

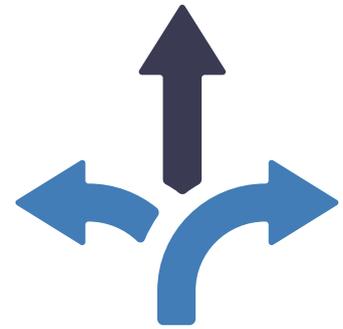
Post 16 Choices Provider Exhibition 2026



**WHICKHAM
SCHOOL**

Post 16 Choices

- Life after Year 11



Deciding which path to take at the end of Year 11 can be daunting, the prospect of leaving school is exciting, but the the options may seem confusing. It feels like the choices you make now are going to affect your opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and qualifications you need for future success. We know that feels like a huge responsibility, but don't worry - the good news is, there are many places you can choose to undertake your Post 16 studies or training. Your Year 10 Careers Programme has been designed to help you prepare yourself to make those choices. Thinking about what is important to you now, and what your future goals may be, will help you to figure out the next steps you need to take.

You may feel like the world of work and future careers are a long way off and you don't know what you want to do and that's okay! You've already started to reflect on your own interests, skills, strengths and personality. You've used that self reflection to inform what kind of work place, job or career you may be suited to, and you've started to research what qualifications and skills will be needed to get you there.

Today's event is a key part of figuring out what course of further study or training is going to be right for you - it's your opportunity to hear from the people who know best what's on offer. Use your time wisely - **ask all of the questions** you may have - don't be shy - the providers love it when you ask questions so be aspirational and be engaged!

Top Tips:

- ✓ **Don't feel like you have to rush to make a decision.**
- ✓ **Gather all the information you can from a variety of sources.**
- ✓ **Remember: this is your life! Don't be influenced by where your friends are going.**
- ✓ **Think about your learning style and the environments you feel most comfortable with.**
- ✓ **Does the provider offer the qualifications you need for the job you want?**
- ✓ **Can you meet the expectations of the provider?**



What are your options?



The Law

In 2013 the Participation Age Law was passed that stated that young people must be in some form of education or training until they are 18 years of age. This means that you must remain in education or training; this can be at Whickham Sixth Form, another school Sixth Form, at a College or with a training provider as part of an Apprenticeship scheme.

Full Time Study Sixth Form

- ✓ Choose 3 subjects at Level 3 - either A Level or BTEC based on what you enjoy, are good at or what interests you
- ✓ Entry requirements for Level 3 qualifications are usually 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+ with a 5 or 6 in the subjects you wish to study at Level 3
- ✓ Formal, structured, familiar environment with strong focussed pastoral support

Full Time Study FE College

- ✓ Focus on practical or vocational skills and courses
- ✓ Can focus on one subject or career path
- ✓ You can study Entry Level (1) or Intermediate Level (2) qualifications if you got lower GCSE grades
- ✓ Flexible approach with a focus on being an independent learner

Apprenticeships

- ✓ A paid job, with hands-on experience and the chance to train while you work.
- ✓ You are treated just like all other employees with a contract of employment and annual holiday leave (approx 25 days)
- ✓ Will take 1-6 years to complete depending on the level
- ✓ 20% of your time will be in off-the-job training at college, university or training provider

Part-Time Study & Employment

- ✓ You must be in part-time study or education with an approved education or training provider and be working towards a nationally recognised qualification.
- ✓ Whilst doing so you should also be employed, self-employed or volunteering for at least 20 hours per week
- ✓ Not all jobs will meet the requirement of 20+ hours per week - make sure you check before committing to part time study

Qualifications

GCSE's - How Important are they?

Your GCSEs are the first step on your journey to your future and chosen career. They will help you move forward and give you a better choice of jobs.

The number of jobs for people with no qualifications is shrinking quickly.

They also help to improve your earning power - people with qualifications earn more during their lifetime than those without.

GCSE results are an important part of your academic and career pathway. GCSE results can affect the following:

- Sixth form options available
- The range of further qualifications that can be taken after GCSEs
- Eligibility for some universities and courses
- Future Career Prospects

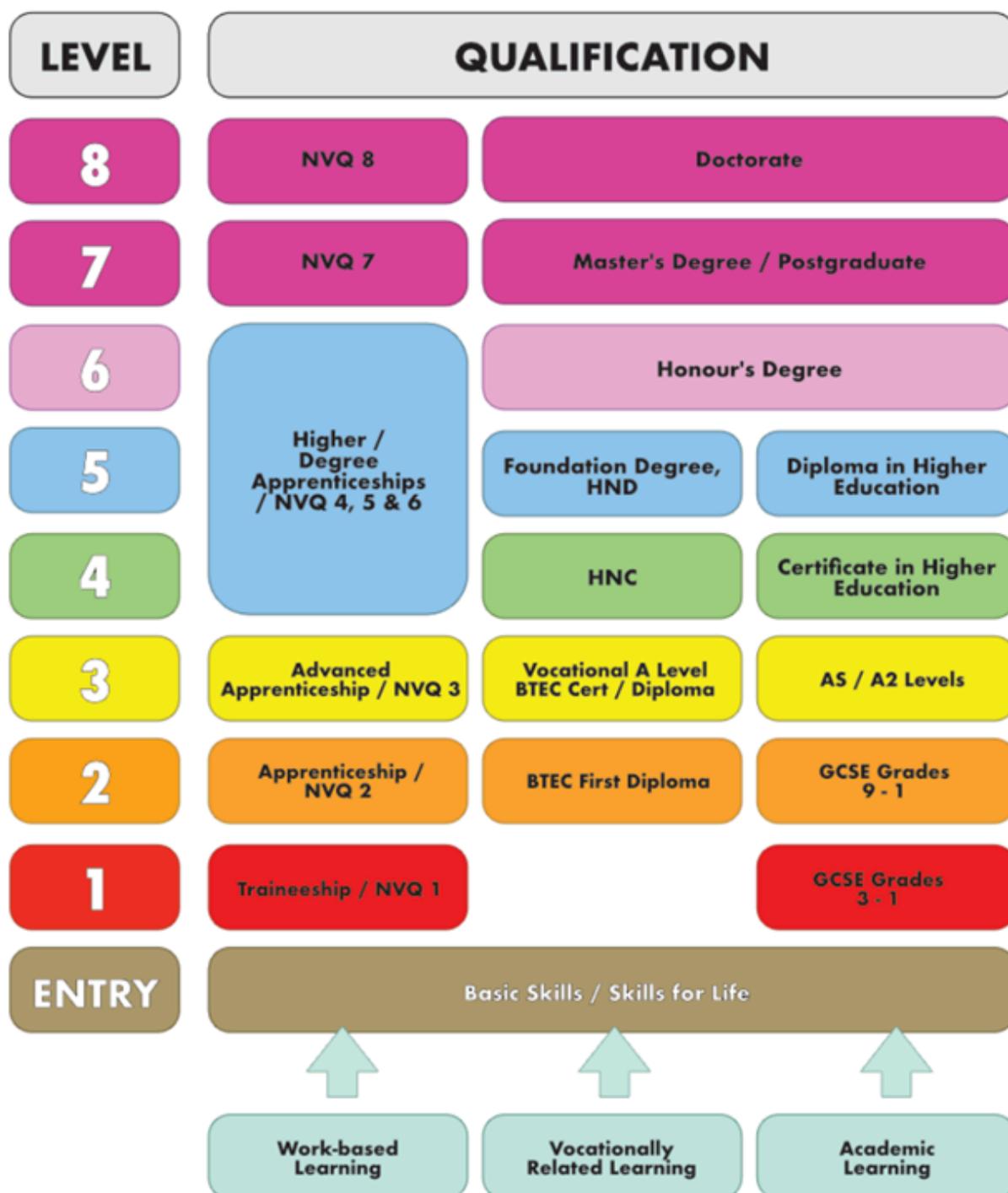


Further Qualifications - Why Bother?

Qualifications are your passport to more opportunities in education, training and work. Here are six good reasons why you should take qualifications seriously

- **Give you a better choice of jobs:** If you want a choice of jobs, you need good qualifications.
- **Make sure you don't spend your life in a dead-end job:** Without qualifications, it is hard to move on from a low paid, low skilled job.
- **Improve your earning power:** There is a big pay gap between people with qualifications and those without them. If you want a well-paid job, you need good qualifications.
- **Show other people what you can do:** Qualifications show employers, colleges and universities that you have the attitude, skills and knowledge they value. They tell them what you already know and can do. They also give them an idea of how well you might do in the future.
- **Prove to other people that you can learn:** Qualifications show people that you want to learn and that you can learn. Employers, colleges and universities look for people like this.
- **Show yourself what you can do:** Gaining qualifications boosts your self-confidence and self-awareness.

Qualification Levels



For further information on what the qualifications mean, please visit:
www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-ofqualification-levels

Planning your next steps



Making the decision about what to do after Year 11 can be tricky. It is important to think about what is right for you and your future.

Ask yourself:

“Will my Post 16 choice take me where I want to go”?

Do your research

It is important that you do your research so that you can make an informed decision.

Think about your future career aspirations. If you have a particular career or job in mind make sure you know about what qualifications you will need:

- Will you need a university degree?
- Can you access via and apprenticeship.?

Know yourself

If you're not sure what kind of job or career would be of interest to you it's useful to start to build an awareness of your own self:

- What employability skills do I have?
- What are my likes (and dislikes)?
- What am I good at and enjoy doing?
- What other skills and knowledge will I need to get me where I want to be?
- What would I not want to spend all day doing?
- What are my values and preferences?



UNIFROG Quizzes

Make sure you complete your Unifrog quizzes. They will help you to understand more about your skills, strengths, interests, personality and the work environments you are suited to.



On-Line Resources

Use the Unifrog Careers Library and other on-line resources to review different job profiles. This will outline what a job entails, salary, working hours, qualifications and skills needed, along with the different pathways into that kind of work. There are lots of really useful resources listed on the school website:

www.whickhamschool.org/our-curriculum/ceiag/post-16-options/



Discuss your ideas

It's not always easy to consider your own strengths realistically but you can get a really good insight by discussing them with others - try chatting with family, friends or teachers. You can also get a really good idea if a learning environment is right for you by speaking to the providers themselves.

Careers Provision at Whickham

Website

www.whickhamschool.org/ourcurriculum/ceiag/

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