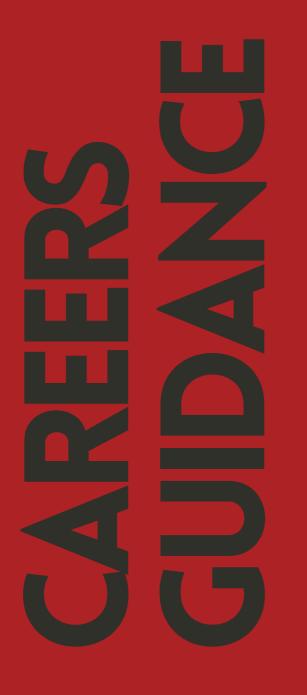


RIDGEWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL





2023 - 2024

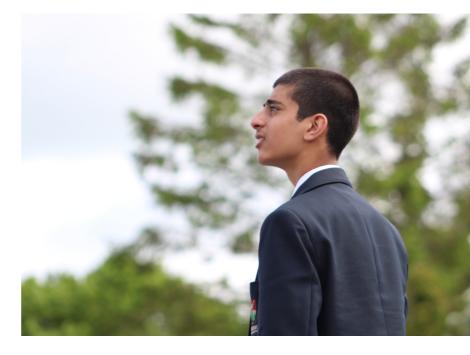


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WHAT ARE THE **OPTIONS?**

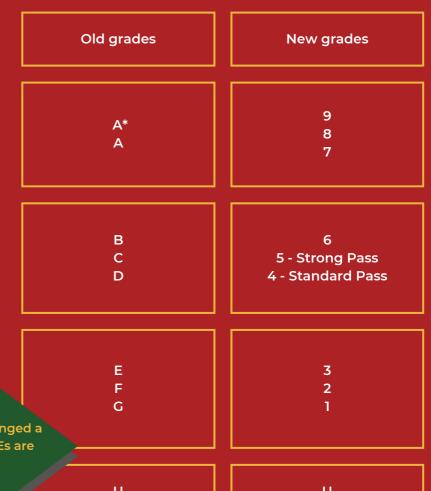


Staying in 'learning' after 16, gaining qualifications and skills is considered essential if young people are to progress and have the best chance of making the most of the opportunities available to them. It is considered so important that all young people are required to stay in learning until they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



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

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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	Level 3 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	Level 2 Applied and vocational Level 2 courses, Apprenticeships	1 year
Some GCSEs at grade 1 or 2 or equivalent	Level 1 Vocational Level 1 courses, Traineeships	1-2 years
No GCSE grades	Entry Level Foundation/Supported Learning, Traineeships	1-3 years

11-18 LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT ROUTES

GCSE

Applied Learning

OPTIONS AT

OPTIONS AT

A Levels T Levels

Applied & Vocational Qualifications e.g BTEC, OCR, City & Guilds

Apprenticeship

11-18 LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT ROUTES



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



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 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

september F Decem All pupils will have a careers meeting with the Careers advisor. Parents can come in to meet with the Careers advisor, email to make an appointment Explore the range of options in employment, training, sixth forms and further education colleges Consider pathways fit around their skills, interests and predicted grades Weigh up all the pros and cons of different options Attend Post 16 Evening at School Visit websites to help with your research: National Careers Service, Unifrog, **Buzz Quiz, Prospects** Check out school, college and training provider websites for more information and go to college and sixth form open days. There are deadlines for making applications - ensure your child is aware of these dates. Don't let them leave everything to the last minute! Contact institutes if your child is likely to need additional support. If they have an EHCP, speak to the school SENDCO, Mrs Trevethick strevethick@rss.shiresmat.org.uk Exams start in May Check the cost of books, trips, equipment and uniforms for Post 16 options Application forms for school or college need to be Discuss with advisers if there are any bursaries completed by the end of January. Offers for a place are for travel or equipment likely to be 'conditional' depending on exam results. Continue to apply for jobs and apprenticeships, If your child is looking for work with training or have an up-to-date CV ready. Use unifrog.org to apprenticeships, they need to start contacting help create one providers and employers Check these sites for apprenticeships: Check with the Sixth forms for application deadlines worcsapprenticeship.org.uk, unifrog.org, gov.uk/applyapprenticeships For a list of training providers, please see V⁰U National Insurance numbers should have been issued Mrs Dixon, your careers adviser by now but if not call 0300 2003500 Your child needs to enrol at college or sixth form, on results day Colleges and Sixth Forms may have induction sessions after exam results Child benefit should still be payable if your child is continuing full time education call Options might need to be considered once they 0300 2003100 have their results. Your careers adviser can help

and advise

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 tow 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



Hospitality & Touris





INFORMATION & ADVICE

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

nationalcareersservice.gov.uk 0800 100 900

Useful websites

Choices, financial support and sources of help <u>National Careers Service Choices at 16</u>

Higher Education courses ucas.com

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 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 bee 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?

CONTACT US

Ridgeway Secondary School, Evesham Road, Astwood Bank, B96 6BD 01527 892 867 | www.ridgewaysecondary.org.uk office@rss.shiresmat.org.uk