



# The Howard School



**GUIDE TO POST-16 OPTIONS**

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# Introduction

It is difficult at any age to know what career or job you want to go into, and helping advise and inform a young person about education and training pathways can be a real challenge.

This guide is designed to help you support a young person with their post-16 decisions, we will explain the different options available and provide useful websites for further reading.

At The Howard School, we strive to prepare our students for whatever future they wish to pursue. We are committed to providing high quality careers education, information, advice, guidance and work-related learning.

During Year 11, pupils must decide on the future of their education. The Government's recent Raising the Participation Age (RPA) means that all young people in England will be required to continue in full-time education or combining work and study until their 18th birthday.

All year 11 students will be given a 1-2-1 guidance interview with our careers advisor where they can discuss their options, ask questions and get support with applications.



## MEET THE TEAM:

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**MR EDWARDS**  
**CAREERS LEAD**



**MRS MASON**  
**CAREERS ADVISOR**

# Full-Time Education

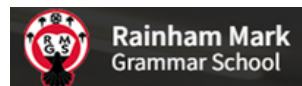
You could take a range of subjects that lead to various qualifications that keep your options open, like GCSE or A levels. Courses like T Levels or BTEC allow you to focus on a chosen career area like construction, healthcare science or digital careers. Some careers may ask for specific qualifications, so always do some research into where the course you are interested in might lead.

## 6th Form

Sixth forms typically focus on A-Level qualifications – two year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A\*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth.

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form.

Entry Requirements – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above but make sure that you do your research as some courses, such as A Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.



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## College

Colleges offer a whole range of different courses and study programmes from those that do not need any specific GCSE grades such as Entry Level courses through to apprenticeships, A Levels, Higher Education degrees, and professional or technical qualifications.





# Qualifications Explained

## A levels

**Description:** Carry on studying subjects you took for GCSE to a higher level, or pick new ones you may not have done before like economics, law or psychology. You could take 3 very different subjects you are interested in to keep your career options open or choose more closely related subjects if you need them for a specific career.



**Duration:** 2 years

**Assessment:** Mostly exams at the end of the course

**Entry requirements:** Typically 5 GCSEs Grade 9-4 (usually including English and maths)

**Leads to:** University or college courses, higher and degree apprenticeships, work

## T Levels

**Description:** Designed in partnership with employers to give you the skills and knowledge to get on in the workplace. You'll combine classroom learning with real work placements. 1 T Level is the equivalent of 3 A levels.

**Duration:** 2 years

**Assessment:** Exams, projects and practical assignments

**Entry requirements:** Course dependent

**Leads to:** Work, higher and degree apprenticeships, college and university courses

## Vocational and technical qualifications

**Description:** These courses teach you the practical skills and knowledge for a particular area of employment. They can prepare you for a broad employment sector, like engineering or travel and tourism, or for a specific job like a chef or a hairdresser. Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be involved in.

**Duration:** 1 or more years

**Assessment:** Can include coursework, skills tests and exams

**Entry requirements:** Course dependent

**Leads to:** Apprenticeship, work, college or university

## Applied qualifications

**Description:** Qualifications that give you a broad overview of working in a specific sector, like business, media, engineering, leisure or science and technology. A mix of classroom-based learning with the chance to get some practical skills.

**Duration:** Course dependent

**Assessment:** Course dependent (coursework and exams)

**Entry requirements:** Course dependent

**Leads to:** University/college, apprenticeship, work

## Exam retakes

**Description:** If you didn't get the results you wanted, you can resit some of your courses or sign up for some new qualifications.

Location: School sixth form, sixth form college or further education college

**Duration:** 1 year

**Entry requirements:** 16+

**Leads to:** Higher level or degree apprenticeship, further education, higher education, work



# Combine Work & Study

Gain practical skills, get work experience and a qualification that employers need



## Apprenticeships

**Description:** Intermediate, advanced higher and degree apprenticeships combine practical on-the-job skills training with off-the-job learning. You'll get training that is relevant to your job and be paid a salary. Start at a level to suit you, with support if you have special needs or a disability.

**Location:** You'll spend 80% of your time in the workplace and 20% off-the-job with some study in a college, training centre or Institute of Technology (IoT)

**Duration:** A minimum of 1 year

**Entry requirements:** Will be dependent on the industry, job role and apprenticeship level

**Qualifications:** apprenticeship certificate, diploma, degree and masters depending on level

**Leads to:** Work, next level of apprenticeship, further education, higher education

## Traineeships

**Description:** A course that includes a work placement that will get you ready for an apprenticeship or a job. You'll get work experience and some help to apply for your next steps. You can also improve your maths and English skills. You'll get work experience and some help to apply for whatever you do next.

**Location:** You'll spend a minimum of 70 hours in a work placement with the rest of your time in college or a training centre

**Duration:** 6 weeks to 1 year

**Entry requirements:** You need to be aged between 16 to 24 or up to 25 with an Education Health and Care Plan with no higher than a level 3 qualification

**Qualifications:** English, maths, digital and work-related qualifications

**Leads to:** Apprenticeship, further education, work

## Supported internships

**Description:** Supported internships are for young people with learning difficulties or learning disabilities, who need extra support to get a job.

**Location:** You'll spend most of your time on placements with an employer, learning skills for work. You'll also get help from a tutor and a job coach in college or with a specialist provider.

**Duration:** A minimum of 6 months

**Entry requirements:** Aged 16-24 with an Education Health and Care Plan

**Qualifications:** GCSE English and maths

**Leads to:** Work, traineeship, apprenticeship

## School leaver schemes

**Description:** A chance to learn and train with a large company while earning a wage. Offered in sectors like accountancy, engineering, finance, IT, law, leisure and retail. Similar to graduate employment schemes run over a longer period of time.

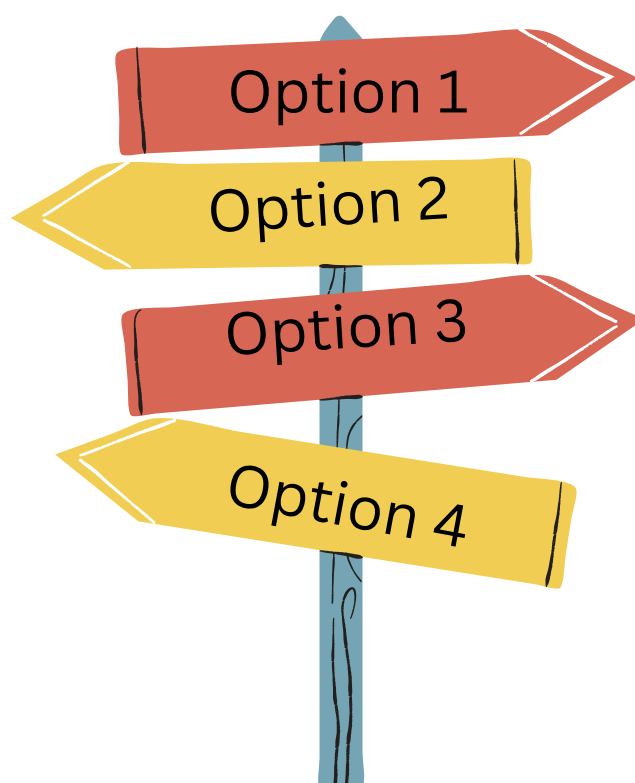
**Location:** You'll often rotate between different locations with the same company to get experience and it can include distance learning or time in college or university

**Duration:** 3 to 7 years

**Entry requirements:** Usually high grade A levels or equivalent and a keen interest in the sector you want to work in

**Qualifications:** A university degree and/or professional qualification

**Leads to:** Professional employment





# Thing to Consider...

What GCSE grades do you need?

What subjects do you enjoy now?

Is the learning environment right for you?

What do students typically progress on to after completing the course?

What motivates you?

What are you good at?

What do you enjoy?  
Hobbies/likes/interests

The future!!!  
(entry requirements for Uni or career goal)

# Useful Websites

## Careers information

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> provides careers advice and information on a wide range of jobs, training courses, resources and funding.

<https://icould.com/> to explore lots of different careers and entry routes.

[www.careerpilot.org.uk/](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/) helps you plan your route, build a profile, find a provider and search job sectors. For A Levels, vocational qualifications, apprenticeships and more.

[www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/choosing-my-subjects](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/choosing-my-subjects) can help you explore your options and find the career that's right for you.

<https://successatschool.org/> search career paths, explore career zones to obtain lists of different jobs/sectors and how to get there (whether you're going to uni or not).

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/> helps young people to understand and develop the key skills they need to go forward into the world of work.

[www.allaboutcareers.com/](http://www.allaboutcareers.com/) gives information for 16-24 year olds looking for graduate schemes, graduate jobs, apprenticeships, placements & internships.

[www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications](http://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications) gives lots of information on Post-16 education options

[www.tlevels.gov.uk/](http://www.tlevels.gov.uk/) gives more information on the new T Levels.

## Specific sector information

Explore careers within the Health Sector using [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/) and [www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk/](http://www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk/)

Explore careers within the Construction Industry using [www.goconstruct.org/](http://www.goconstruct.org/)

Explore careers within Engineering using [www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/](http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/)

For an apprenticeship in Technology, Project Management or Business then look at [www.qa.com/learners/become-an-apprentice/](http://www.qa.com/learners/become-an-apprentice/)

## Apprenticeships

[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) and [www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship) enables you to search and apply online for apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities.

For more information on apprenticeships check out

[www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/](http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/) which gives information on the different types of apprenticeships and also helps to find the right one for you, either through a school subject you enjoy or by choosing what you are interested in (e.g. – working with people, working outdoors, etc.).

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parents/> gives lots of apprenticeship resources for students, parents and schools. Use ‘Vacancy Snapshot’ which provides useful information on well-known employers which may help you with your application

The UK’s leading job resource for young people seeking apprenticeships is

[www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/](http://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/)

[www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/](http://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/) gives information on apprenticeship, traineeship

opportunities, advice articles and industry guides.

## Higher Apprenticeships

You can also access information on ‘Higher and Degree’ apprenticeships through [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and [www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-workexperience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-workexperience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships).

## Volunteering

For more information on volunteering opportunities check out

<https://vinspired.com/>

<https://do-it.org/>

[www.ncvo.org.uk/](http://www.ncvo.org.uk/).

The National Citizen Service (<https://wearencs.com/summercan>) also be a really good way for 15-17 year olds to develop their skills and experiences.

## Other support

[www.suttontrust.com/](http://www.suttontrust.com/) is an educational charity in the United Kingdom which aims to improve social mobility and address educational disadvantages.

[www.shaw-trust.org.uk/](http://www.shaw-trust.org.uk/) supports disabled and disadvantaged people to prepare for work, find jobs and live more independently.

[www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people) gives you the skills, tools, training and confidence you need to secure the job you want.

# SOME OF THE COMPANIES WE WORK WITH:

**Bauvill**

**oxdenfloors**  
L I M I T E D

( expleo )

dovetail  
GAMES 

 **The Electrical  
ACADEMY**

**co  
op**



**Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service**

**kta**  
kent training and  
apprenticeships



**Kent  
Police**

 **Law** training  
centre

**ALLTASK**<sup>®</sup>  
Serious about Service since 1992

University of  
**Kent**

**first intuition**   
where people count

 **camfil**

 **national  
highways**



 **UNIVERSITY of  
GREENWICH**  
EVERY HILL | GREENWICH | MEDWAY

**nationalgrid**

  
**MidKent College**

  
**CROSSLEY GROUP**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**CPI**

We are keen to hear your thoughts about our careers programme and any ideas or suggestions you may have about how it could be developed. Please also feel free to get in touch if you would like to support any of our careers events.



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