

Exploring Post-16 Options

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What are the main options at 16 after GCSEs?

Post-16 options

- Full-time education (e.g. at a School 6th Form or College to study academic or technical and vocational courses, e.g. A Levels, BTECs, T Levels etc.)
- Apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship
- Part-time education or training - as well as being employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week

Post-16 Options

Continue your studies (academic and technical & vocational)

- A Levels
- Applied Qualifications (e.g. BTEC, UAL, Applied A Levels)
- T Levels
- Technical & Vocational Qualifications (e.g. C&G, IMI, NVQ)
- Exam retakes

Combine work and study

- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Supported Internships

A Levels (Level 3) at Grammar Schools/6th Forms/Colleges

What does the letter 'A' in A Levels stand for?

Advanced

How are A Levels assessed and graded?

Mainly exams at the end of the 2 years, and pass grades are A*-E (and a fail is a U)

How many A Levels can you take at UGS or elsewhere?

Usually 3, however in exceptional cases 4

(and some 6th Forms/Colleges may allow 3 plus an AS Level which is completed in Year 12 and worth 40% of an A Level, whereas at UGS and elsewhere you could do 3 plus an EPQ which is an Extended Project Qualification)

A Levels (Level 3) at Grammar Schools/6th Forms/Colleges

Name 4 new A Level subjects on offer at UGS and 4 new A Levels elsewhere

Economics, Government & Politics, Psychology and Sociology at UGS, and 3D Design, Classical Civilisations, Law and Media Studies (& more) elsewhere

How many hours of independent study per week is expected at A Level to achieve the top grades?

Approximately 4-5 hours minimum per subject outside of lesson time

Can you combine A Levels with other qualifications?

Yes, at some 6th Forms/Colleges depending on their offer (e.g. with BTECs and/or Applied A Levels), but this option is not available at Grammar Schools

Applied Qualifications (BTEC, UAL, Applied A Levels – Level 3) at 6th Forms/Colleges

How is a BTEC assessed and graded?

Some BTECs are assessed completely through assignments/coursework, whereas newer BTECs are assessed through a combination of assignments/coursework and set tasks, performances or tests, and pass grades are Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass (and a fail is a U) – Classroom based learning & gain practical skills

How many BTECs can you take at a 6th Form or College (as not offered in Grammar Schools)?

Often students take 1 (worth 3 A levels if a BTEC Level 3) however you can take a BTEC Level 3 course worth 1, 2 or 3 A levels (so can combine with Applied/A Levels)

Name 5 BTEC courses on offer (*a broad overview of working in a specific sector)

Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, IT and Sport (and many more)

Applied Qualifications (BTEC, UAL, Applied A Levels – Level 3) at 6th Forms/Colleges

Name 3 UAL (University of the Arts London) courses on offer

Art & Design, Music Performance, Performing Arts

(students can only opt for 1, worth 3 A Levels, so unable to combine with A Levels)

How many Applied A Levels can you take at a 6th Form or College (as not offered in Grammar Schools)?

Students can take between 1-3 (so can combine with A Levels and BTECs)

Name 5 Applied A Level courses on offer

Business, Criminology, IT, Science, Sport

T Levels (Level 3) at Colleges

- T Levels – ‘Technical’ Levels
- T Levels Assessment & Grading – An overall grade for the T Level shown as Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass, a separate grade for the core component shown as A*-E, a separate grade for each occupational specialism shown as Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass, and confirmation of completing the 315 hour minimum (approximately 45 days) industry placement, meeting the minimum requirements for Maths and English and meeting any additional mandatory requirements
- T Level Standards – The same as apprenticeships, designed by employers and approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education

T Levels (Level 3) at Colleges

How many T Levels can you take at a College elsewhere (as not offered in schools)?

One subject area only

How many T Levels will be available in total from September 2023?

23

Which local colleges in Trafford, Salford and Manchester currently offer T Levels?

Access Creative College, Salford City College, The Manchester College and Trafford College

T Levels (Level 3) at Colleges

SEPTEMBER 2020	SEPTEMBER 2021	SEPTEMBER 2022	SEPTEMBER 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Services Engineering for Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture, Land Management and Production
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Production, Design and Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Business Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Care and Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Support Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft and Design
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onsite Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media, Broadcast and Production
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Services

Technical & Vocational Qualifications (NVQ, C&G, IMI) at 6th Forms/Colleges

- Technical and Vocational Qualifications – These qualifications teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be involved in. They vary in length as they are course dependent and assessments are through coursework, skills tests and exams. Examples include NVQs, C&G, IMI (and more)
- NVQ – National Vocational Qualification
- C&G – City & Guilds
- IMI – Institute of the Motor Industry
- Examples of Technical & Vocational Qualifications – Beauty Therapy, Bricklaying, Catering, Electrical Installation, Gas, Hairdressing, Joinery, Media Make-Up, Motor Vehicle Maintenance & Repair, Plumbing (and many more)

Apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship and how many job roles are there?

An apprenticeship gives you hands-on experience, the opportunity to gain qualifications while you work, and a salary, and there are over 1,500 apprenticeship job roles in a wide range of industries and sectors

What levels of apprenticeships are there for 16 year olds?

Advanced apprenticeships at Level 3 (equivalent to 2 A Levels, usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 including English Language and Maths at GCSE as a minimum), and Intermediate apprenticeships at Level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs)

(meanwhile Higher and Degree apprenticeships at Levels 4-7 are usually available to students after 6th Form/College with A Levels or Level 3 equivalent qualifications, e.g. BTECs, T Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships)

Apprenticeships

How much do you get paid?

The national minimum wage for apprentices aged under 19 is £4.81 per hour (since April 2022), however many employers pay much more than this (and you can also apply for the NUS Apprentice Extra Card, accessing student discounts including on shopping, food, cinema, travel)

(The Apprenticeship Pay Survey 2018/19 estimated that Level 2 & 3 apprentices in the UK received £6.96 gross pay an hour)

How long do apprenticeships last?

Apprenticeships take 1-6 years to complete, depending on which one you choose, what level it's at, and your previous experience

Traineeships

- On offer for those aged 16-24 (or for those up to 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- A course lasting 6 weeks to 1 year
- An opportunity to gain Maths, English, Digital and work-related qualifications at a college or a training centre
- Includes a 70 hour minimum work placement
- Helps to get you ready for an apprenticeship, a job or further education

Supported Internships

- On offer for those aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan with learning difficulties or learning disabilities, who need extra support to get a job
- Last a minimum of 6 months
- Offer help from a tutor and a job coach in college or with a specialist provider and offer Maths and English GCSE qualifications
- Most of the time is spent on placements with an employer, learning skills for work
- Leads to employment, traineeships and apprenticeships

University & UGS

If you want to go to university, do you have to take A Levels?

No, you can progress from other Level qualifications including BTECs, UAL, Applied A Levels, T Levels etc.

What are the entry requirements to study A Levels at UGS and Level 3 courses at 6th Forms and Colleges?

Entry requirements for UGS are 2x7 & 3x6 (including 2x5 in English & Maths) at GCSE and certain A level subjects may require a 6 or above at GCSE, whereas Level 3 courses at 6th Forms and Colleges may ask for lower or higher grades than UGS but all will require a minimum of 5x4 (including English and Maths) at GCSE

UGS, 6th Forms/Colleges & Apprenticeships

What should you do if you want to apply to UGS but are predicted on or below the entry requirements?

Don't just apply to UGS, apply to a 6th Form/College too as a back-up plan

What are the best ways to find out about courses at UGS, 6th Forms and Colleges and Apprenticeships?

Look at information online including prospectus guides, attend open days (virtually if these are available if necessary), speak to people and get advice from others

UGS, 6th Forms/Colleges & Apprenticeships

When do open evenings take place at UGS, 6th Forms and Colleges?

Usually open evenings at 6th Forms/Colleges start from September of Year 11 onwards until January, and UGS usually hold their open evening in November (Amy will provide you and your parents/carers with all local 6th Form/College open day dates in early September)

When do you need to apply to UGS, 6th Forms, Colleges and Apprenticeships?

Usually, applications take place from October of Year 11 onwards, and competitive options may be completed earlier in October or November, but most applications will be completed by mid December, and apprenticeship applications will be ongoing throughout the year as opportunities arise

A Levels & University Degrees

- If interested in the Russell Group Universities (e.g. Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Leeds, etc.), look at the Informed Choices website to note the usual essential and recommended A Levels for a variety of specific degrees*: <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees>
- *However, please note that different universities may also ask for slightly different A Levels combinations, so ensure that you check university websites of interest for their specific entry requirements
- Find out which universities offer which degrees of interest on the UCAS website (type in degree course of interest then select undergraduate courses): <https://www.ucas.com/>

Next Steps

- Do research into your post-16 options before Year 11 starts to be better prepared for making your future choices
- Look at the highly detailed 'Year 10 Post-16 Options June 2022' handout (word doc) from Amy in your own time
- Contact Amy (Careers Adviser) if you have any questions:
amarshall@urmstongrammar.org.uk
- **Please now complete the 'Student Aspiration Survey', which will help Amy prioritise how she works with you all during the Autumn Term of Year 11 (particularly in relation to the one to one Careers Guidance Interviews) – Thank you 😊**