

# POST 16 OPTIONS: WHAT CAN I DO AT THE END OF YEAR 11?

**The Raising of the Participation Age means at the end of year 11 you will need to continue in education or training until at least your 18th birthday.**

## FULL-TIME EDUCATION

*Full-time courses can be described as:*

**General academic courses** (e.g. A Levels): A Levels are level 3 qualifications. Good GCSE grades are needed to show you can cope with the level of study required. A Levels normally last for two years and students normally study 3 or 4 subjects. A wide range of subjects can be studied. You can progress onto Higher Education courses or Advanced Apprenticeships.

**Vocational (work-related) courses** (e.g. BTEC): Level 1 to 3 courses are available to year 11 leavers. Level 1 and 2 courses often last one year and Level 3 two years. A wide variety of vocational areas are available. BTEC Level 3 enables you to progress onto Higher Education or Advanced Apprenticeships.

**Foundation learning courses:** A variety of courses are available at Entry 1, 2 and 3. These include: independent living, employability skills and vocational programmes. Courses generally last for one year.

*NB: T Levels are starting to be introduced from September 2020. These will combine academic and vocational study.*

*You can choose to continue your education at:*

**College** There are a range of colleges across Birmingham and its surroundings (e.g Solihull and Walsall)

**School Sixth Forms**

## APPRENTICESHIPS

Give you the opportunity to combine on the job training with studying for a qualification. Apprenticeships are available from Intermediate (Level 2), Advanced (Level 3) up to Higher & Degree (Levels 4, 5, 6 & 7). It usually takes between one and four years to complete an apprenticeship depending on the level taken.

Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industries and many prestigious companies offer them (popular examples include: Jaguar Land Rover; Virgin Media; Specsavers, etc.) If you have an EHCP then a minimum of Entry Level 3 qualification in English or maths can be acceptable, if agreed by the employer.

## TRAINEESHIPS

Are for young people who want to get an apprenticeship but need to develop their skills and experience. They offer work experience and help (if needed) with English and maths.

Apply direct to training providers. You can progress onto an Apprenticeship following the completion of a Traineeship.

## STUDY PROGRAMMES (PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS)

Are for young people who are not sure what job area they want to do. They offer the chance to try out different job areas, gain practical qualifications and support with your English and maths.

You can progress onto a Traineeship following the completion of a Study Programme.

## SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24, with an EHCP, to achieve paid employment by equipping them with skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. Young people also complete a personalised study programme including English, maths and other qualifications.

**BIRMINGHAM  
CAREERS SERVICE**  
guiding young people

Property of Birmingham Careers Service - This information should not be copied in any format and is for the sole use of Birmingham Careers Service staff. If you have not received this information from a Birmingham Careers Service member of staff there is every likelihood that the information is out of date and should not be relied upon.