

# Post 16 Advice & Guidance



# Pathways from Year 11

There are 3 main pathways:

1. Academic pathway – 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk)

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

[www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk) – subject choice at 16+

[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) – Student Finance



# Thank You!

