

How can I support my child with making decisions for after their GCSEs?

1. Help them explore their post-16 options

If you are unsure what is available after year 11 in terms of post-16 options, please check out [page 3 Post 16 Options](#)

Help them consider what kind of learner they are and what type of qualification may suit them best from academic to vocational, to how the courses are taught and the way the qualifications are assessed.

Ask them what kind of subjects interest them? Are these academic subject areas, typically A levels or some BTECs, or are they vocational subject areas found in BTECs, T-levels or perhaps apprenticeships?

Do they have any career ideas or industry interests? Many 15 and 16 year olds do not know, but if they want to research any of their ideas or strong subject interests to see what type of qualifications may be required, check out www.careerpilot.org or www.prospects.ac.uk

Do they have any inclination towards post-18 options such as university or higher and degree apprenticeships? If so, help them explore what may be required in terms of post-16 qualifications <https://www.ucas.com/further-education/thinking-about-university>

Are they interested in being in the workplace? Then either T-Levels or Apprenticeships may be an option. Check out <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> to look at live vacancies and also <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> which have some fantastic parent resources.



2. Help them explore local provision

Visit your local college websites and open evenings. Many colleges will have open events in the summer term for year 10 parents as well as events in the Autumn term. To locate colleges local to you try a google search "Local colleges to me".

For post-16 provision you will be looking for Sixth Form schools and Sixth Form colleges (mainly offering A levels, BTEC and T- Level qualifications), Further Education colleges (BTECs, T- Levels, Apprenticeships) and Training Providers (Apprenticeships).



3. Be aware of deadlines

Many colleges do not set a deadline for application, but ideally getting an application completed and submitted by November/December will help ensure your application is processed and you receive an interview and offer by the New Year. Some popular subject courses fill up early and you may be put on a wait list. For many colleges you can apply as early as September. It is recommended to apply to at least two colleges.

For Esher College, they are quite unique in that they have a set deadline. Applications open on Monday 4th July 2022 and close midday on Friday 30th September 2022. For more information <https://www.esher.ac.uk/admissions/2023/Pages/how-to-apply.aspx>

School sixth forms may have an Autumn Term deadline so please keep an eye on the school website for updates and details.

For apprenticeships, many opportunities to start the summer after their GCSEs, are not advertised until the February of that year. If your child has a particular apprenticeship scheme in mind, be sure to contact the company and ask to be sent updates for the launch of their application process.

If you are keen on taking an apprenticeship, we suggest that as a plan B, you apply to college for an apprenticeship place or a similar vocational course, just in case.

4. What if my child is still confused and unsure about their plans?

Please speak to your school about arranging a one to one career appointment with one of our Innervate Career Advisers who will be able to talk with them impartially about their options and support them with creating a plan for after their GCSEs