

Post 16 Choices: Sixth Form, College, an Apprenticeship or Work With Training

Sixth Form

- **CHECK the entry for Sixth Form CAREFULLY:** attend the Sixth Form OPEN EVENINGS, read the Sixth Form PROSPECTUSES (hard copy and on school websites) and speak to the Heads of Year.
- Two year AS/A level programme – mainly exam based.
- **OR** equivalent Level 3 Occupational Qualification e.g. Level 3 BTEC – mainly coursework and practical based with some tests/exams.
- Some Sixth Forms offer just AS/A level courses; some Sixth Forms offer AS/A level and Level 3 Occupational Qualifications.
- Grammar Sixth Forms normally require at least five GCSE's at grade 5 and above - plus higher grades for subjects you are considering taking at AS/A level.
- Some other Sixth Forms may offer a variety of one year Level 2 Occupational Courses requiring lower GCSE grades – which can lead on to Level 3 courses.
- Some Sixth Forms may offer some Level 1 courses.
- Check individual school/Sixth Form websites AND prospectuses carefully - for details of their courses.
- www.medway.gov.uk List of schools in Medway.
- You need to think carefully about the differences between AS/A level and Level 3 Occupational Qualifications.
- You need to think carefully about the possible advantages and disadvantages of each type of qualification and what it could lead to, in the future.

College

- Further Education (F.E.) Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges offer some AS/A level courses.
- Further Education (F.E.) Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges offer a wide variety of Occupational Qualifications – relating to a wide range of careers e.g. BTEC or NVQ – mainly coursework and practical based with some tests/exams.
- UCA is a specialist Creative Arts College (and University). It offers art and design courses e.g. Level 3 BTEC Art and Design. (It offers degree courses for eighteen years and older).
- Hadlow College is a specialist college offering courses for students who want land based careers or careers working with animals.
- Courses are available at different levels – from Entry Level to Level 3 – depending on the College.
- Do you have any relevant work experience?
- Check individual College websites AND prospectuses carefully: for details of their courses AND so that you can find a programme to match your GCSE and/or BTEC grades, whatever your grades.
E.G. www.midkent.ac.uk, www.northkent.ac.uk and www.canterburycollege.ac.uk.

Apprenticeship

- Involves working with an employer – usually 4 days a week – and 1 day a week at College or with a training provider.
- Train on the job to achieve qualifications while earning a training allowance.
- Competitive – there is a high demand for apprenticeships and only a limited number of vacancies.
- Entry requirements vary – some C grades at GCSE usually required e.g. English and Maths.
- Do you have or can you arrange any relevant work experience?
- You need to check www.ucasprogress.com carefully for apprenticeship opportunities.
- You can check: www.jobs4me.org.uk. Vacancies in Medway and the local area – for your age group and www.kentapprenticeships.com for vacancies in Kent.

- You can also register and look for an apprenticeship on www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship . **CREATE AN ACCOUNT FOR ALERTS AND UPDATES ON WHAT IS AVAILABLE.**

- www.amazingapprenticeships.com

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Work With Training

- Going straight into work with training may have the appeal of a wage (as do apprenticeships). But is it the best way to get what you want in the long term?
- Think about the training opportunities of the jobs you are looking at.
- The law entitles you to time off to study for qualifications if you haven't already got them.
- The starting wage will depend on the job – but must be in line with the national minimum wage for 16 year olds.
- Be aware that jobs that pay well at the start don't always pay well later on.
- If you are looking for employment, contact Medway Youth Trust on Tel: 01634 959090 or check the following websites for job vacancies: www.jobs4me.org.uk and www.kentapprenticeships.com .

REMEMBER...

- Try to think about the possible advantages and disadvantages of each Post 16 Choice.
- Try to think about what each Post 16 Choice could lead to, in the future.
- Try to think about the possible similarities and differences between studying for AS/A levels **OR** studying for an Occupational Qualification e.g. BTEC or NVQ. What could each type of qualification lead to, in the future?
- **It is important to do a "back up application" to a Sixth Form, College or Apprenticeship - in case you: do not get offered a place, don't get the grades you need or change your mind.**
- Work hard to get the best possible GCSE and/or BTEC grades you can.

CHECKLIST

- Try the 'Buzz: which kind of animal are you?' questionnaire on www.icould.com.
- www.careerpilot.org.uk. Try the quizzes and research careers linked to different subjects.
- www.successatschool.org. Research careers linked to different subjects, for example.
- www.sacu-student.com. Career Quiz to help students choose the best Career, College or University Course or Apprenticeship.
- www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/jobprofiles. Research careers you might be interested in. For example: what do you have to do? Which qualifications do you need? What are the training routes? How much money can you earn? How do you get a job? How many job opportunities are there?
- www.medway.gov.uk. List of schools in Medway.
- www.ucasprogress.com and www.kentchoices.com. Check information on **some** Sixth Form, College and/or Apprenticeship courses available carefully.
- Go to Sixth Form and College Open Days.
- Check with each Sixth Form and/or College you are interested in - do you have to apply on paper **or** online?
- Check with each Sixth Form and/or College you are interested in - when is the application deadline?
- **Do 2 or 3 applications – in case you don't get your first choice, don't get the grades you need and/or change your mind. **Do 2 or 3 applications so that you have a BACK UP PLAN****
- Apply to Sixth Form and/or College – **as soon as possible before the deadlines** and ideally by the end of December 2020.
- Apply for Apprenticeships – from December 2020 onwards. ****Make sure you apply to a Sixth Form and/or College AS WELL – in case you do not get an Apprenticeship or change your mind.****

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