

Post 16 Advice & Guidance 2024/25



Pathways from Year 11

There are 3 main pathways:

1. Academic pathway – 6th Forms/Colleges
2. Apprenticeship/work-based learning pathway
3. Vocational pathway - College



Academic Pathway: AS/A Levels

- Ideas and knowledge
- Assessed mainly by exams
- Normally require at least 5 GCSE grades 9-4
- Some subjects expect grades 9-5 / 9-6
- Typically 3 A Levels studied (sometimes 4)
- AS Levels are equivalent to around 40% of an A Level and only a small number are available locally.



Apprenticeship Pathway

- Apprenticeships are jobs that pay a wage
- They involve 80% work, 20% training
- The training is at different levels
- Entry requirements are set by the employer and depend partly on the level of training
- You need to be able to fit into a workplace ('work ready')



Apprenticeship Levels

Intermediate – Level 2

Training equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4

May need at least grades 3 or equivalent, or selection tests

Advanced – Level 3

Training equivalent to A Level

Often requires 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 give you skills and experience to help you get 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**



Vocational Pathway

- You study a job or area of work at college
- Entry requirements may be flexible as you can often study at different levels
- Leads to qualifications such as BTEC, CTEC, NVQ and T Levels at levels 1, 2 or 3



Qualification Levels

Levels 4-6 (higher education)

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

Level 3 (e.g. A Level, BTEC National, CTEC, T Levels, advanced apprenticeship)

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

Level 2 (e.g. BTEC First, CTEC, NVQ 2, intermediate apprenticeship)

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.



Sheffield Progress

www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

- Details of courses, apprenticeships and work-based learning in and around Sheffield.
- An online application platform for many local sixth forms, colleges and some training providers.

Your school will explain how to use it and provide login details



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 suited to certain courses.
- Some – not all – higher education courses want specific subjects.



Higher education: The Cost

- **Tuition:** currently up to £9,250 a year – covered by a student loan so *not* paid in advance.
- **Living costs:** e.g. rent if you live away from home.

Help includes:

- **Student loans** – repayments start when you earn over a certain amount. Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe.
 - **Bursaries** for some students / courses – *no repayment*
- Stop Press:** Some of this may change!



Money



Child Benefit

Paid until age 20 if you are in:

- Full time approved 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.



16-19 Bursary

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

Vulnerable Bursary

Up **£1,200** if you're in full time learning and:

- In or leaving care.
- Receive Universal Credit or certain other benefits in your own name.

Discretionary Bursary

- Might be paid if you're in full time learning and facing hardship but can't get a Vulnerable Bursary.



Next Steps!



Autumn Term

- Careers guidance appointments
- Open events / careers events
- Use ***Options Guide 2025*** and ***Sheffield Progress***
- Check your Most Likely Outcome (MLO) grades
- Have a plan A and a plan B
- Prepare your Sheffield Progress application



Applications

All applications should be submitted by the middle of January 2025. Every application will be checked by the Careers Team.

Applications can be made at home or with support from the Careers Team in school.



Find out more

www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk

www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

www.amazingapprenticeships.com

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.ucas.com

www.informedchoices.ac.uk – subject choice at 16+

www.gov.uk/student-finance – Student Finance



Thank You!

