience a day a week

# The general rule is.....

To apply for a Level 2 course your son/daughter will need:

- Usually either English, Maths or Science at grade 3
- Also at least 3 other at grade 3
- Any level 2 BTECs at PASS grade
- Excellent attendance record from school
- Positive attitude and a commitment to learning

**\* VERY FEW COLLEGES WILL OFFER GCSE RE-SIT IN ENGLISH OR MATHS  
IF THEY DO NOT GET A 3 GRADE FIRST TIME,  
THEY WILL DO FUNCTIONAL SKILLS AND MOVE ON TO GCSE'S \***

# Level 1 Qualifications

Vocational colleges offer a selected range of Level 1 qualifications in courses such as Motor Vehicle, Hair and Beauty, Art and Design, Computing and Business

## To apply for a Level 1 course you will need:

- An excellent attitude and reference from school
- A commitment to learning
- An understanding of the subject they are choosing and what will be expected from them
- A good interview and in some cases a portfolio of their work
- Some courses may require at least two GCSEs at grade 2 or above.

# Research the College and the qualifications offered

- What are the range of qualifications and courses your son/daughter are looking at?
- Check the level of the courses they are applying for
- Can they do retakes with L2/L3 courses?
- Can they mix A levels with BTECs?
- Does the course include work experience?



# Check entry requirements for every course

In most cases, they will not need to have studied the course at GCSE.

However, there are some such as; Maths and Science where they would need to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to be accepted onto a Level 3 course.

Certain courses such as; Art and Design, ICT and Drama will require them to have achieved a pass in that subject at GCSE.

# Check entry requirements for every course

Different colleges may have different entry requirements for the same course, for example;  
**Sociology A Level**

| COLLEGE                | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BHASVIC                | 6 GCSEs with a minimum of five Grade 4 and one Grade 6 – a minimum of 5 different subjects. Must include a minimum of Grade 4 in English Language or Maths |
| Varndean College       | 6 GCSEs at Grade 9-4 including English                                                                                                                     |
| Haywards Heath College | A minimum of five GCSEs at Grades 9-4 including Grade 4 in English Language and Maths.                                                                     |

# Apprenticeships



## Browse types of Apprenticeships



**Agriculture, Horticulture  
and Animal Care**



**Arts, Media and Publishing**



**Business, Administration  
and Law**



**Construction, Planning and  
the Built Environment**



**Education and Training**



**Engineering and  
Manufacturing  
Technologies**



**Health, Public Services and  
Care**



**Information and  
Communication  
Technology**



**Leisure, Travel and  
Tourism**



**Retail and Commercial  
Enterprise**



# Apprenticeships

## A job:

- At least 30 hours a week
- Minimum wage £8/hr (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026) (usually more)
- Levels 1 – 6
- 12 – 18 months to complete Levels 1-2
- 18 – 24 months to complete Level 3
- 3-5 years to complete Levels 4-6.



## Training:

- Recognised industry based training provided by an accredited training provider either at college, university or all on the job site.

# Apprenticeships

## Functional Skills (level 2):

- English
- Maths
- ICT

**STUDENTS NEED TO HAVE FOUND AN EMPLOYER  
BEFORE THEY ARE ABLE TO START AN  
APPRENTICESHIP**

**(some training providers will help them find the job)**

# Apprenticeships

- Please let Mrs Dorgan know if your son/daughter wishes to apply for an apprenticeship.
- We recommend that they apply to **AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE** as a back-up – just in case they are unable to find the job to support their apprenticeship.



# Resources

- National careers service
- Apprenticeship websites
- What Next Sussex – [getcareerconfident.co.uk/what-next-sussex](https://getcareerconfident.co.uk/what-next-sussex)
- Taster courses and college days
- Workshop in school
- Parents / Carers / Siblings / Teachers
- Mrs Dorgan - Careers Lead
- Independent careers adviser – Christine Joslin, Elev8Careers
- Virtual Parents Apprenticeship Information Meeting – date to be advised in the Spring term.