



St Paul's Way

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Post-16 Information Evening Student & Parent Pack Tuesday 22nd September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for attending our Post-16 Parent Information Evening. This event is a crucial step in helping students make informed decisions about their futures. We hope you find this evening informative and supportive as we guide your child through the transition to sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or employment.

Inside this pack, you'll find information designed to help you and your child understand the pathways available, how to support learning at home, and key dates in the post-16 journey.

- Year 11 Post-16 Timeline
- Pathways: Courses, Entry Requirements and Subjects
- References
- Student Checklist
- Parental Support
- Useful Links

I look forward to working together over the coming months to ensure your child reaches their full potential and desired post-16 destination.

Yours faithfully,

Kawtar El Ouaraini - Careers Education and Guidance Manager

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Year 11 Post-16 Timeline

Autumn 1 Sep - Oct	Students will be asked to complete an intended destinations form Students will receive information about expectations through tutor-time Students will participate in a 1-1 mock interview with a corporate partner Career Meetings with a qualified adviser will begin Students attend open day events at various sixth forms and colleges
Autumn 2 Nov – Dec	Students receive their predicted grades and must begin their college/sixth form applications Students to continue attending open day events
Spring 1 Jan – Feb	Students will begin to be called in for interviews by sixth forms/colleges (where applicable) and references will be completed for students
Spring 2 Mar – Apr	Students will begin to receive offers
Summer 1 May - Jun	All students will have made a minimum of 3 applications to a prospective sixth form, college or training provider Study leave/exam period begins
Summer 2 Jun - Jul	Study leave/exam period continues
Thursday 19th August	GCSE results day – Destinations check



Post-16 Curriculum Guide

Academic Year: 2026–2027

Overview

A post-16 curriculum in any school/college is designed to offer flexibility, challenge, and support as students prepare for their next steps in higher education, apprenticeships, or employment.

A school/college's offer usually includes:

- **A-levels** – Academic qualifications assessed primarily by exams.
- **BTECs / Applied Courses** – Vocational qualifications assessed through coursework and practical work.
- **T-Levels** (*if offered*) – Technical qualifications including industry placements.
- **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** (*if offered*) – An optional independent research project valued by universities.

Entry Requirements (General)

- **For A-Levels: Minimum 6 GCSEs at Grade 6+**, including English and Maths and specific subject entry criteria apply depending on the school you are applying to.
- **For Level 3 BTECs and T-Levels: Minimum 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+**, including English and Maths and specific subject entry criteria apply depending on the school you are applying to.
- **Foundation Learning / Entry Level:** Often no formal GCSE grades are required. These courses can help students develop English, maths, employability and vocational skills before progressing to Level 1 or Level 2.
- **Level 1:** Usually requires some GCSEs at grades 1–3, although requirements vary by subject and provider. Students may also study or resit English and/or maths GCSE alongside their course.
- **Level 2:** Often requires several GCSEs at grades 3–4, depending on the course. Some courses may require a particular GCSE, such as English or maths.
- **English and Maths:** Students who have not achieved grade 4 in GCSE English and/or maths will normally continue studying these subjects alongside their post-16 programme until they achieve the required standard.
- **Suitability interviews** may be part of the application process.

The list below is intended to be used as a **guide only**. These entry requirements may vary from college to college/ sixth form to sixth form, so please check with the school you are interested in.



A-Level Subjects

Minimum 6 GCSEs at Grade 6+, including English and Maths and specific subject entry criteria apply depending on the school you are applying to. Below is an example of what specific subject entry criteria could look like. In some schools these grades may be lower or higher. It is important you check entry requirements on the school's website.

Subject	Assessment	Entry Requirement
Biology	Exams	Grade 7 in Biology (or 77 in Combined Science) & Grade 6 in Maths
Chemistry	Exams	Grade 7 in Chemistry (or 77 in Combined Science) & Grade 6 in Maths
Physics	Exams	Grade 7 in Physics (or 77 in Combined Science) & Grade 6 in Maths
Maths	Exams	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Further Maths	Exams	Grade 8 in GCSE Maths
English Literature	Exams	Grade 7 in English Language and Literature
History	Exams	Grade 7 in History
Psychology	Exams	Grade 7 in English & Grade 6 in Maths
Sociology	Exams	Grade 7 in English
Geography	Exams	Grade 7 in Geography
Economics	Exams	Grade 7 in Maths & English
Politics	Exams	Grade 7 in English
Music	Performance, Portfolio & Exams	Grade 6 in Music
Art & Design	Portfolio & Exams	Grade 6 in Art
Drama & Theatre	Practical & Exams	Grade 6 in Drama
Media Studies	Coursework & Exams	Grade 6 in English



Level 3 BTEC / Vocational Courses

Subject	Assessment Method	Minimum Entry Requirement
BTEC Business	Coursework & Exams	5 GCSEs at Grade 4+
BTEC Health & Social Care	Coursework & Exams	5 GCSEs at Grade 4+
BTEC Sport	Coursework & Practical	5 GCSEs at Grade 4+
BTEC IT	Coursework & Exams	5 GCSEs at Grade 4+
BTEC Performing Arts	Practical & Coursework	5 GCSEs at Grade 4+
Applied Science	Coursework & Exams	5 GCSEs at Grade 4+, incl Science

Level 3 T-Levels

Course	Industry Placement (Unpaid)	Entry Requirement
Education & Childcare	315 hours	5 GCSEs incl. English & Maths
Health & Social Care	315 hours	5 GCSEs incl. English & Maths
Digital Production	315 hours	5 GCSEs incl. English & Maths

Course Duration & Structure

- Courses run over **two years** (Year 12 and 13).
- Most students will sit **final exams at the end of Year 13**.
- BTECs include **modular assessments/coursework** throughout the two years.

Progression Opportunities

Sixth Form/College prepares students for a wide range of futures:

- **University degrees** – via UCAS applications
- **Higher and Degree Apprenticeships**
- **Employment** – with strong skills in communication, analysis, and independence
- **Foundation or Access Courses** – at university or college

Additional Super Curricular Opportunities at Sixth Form/College

- **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**
- **Work Experience and Volunteering**
- **Leadership Roles** (e.g., Student Council, Mentors)
- **Clubs & Societies** – including debate, coding, STEM club, etc.
- **University and Apprenticeship Preparation**
- **Employment Preparation**



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Alternative Courses

Not every student will meet the entry requirements for A-levels, BTECs or T-Levels. There are a range of post-16 options designed to help students build their knowledge, confidence and practical skills.

Level 2 courses – Suitable for students who are not yet ready for Level 3 study. These courses can develop subject-specific and employability skills and may allow progression to a Level 3 course, an apprenticeship or employment.

Level 1 courses – Provide an introduction to a subject or vocational area and help students develop core skills, confidence and independence. Successful completion may allow progression to Level 2.

Foundation / Introductory programmes – Offer additional support for students who need to develop their skills before moving onto a higher-level course. These can be particularly useful for students who need a more gradual transition from GCSE study.

GCSE English and Maths – Students who have not yet achieved a grade 4 in English and/or Maths may continue studying these subjects alongside their post-16 programme, depending on the provider and their circumstances.

Traineeships / Supported Internships – Some providers offer programmes designed to help students develop employability skills, gain work-related experience and prepare for an apprenticeship or employment.

Progression Opportunities

Students can progress at different rates and may move from Level 1 to Level 2, Level 2 to Level 3, or progress directly into an apprenticeship or employment, depending on the course and provider. **Entry requirements** vary between colleges and training providers. Students should check the specific requirements for each course.

Contact for Career-Related Queries:

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Student Checklist

Choosing the Right Courses / College – A Student's Checklist

- ☐ I have researched the subjects and college/sixth forms I'm interested in.
- ☐ I've considered how each subject is assessed (coursework, exams, etc.).
- ☐ I meet the entry requirements for the courses I am interested in.
- ☐ I've spoken to subject teachers and/or a careers advisor.
- ☐ I've attended or plan to attend an open day and/or a taster lesson.
- ☐ I've thought about what I want to do after Sixth Form/College.
- ☐ I've considered how the subjects link to my future career.
- ☐ I enjoy the subjects I'm choosing and feel motivated to study them.

References

When filling out a college/sixth form's application form and asked to provide reference details, please input the email:

year11ref@spwt.net

Kawtar El Ouaraini

Manager of Careers and Enrichment



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Parental Support

How Parents Can Support Post-16 Students

- **Talk regularly:** Check in on workload, stress levels, and wellbeing.
- **Provide structure:** Help them build a revision/study timetable.
- **Promote independence:** Encourage self-managed deadlines and accountability.
- **Attend events:** Open days, taster lessons and careers fairs.
- **Know key dates:** Track exams, deadlines, and holidays.
- **Use support systems:** Know who to contact (tutors, pastoral support).
- **Encourage a balance:** Support hobbies, downtime, and healthy routines.

Remember: It's normal for young people to feel uncertain – reassurance and consistent support go a long way.

Useful Links & Resources

- **UCAS:** www.ucas.com – University applications and guidance
- **Apprenticeships:** www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- **National Careers Service:** nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- **School Website:** <https://www.spwt.net/sixth-form>
- **Post-16 Course Info:** <https://www.spwt.net/sixth-form/prospectus>
- **Mental Health Support (e.g., Kooth):** www.kooth.com