



RIDGEWAY  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# CAREERS GUIDANCE



2023 – 2024



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# WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?



Staying in 'learning' after 16, gaining qualifications and skills is considered essential if young people are to progress and have the best chance of making the most of the opportunities available to them. It is considered so important that all young people are required to stay in learning until they are 18.

It's important to remember that 'learning' can take place in school, college or work with training – so there should be a route to suit everyone.

Whatever route they choose, it's important to aim for a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English. This could be a GCSE or Functional Skills qualification. This means that young people must continue to study these subjects if they don't get a GCSE at Grade 4 or above.

## How the new grades compare to the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A* A	9 8 7
B C D	6 5 - Strong Pass 4 - Standard Pass
E F G	3 2 1
U	U

## GCSEs

Grading for GCSEs changed a few years ago. All GCSEs are now graded 9-1.

# 11-18 LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT ROUTES

## Learning Routes & Qualifications

GCSEs or other qualifications	Types of qualifications to take next	How long will it take?
At least 4 GCSEs at grade 4 and above or equivalent though some will ask for higher grades	<b>Level 3</b> AS/A Level, Applied and vocational L3 courses (e.g BTEC), T Levels, Apprenticeships	2 years
At least 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or equivalent	<b>Level 2</b> Applied and vocational Level 2 courses, Apprenticeships	1 year
Some GCSEs at grade 1 or 2 or equivalent	<b>Level 1</b> Vocational Level 1 courses, Traineeships	1-2 years
No GCSE grades	<b>Entry Level</b> Foundation/Supported Learning, Traineeships	1-3 years

# 11-18 LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT ROUTES

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OPTIONS AT

11+

OPTIONS AT

16+



# 11-18 LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT ROUTES

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## A Levels

Subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work.



## T Levels

Two-year technical courses equivalent to 3 A Levels



## Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships offer training for a job while working with an employer, alongside study for an associated qualification. You get paid while working.



## Applied and Vocational

Qualifications with an emphasis on developing practical skills for employment which may allow access to Higher Education if taken at Level 3.

# THE ONE YEAR PLAN

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By the end of Year 11 your child will need to make some decisions about their next steps after Year 11.

They often change their mind during the year – or can't decide between two or more options – and often don't have a clue!

It's important to remind them that whilst these decisions are important, they don't need to have the rest of their lives mapped out. Just encourage them to find something they enjoy so that they carry on learning and developing skills they will need for the future.

We have a specialist careers adviser who will be able to help them talk through their concerns, the options available and support them to make a plan. Encourage them to talk to our careers adviser as soon as possible.

Your careers adviser at Ridgeway Secondary School is:

**Mrs R Dixon**  
**[rdixon@rss.shiresmat.org.uk](mailto:rdixon@rss.shiresmat.org.uk)**  
**01527 892867**

# THE ONE YEAR PLAN

This chart shows what your child needs to do and the support available to help them make their choices





# JOBS FOR THE FUTURE



Predicting what kinds of work will be available in the future is very hard. However, research does tell us that workers will need higher skills and qualifications than ever before. Jobs using Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths will be important. People will also need to be adaptable, creative and able to work in teams, so Art subjects are important too.

The following sectors have been identified as areas where jobs are predicted to grow in Worcestershire.

For more information about these areas of work, how to get into them and which companies are looking for young people visit: [skills4worcestershire.co.uk](http://skills4worcestershire.co.uk)

Advanced Manufacturing



Agri-Tech



ICT & Cyber Security



Hospitality & Tourism



# INFORMATION & ADVICE

Speak to your careers adviser or tutor or contact the National Careers Service:

[nationalcareersservice.gov.uk](https://nationalcareersservice.gov.uk) 0800 100 900

## Useful websites

Choices, financial support and sources of help  
[National Careers Service Choices at 16](#)

Higher Education courses [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)

[Worcestershire.gov.uk](https://Worcestershire.gov.uk) search Post 16

## Keeping in Touch

We have a duty to follow up all of our learners, for destination information. We need to collect information for three years after they have left Year 11.

We can support and advise if they are not in education, employment or training via phone, email or letter.

We may share basic information with local organisations that can help with their future. The only time we share information without permission is when the law requires us to do so.

Your child can contact us:

**Mrs R Dixon**

[rdixon@rss.shiresmat.org.uk](mailto:rdixon@rss.shiresmat.org.uk)

01527 892867



# QUESTIONS TO ASK

## Application

- What GCSE grades do they need? Do they need grades in specific subjects?
- What happens if they don't get the required grades?
- What happens if not enough people apply for the course/
- Will they be invited for an interview?
- How long will they have to wait to hear if they have a place?

## Course Content

- What is the balance between taught lessons and independent study?
- How much will be taught online or face to face?
- What is the normal class size?
- What days of the week do students attend?
- What opportunities are there for work experience?
- Will there be help to find a placement?
- What happens if they don't get GCSE Grade 4 in Maths or English?

## Financial

- Are there extra costs for equipment, visits, uniform, books?
- What financial help is available?

## Progression

- What is the pass rate for this course?
- What do students do on to do next?
- If applying for a one-year course, what are the progression routes from this course?
- What career guidance is available?

## Support

- What support do they get to make new friends?
- What support can they expect to receive? This could be pastoral, specialist of personal?
- Who can they speak to if they are struggling?
- What support do they get if they decide to leave?

## Transport

- How will they get there?
- Is there help with the cost of transport?
- Does the transport fit in with the timetable?

## Students with needs

- Can they come and visit and meet tutors before they start?
- How will they be supported at college?
- Are there quiet places they can go to during the day?

## Leisure

- What other things can they get involved in?

## Parent/carer

### Contact

- What contact will there be about their progress once they have started?
- Will I be informed about their progress?
- Who can I speak to if I am worried?

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## CONTACT US

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