

Sheffield
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Options 2021

Your choices at 16 and beyond

Autumn 2020



Pathways at 16+

You can choose from:

1. Academic pathway.
2. Apprenticeship pathway.
3. Vocational (or technical) pathway.



1. Academic Pathway

- A Levels, AS Levels.
- Studying ideas and gaining knowledge.
- Assessed mainly by exams at end of course.
- Entry requirement usually 5 GCSE grades 9-4.
Some subjects expect grades 9-5 / 9-6.
- Typically 3 A Levels studied (sometimes 2).



AS Levels

- Separate qualifications from A Levels.
- A very small number available locally.
- Studied over one year.
- Same entry requirements / assessment methods as A Levels.
- If you move on to an A Level in that subject, the AS result does not count towards your A Level grade.



2. Apprenticeship pathway

- Apprenticeships are real jobs that pay a wage.
- 80% work, 20% training.
- Training at different levels.
- Entry requirement depends on level.





Apprenticeship levels

Intermediate – Level 2

Training equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4.

May require at least GCSE grades 3 or equivalent, or a selection test.

Advanced – Level 3

Training equivalent to A Level.

Often requires GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent.

Higher / Degree – Levels 4-6

Age 18+.

Lead to higher education / professional qualifications.



Work based learning

Work based learning can help you get the skills and experience you need for an apprenticeship. It offers:

- Learning in a workplace or work environment.
- Help with job hunting, CVs and interviews.
- Support with English and maths.
- Examples include **Traineeships** and **Study Programmes**.



3. Vocational pathway

- A middle way.
- Your study is related to a job or area of work (work sector).
- The study is at different levels.
- The entry requirements vary depending on the level.





Qualifications at age 16+



Main types of qualification

Academic

- A Levels / AS Levels,
- Based on ideas, theories and knowledge.
- Normally need GCSE grades 9-4 (sometimes 9-5 / 9-6) or equivalent.
- Assessed mainly by exam.

Vocational / Technical

- E.g. BTEC, NVQ, T Levels.
- Prepare for a broad work area or specific job.
- Can be studied at different levels.
- Entry requirements depend on the level.
- Varied assessment methods.



Qualification levels

Levels 4-6 (e.g. degree, foundation degree, HND)

Normally require Level 3 qualifications, e.g. A Level, BTEC National.

Level 3 (e.g. A Level, BTEC National, T Level)

Normally requires at least GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent.

Level 2 (e.g. BTEC First, NVQ 2)

Normally requires GCSE grades 3 or equivalent

Level 1 (e.g. BTEC Level 1, NVQ 1)

Normally requires GCSE grades 1-2 or equivalent.

Entry Level (e.g. Entry Level Functional Skills)

No set entry requirements.





T Levels

www.tlevels.gov.uk

- New vocational (also called ‘technical’) qualifications.
- 80% classroom, 20% work related.
- At least 45 days in industry.
- Level 3 – equivalent to A Level.
- Entry requirements normally around 5 GCSE grades 9-4.
- Locally at Barnsley College (from September 2020).
and Doncaster College (from September 2021).
- Subject areas will include construction, education and childcare, digital, health, science, with more to be added.



Where you can learn

- The Sheffield College (City, Hillsborough, Olive Grove, Peaks)
- A school 6th form
- Longley Park 6th Form
- UTC (Sheffield city centre or Olympic Legacy Park)
- Chapeltown Academy
- A college or sixth form outside Sheffield
- A training provider



Sheffield Progress

www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

- Details of courses, apprenticeships and work-based learning in and around Sheffield.
- An applications system for local sixth forms, colleges and some training providers.

Your school will explain how to use it and give you login details.



Higher education



Aiming at higher education?

The main routes at 16+

- A Levels.
- Vocational qualifications at Level 3.
- A mix of the two.
- Some apprenticeships (at Level 3).

Things to consider

- Some qualifications are more suitable for certain courses.
- Some (not all) higher education courses want specific subjects.



Higher education: the cost

- **Tuition** – up to £9,250 a year but may change from 2021.
- **Living costs**, e.g. rent if you live away from home.

Help includes:

- **Student loans** – cover tuition fees and help with living costs. You start repaying loans when you earn over a certain amount. Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe.
- **Bursaries** for some students / courses, including nursing and midwifery – don't have to be repaid.



Higher education

Find out more

- UCAS: www.ucas.com
- www.informedchoices.ac.uk – *course ideas based on subjects*
- www.gov.uk/student-finance - *Student Finance*
- University / college websites and social media
- University / college admissions staff



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Money



Child Benefit

Paid until age 20 if you are in:

- Full time learning e.g. college, sixth form.
- Approved work based-learning that doesn't pay a wage, e.g. study programme, traineeship.

Not paid if you are in:

- A job / apprenticeship.
- Higher education.



Child Benefit Extension

- Child Benefit stops at the end of August if you're not in full time learning (or earlier if you start a job / apprenticeship before then).
- If you're not fixed up at his point, Child Benefit Extension can be claimed for a further limited period.
- www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19
Or call: **0300 200 3100**.



16-19 Bursary

Vulnerable Bursary

Worth up to **£1,200**.

Paid if you are:

- In care / leaving care.
- Receiving Income Support / Universal Credit or certain disability benefits **in your own name**.

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund





16-19 Bursary

Discretionary Bursary

- Might be paid if you're in full time learning and facing hardship but can't get a Vulnerable Bursary.
- Can be a payment or help towards costs such as travel.
- The school / college / training provider decide who receives it and how it is paid.

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund.



Minimum wage

- Under age 18: £4.55 an hour.
- Apprentice: £4.15 an hour.

(For apprentices under age 19, or over 19 but in first year.)

Rates from April 2020



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Next steps!



Autumn term

- Careers guidance appointments.
- Open events / careers events – mostly online.
- Use *Options 2021* guides and *Sheffield Progress*.
- Check your predicted grades.
- Work out a main plan and a backup plan.
- Prepare your Sheffield Progress application.





Applications

Many applications should reach Sheffield Progress by the **end of January 2021**.

Your school may set an earlier deadline.



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Find out more

www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk

www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.ucas.com



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Thank you!

