

# Yr11 Future Choices: October 2023



Making decisions as to what to do at post 16 level is never easy, and clearly even more complicated in the current climate. The purpose of the Future Choices Presentation and this booklet is to assist you and your child in this decision-making process.

The law changed some years ago regarding the school leaving age. Young people must now continue in education or training until they turn 18. They can continue their education or training at a school or college, with a specialist provider or in a workplace. This booklet contains information on the possible pathways that can be chosen and local providers who deliver the different options available. It is important an informed choice is made which keeps as many options open as possible.

Unlike GCSE choices which happen solely in school post sixteen possibilities involve a range of routes. Whilst our extremely successful sixth form has a proven track record of providing the right courses and environment for the vast majority of our students it is still important that all options are considered for everyone in y11. As a number of these options are external to the school this means both students and parents have a higher degree of responsibility for researching what is available and the different application processes required.

Information specific to applications for Heathfield Sixth Form can be obtained from the Sixth Form Team [sjackson@heathfieldcc.co.uk](mailto:sjackson@heathfieldcc.co.uk) or through the School Website [https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page\\_id=3153](https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=3153)

Additional personal advice and guidance can be obtained from subject teachers, Mr Holden (Head of Year 11 and y11 PSHEe teacher), Ms Taylor (Head of PSHEe and Careers Lead), Mr Crozier (y11 Pastoral Manager) or our Careers Advisor, Chantelle Kite, over the coming months.

## Pathway 1: Work with Learning

If your child is interested in starting work, and they are keen to learn skills whilst gaining qualifications, they can work and access part time learning e.g. in a family business with an evening course to continue their learning or an Apprenticeship, which is a recognised qualification that involves learning too.

On an Apprenticeship they study for qualifications while working and they learn the skills they need for the job they are doing. To start an Apprenticeship, you must be 16 or over and not in full time education. An Apprenticeship is a set of separate qualifications, called a 'framework' and they will need to complete all parts to achieve their Apprenticeship. There are three levels covering young people with average GCSE grades to those with have A levels, T levels or level 3 BTECs. If you have not achieved Level 2 by the end of Y11 there is a work- related entry course available.

### Apprenticeship benefits

There are lots of benefits to doing an Apprenticeship. You can learn while you earn and in a way that is best suited to you. As an apprentice you:

- earn a salary
- get paid holidays
- receive training and gain qualifications
- learn job-specific skills
- can progress to degree level

**Apprenticeships are valuable** for young people because:

1. They provide access to real-world practical learning with up-to-date methods and technologies, and highly skilled workers
2. They combine real-world practical learning with formal and theoretical learning.
3. They build character and employability skills.

### Earning while you are learning

Apprentices do real jobs for real employers, so you're paid while you learn. As your skills develop, your pay will increase accordingly. You may also get additional money for essential books, clothing or equipment. From April 2023 all apprentices under 19 or in their first year of an apprenticeship will be paid a minimum of £5.28 per hour and will receive this for the time they spend working, plus the time spent training. This hourly rate increases as they get older. Some employers do pay more.

### How does it work?

Apprenticeship training can take between 1 and 4 years to complete, the length depends on its level, the industry and the skills the apprentice already has. Training takes place in the workplace and they also spend some time at a local college or work-based learning provider. Apprentices are often hired by the employers once they complete.

These are real jobs like any other non-apprenticeship job so you have to apply to an employer and compete against other applicants. Entry requirements vary depending on the level of the apprenticeship and the industry. Competition can be strong, so you will need to show that you are keen and determined to progress.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

## Pathway 2: Full Time Education

### Academic and Vocational Qualifications

Academic qualifications are the easiest to understand. They are sometimes referred to as general qualifications and are associated with the traditional education system, which includes GCSEs, T & A Levels. Other general qualifications that are less well known are the International Baccalaureate (IB), the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma.

Typical academic courses include subjects like English, History, Biology and Art. The main characteristics of these qualifications are that they focus heavily on knowledge and are assessed by exams.

Vocational qualifications are much more focused on skills and therefore not so much on what you know but on what you can do. Rather than covering a general subject, they are relevant to a specific job sector and focus on the practical abilities you need to get a job in that sector. They include BTECs, NVQs and the new T Levels (which are also academic).

School Sixth Forms, Colleges and Further Education Colleges offer a range of courses at different levels with baseline entry requirements, they sometimes require subject-specific grades to allow progression on specific courses.

### Routes to Higher Education:

Successful completion of A, T-level or Vocational Qualifications at level 3 can lead straight to the workplace. However, for many it is the stepping stone to Higher Education. Choosing the correct exam courses at 16 can open or close particular routes post 18 so careful consideration at this stage is important.

The Russell Group of Universities did publish a list of “facilitating subjects” at A-level which were preferred for entry to many degree courses or can even be a minimum requirement. These are no longer advertised.

Entry requirements for other universities or particular degree courses can be researched using the UCAS website - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

### 16-19 Bursary Fund

The bursary can help with any education-related costs that may arise during the school year such as the cost of travel, uniforms, educational visits, books and equipment. There are two types of bursaries:

**Vulnerable student bursary** - Students can receive up to £1,200 per year if they:

- are in local authority care, or have recently left local authority care; or
- receive Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name; or
- are disabled and receive both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their name.

**Discretionary bursary** - You can apply for a discretionary bursary if you are not eligible for a vulnerable bursary but you need financial help to stay on in further education or training. Each Education provider has its own eligibility criteria as their funds are limited and they need to make sure they get to the students who most need financial help to stay on in further education or training. Payment of bursaries will depend on attendance, behaviour and standard of work.

## College Open Days/ Evenings – for September 2024 entry

| College   | Date   | Time                             |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>Heathfield Sixth Form<br/>Open Evening:</b><br><a href="https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=3153">https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=3153</a>   | <b>Thurs 19 October</b>  | <b>5:30 – 7:30 pm</b>            |
| <b>East Sussex College, Lewes<br/>(formerly Sussex Downs)</b><br><a href="https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/">https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/</a>  | <b>12 October/ 23<br/>November/21 March</b>  | <b>tbc</b>                       |
| <b>East Sussex College,<br/>Eastbourne</b><br><a href="https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/">https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/</a>   | <b>19 October/ 30<br/>November/ 14 March</b>   | <b>tbc</b>                       |
| <b>Bexhill Sixth Form College</b><br><a href="https://portal.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/openevening/openeveningapplication.aspx">https://portal.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/openevening/openeveningapplication.aspx</a>                          | <b>tbc</b>   | <b>Tours can be booked now</b>   |
| <b>East Sussex College, Hastings</b><br><a href="https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/">https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/</a>   | <b>16 Nov &amp; 7 Mar</b>  | <b>tbc</b>                       |
| <b>Plumpton College, Lewes</b><br><a href="https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/news-updates/calendar-of-events/event/year-11-taster-day-5002/">https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/news-updates/calendar-of-events/event/year-11-taster-day-5002/</a> | <b>Sat 14<sup>th</sup> October<br/>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>                                    | <b>9-12</b>                      |
| <b>DV8<br/>Brighton &amp; Bexhill</b>   | <b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> &amp;<br/>22nd October:<br/>Bexhill. Thu 13 &amp; 15<br/>Oct: Brighton</b> | <b>Morning and evening times</b> |
| <b>North Kent College (formerly<br/>West Kent)</b><br><a href="https://www.northkent.ac.uk/">https://www.northkent.ac.uk/</a>   | <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<br/>Tonbridge campus</b>   | <b>3:30-7:30pm</b>               |

Further information on all these dates and course details can be found on the individual College websites.