



## Preparing for the World of Work with a Passport of Qualifications

Information and Advice for Year 10s & 11s



### **Preparing for the World of Work now means continuing with learning....**

Due to the government "Raising the Age of Participation", you will need to continue with some form of qualification for two years after you finish your GCSEs

#### **What are the options?**

- **Further education** – sixth form college or FE college
- **Further training** – FE vocational/ technical college course or apprenticeship course
- **Apprenticeship** – job or work placement with an employer, qualifying for that job, role or trade usually including FE vocational/ technical college course
- **Job with training** – working and volunteering full-time and studying part-time towards an accredited qualification

#### **How do I figure out what's the best option for me?**

Four things to consider:

- **Grades:** What are your predicted grades? What are you likely to achieve? Be honest with your abilities
- **Subjects:** What subjects have you enjoyed at school? Can you identify any potential new subjects? Do your favourite subjects suggest a particular career or industry that leads to a vocational subject? Or would you prefer to take a range of subjects that keep your options open?
- **Learning Style:** Can you cope with classroom based learning or do you need a balance of practical activities? How do you find exams? How do you find lots of coursework?
- **College or Apprenticeships:** Do you know what you want to do? If so, do you know if you can take an apprenticeship to gain entry for that career? Would you be able to cope with working in a real life adult working environment or would the pace of a college course be better suited to you?

#### **Qualifications explained....**

**5 or more 5 to 9 grades at GCSE** means you can access level 3 qualifications: either 3 A levels or a level 3 BTEC National Diploma or Extended Diploma

**4 grade 4s at GCSE** means you can access some types of level 3 qualifications: Subsidiary Btec Diplomas at level 3

**Less than 4 grades 4s and at least 3 grade 3s** means you can access level 2 qualifications: Btec First Diploma and GCSE re-takes

**Less than 3 grade 3s** means you can access level 1: Btec Introductory Diploma

#### **Differences between the qualifications**

##### **A levels**

- Academic – theory based, abstract and critical thought
- Learning about a subject through lessons, reading and research.
- Essays, exams and coursework
- For you if you've enjoyed learning and studying at school
- Gateway to higher education

##### **BTEC**

- Vocational and linked to an industry
- Applied learning – theory links in with practical activity
- Coursework and practical assignment based – some exams
- Level 3 can lead to university but you will need high marks

##### **Apprenticeships**

- Vocational qualifications gained through placement/ job in industry
- Applied learning – theory links in with practical activity
- Portfolio of evidence and reflective accounts plus practical assessments
- Gaining real working experience while gaining a qualification

#### **Where to start with your exploration:**

- **What are you good at?** Consider subjects and how you learn best
- **What are you interested in?** Consider what you enjoy and what you could see yourself doing

#### **Research**

- If you know what you want to do as a career – <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/> or [www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk)
- If you want to go to university – [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Subject interests at GCSE – **have a look at the course guides for colleges, on-line on their websites and at their open evenings**
- If you think you would suit an apprenticeship <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>