



Year 12

**Post 18 Options
(non HE)**

June 2020

There are a huge range of options available to students when they leave school after Year 13. This guide aims to give advice on the opportunities outside of Higher Education.

Which Career For You?

There are a variety of resources available to support students who are making decisions as to which type of industry or 'job group' may suit them best at this time of their lives. Primarily, students should be researching this on **Unifrog** (all students have been given information on this excellent resource in school), but in terms of a 'job-matching' questionnaire we recommend 'Prospects Planner'. Although aimed at graduates, it is also applicable for school leavers and will give ideas based on the students' skills and motivations (www.prospects.ac.uk/planner).

Once they have started their research, students are advised to talk their ideas and options through with their teachers, tutor and/or one of the sixth form team.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available in a variety of industries and career sectors, for example law, finance, engineering, digital media, science, business and education to name but a few. An apprenticeship is a genuine job and, in all apprenticeships, an apprentice is employed from day one. Working alongside experienced staff whilst gaining job-specific skills and earning a wage, they combine this with studying for an industry-recognised qualification related to their role.

There are apprenticeships available at different levels as, once the apprenticeship has been completed successfully, they are eligible to apply for the next level. Most Year 13 students would apply to either Higher or Degree Apprenticeships although, in some areas, they may need to complete an Advanced Level Apprenticeship before moving on to the higher level. This could be due to the subject/grades required or the nature of the job.

Apprenticeship	Level	Equivalent Educational Level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A Level/CTEC passes
Higher	4, 5, 6, 7	Foundation Degree and above
Degree	6, 7	Bachelor's or Master's Degree

Although the legal wage for an apprentice in their first year is the same as the national minimum wage, in reality the salaries are much higher. Apprenticeships we have advertised this year have ranged between £12k and £21k p.a., with the average being around £17k.

Apprenticeships with large organisations generally start being advertised a year in advance (i.e. September 2020 for a September 2021 start) with deadlines being around November/December. However, most apprenticeships are advertised from January onwards. Students are advised to look for vacancies on **Unifrog** as well as those on the:

- Government-run apprenticeship website www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- UCAS website www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk
- 'Not Going To Uni' website www.notgoingtouni.co.uk.

Most apprenticeships will ask for a CV and/or application form and many also require an interview. Larger organisations may ask the applicants to attend an assessment day, which could involve an interview, presentation and/or group activity. We will give the student all the support they need with their applications, including a 'mock' interview if necessary.

Top Tips for Applying to Apprenticeships

- Research the types of jobs/industries which interest you and suit your skills and abilities. Talk through your ideas with the sixth form team, tutor and teachers.
- Make contact with people who work in those industries and organise work experience.
- Research the organisations and universities/colleges which offer apprenticeships. Employers could be large companies or small local firms – which would you prefer? Think about where you want to work/study.
- Speak to your teachers regarding your predicted grades. Higher and Degree apprenticeships vary in their A Level/CTEC entry requirements.
- Put together a CV and practise your interview technique by organising a mock interview. Seek advice from the sixth form team if necessary.
- Remember that you can apply to several apprenticeships at the same time (as well as university applications). Keep your options open.
- Speak to the sixth form team if you're unsure about applying to apprenticeships or any aspects to do with your next steps.