



# A PARENTS GUIDE TO POST 16 OPTIONS

YOUR CHILD MUST REMAIN IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING UNTIL THEY ARE 18 YEARS OLD. THIS LEAFLET EXPLAINS THE MANY ROUTES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS ONCE THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR GCSE EXAMS.



# FULL TIME STUDY

Your child has the option to remain in full-time study: this could be at Brentford School for Girls 6th form or elsewhere. There are two main pathways for full-time study:

## PATHWAY 1: A LEVELS

A-levels are a good option for those with an interest in a specific subject area who may wish to further this subject knowledge at university level. Students normally require at least five GCSEs at grades 9-4 (or equivalent) and, sometimes, the college or sixth form may require them to have a certain grade in the specific subjects they wish to study.

A-levels are linear - students will be assessed via coursework over two years and sit exams at the end of the two years.

At Brentford Sixth form we have an extensive choice of subjects with access to over 30 courses, offered either at Brentford or at one of our partner schools.

See BSGF course offer and entry requirements here: [Home > Sixth Form > Course options and information](#)

## PATHWAY 2: VOCATIONAL COURSES

These include National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) diplomas and others.

These courses relate to specific jobs, sectors or subject areas, such as Travel & Tourism, hairdressing or catering, and are aimed at helping students into their specific career of choice. As well as A levels, Brentford Sixth Form offers vocational courses in Applied Human Biology, Health & Social Care and Travel and Tourism (at level 2).

## APPLYING TO SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

Unlike the transition from primary to secondary school, there is no centralised system or standardised way of applying to sixth form or college. Each institution will have its own application procedure, eligibility criteria and closing date for applications. Students should check on-line what courses are offered and for details on how and when to apply. To apply to Brentford Sixth Form, please download an [application form from our website](#) and return it to the school's main Reception. Any queries should be directed to our Head of Sixth, Gita Agnihotri on: [GAgnihotri@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:GAgnihotri@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk)

## **What you can do to help?**

Research possible 6th forms or colleges and attend virtual or in-person open events.

# MORE OPTIONS

## T LEVELS

From September 2020, T-levels have become one of the three main options for post-16 students. The study programmes will last two-years and include a qualification and an industry placement, giving students a technical alternative to A-levels with the aim of helping them progress into skilled employment.

- T-levels will be delivered in a range of subjects and will provide students with:
- Technical knowledge and practical skills in their chosen occupation or industry.
- A placement in their chosen industry or occupation lasting at least 45 days.
- Relevant maths, English and digital skills.
- Common workplace skills.

After completing a T-level, students will have a choice between moving to a skilled occupation, higher or degree-level apprenticeship, or higher-level technical study (including higher education).

## WORK OR VOLUNTEER WHILE STUDYING PART-TIME:

Your child also has the option to combine work and training. The jobs can either be paid or voluntary. Colleges and training providers offer a range of training courses that are part-time alongside A-levels and work-related qualifications such as NVQs and BTEC diplomas.

## APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS AND SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS:

If your child does not want to stay in full-time education, they still have many options:

## APPRENTICESHIPS

This is an option for students who already have an idea of the career they want to pursue. In an apprenticeship, students will be employed and trained for a specific job. There are numerous apprenticeships on offer, ranging from engineering to accountancy.

## TRAINEESHIPS

Traineeships get students ready for an apprenticeship. They can last between six weeks and six months, and provide a combination of essential work preparation training, literacy and numeracy skills, and work experience to help students secure an apprenticeship or other job.

## SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

This option is specifically for students with learning difficulties or learning disabilities who want a job but require additional support. They last for at least six months and are unpaid. During a supported internship, the student receives a mix of training and work experience - there is also an option to study for qualifications or other courses during the internship.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Post-16 options can be daunting - your child is likely to feel pressure and anxiety when making their decision. You can help by:

**DISCUSSING THEIR GRADES:** Asking your child what grades they are likely to get can sometimes be a good starting point for discussions about suitable careers.

**TALKING ABOUT THEIR INTERESTS:** Discussing your child's interests can help them identify the right choice for them; for example, if your child is particularly interested in reading, taking an English Literature A-level may be a good route.

**ANALYSING THEIR SKILLS:** Establishing the skills that your child has can often indicate what career they would succeed in; for example, if your child is a confident public speaker, they may consider careers in public relations, marketing, sales or hospitality. Analysing your child's skills together can help them shortlist their options.

## **ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH:**

Your daughter should be clear about what qualification(s) and level she wants to study and check the entry requirements for each institution she is considering. If she has a particular career in mind, she should check that the post-16 qualifications she wants to pursue are suitable for her career aims. The following websites provide excellent careers information and Labour Market Information (LMI):

- [Prospects.ac](http://Prospects.ac)
- [Success at School.org](http://SuccessatSchool.org)
- [National Careers Service.gov.uk](http://NationalCareersService.gov.uk)

Encourage your daughter to speak to her teachers, tutor, a member of the senior leadership team or the school's careers adviser.

**HELPING WITH THEIR CV:** Encouraging your child to start writing a CV can often aid decision making by clearly outlining their skills, interests and achievements. When your child has finished their CV, they should ask themselves what careers match their CV, and what they need to add to their CV to pursue their potential career choices.

**SPEAKING TO US:** If you have any questions about the best route for your child, contact the school's **Careers Adviser, Megan Croft** via [mcroft@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:mcroft@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk) to arrange an informal discussion.