

# 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**

### SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily with 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.

### 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.

### STUDY PROGRAMMES (PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS)

Not everyone is ready to start full-time college or an apprenticeship after Year 11. So you can begin your journey with a Study programme (sometimes called a pre-apprenticeship programme).

These are flexible programmes built around what you want and need to do next, and any career plans you have.

**They combine the following elements:**

- Qualifications that prepare you for the next level of education or for employment
- English and Maths if you have not achieved GCSE Grade 4
- Work Experience to develop your career choices and get a first taste of work
- Activities to enhance your CV

You can do a Study Programme with a local college, or a Training Provider.

Ask your Careers Adviser for more information.

**BIRMINGHAM  
CAREERS SERVICE**  
guiding young people