

## **A Parents & Carers Guide to Post 16 Subject and Career Choices**

Whatever your son/daughter wants to do in life, a good standard of education and training can increase their chances of success. Gaining skills and qualifications:

- Helps them to make the most of their potential
- Opens doors to employment and higher education
- Improves their earning power

### **Post 16 options and RPA (Raising of the Participation Age)**

The law now says that all young people must continue to do some kind of education or training until they are 18. At 16, your son/daughter must decide what to study and where and how to do it.

The choices Post 16 are:

- Continuing to study at a Sixth Form College
- Continuing to study at a College of Further Education
- Applying for an Apprenticeship – or a similar work based learning programme
- Applying for a position within the Forces
- Entering the labour market - although some form of continued training must be attached to the offer of employment to comply with the raising of the participation age

### **Full Time Education**

Your son/daughter could continue to study full-time at a Sixth Form College, Further Education College or with a specialist provider. The courses they choose will prepare them for higher level learning and employment and will include opportunities for work experience and enterprise activities. They can work towards subject based qualifications like A-Levels and/or work related vocational awards such as a BTEC or T Levels.

All students who do not gain a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Mathematics in Summer 2019 are expected to continue studying these subjects post 16.

**All students who wish to study A Level, T Level and other Level 3 subjects must achieve at least 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including Maths and English Language.** For some subjects, higher grades maybe required, please check college prospectuses for further information.

### **Local Sixth Form Colleges – Offering Level 2 & 3 courses including A Levels**

Barton Peveril  
Peter Symonds (T Levels)  
Itchen College  
Richard Tauntons College

### **Local Further Education Colleges – Offering courses from Foundation to Level 3**

Eastleigh College  
Sparsholt College  
Fareham & Cemast College (T Levels)  
City College

## **Apprenticeships**

If your son/daughter already knows which career area they want to work in, they could apply for an Apprenticeship that will prepare them for skilled employment and higher level education and training. Apprenticeships combine high-quality training with paid work and are available in over 80 industry sectors – not just the traditional sectors such as engineering and hairdressing. There are now many apprenticeships on offer providing training up to degree level, so students can earn, train and avoid the debt that a university course can entail.

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

## **Part-time Education**

If your son/daughter plans to work full-time for an employer, for themselves, or as a volunteer, they must spend the equivalent of one day a week working towards approved and nationally recognised qualifications. This is a flexible option. What, where and how your son/daughter learns will depend on the nature of their full time work and whether the learning is organised for them or they organise it for themselves. They could, for example:

- Work towards academic or vocational qualifications that will help them to improve their future prospects, make their business a success and/or meet the needs of their employer to the organisation with which they are a volunteer.
- Study in concentrated blocks for one or two weeks at a time, or spread their learning over a longer period.
- Undertake a course in their workplace, at a local college, with a specialist training provider or online.

## **Getting support**

Making subject and career choices is an important part of growing up. It can be a challenge, so your son/daughter will receive a lot of support to help them choose well.

## **Careers education, information, advice and guidance**

At Wyvern, students will have been allocated an interview with Mrs Bruce, our in-house careers advisor. The aim of these meetings is to discuss their options and to provide advice, information and support about progression routes at the end of Year 11. Students can request further careers appointments to assist with their decision making. Information and support will also be offered in RPS lessons including writing personal statements and drop in sessions for college applications.

Your son/daughter will receive careers advice and guidance from many different people including a range of local employers. Subject teachers may discuss the careers opportunities that studying their subject can open up. Other staff will help them to think through their ideas and weigh up the pros and cons of different options. We will have online assemblies from various colleges during tutor time and the opportunity to learn about apprenticeships and Post 18 options.

- **Post 16 Information in Tutor** Autumn Term
- **Careers Appointments** Ongoing - Bespoke 1-1 interview with Mrs Bruce
- **Post 16 Open Evenings** Please see attached Open Evening information sheet.
- **National Careers Week** March 2020

Students and parents also have access to careers information via our website in the student area. The website contains a wealth of information including links to Post 16 options, information on university and possible careers. There is also section on local Labour Market Information which is important to explore when making career decisions. We have also uploaded the college assemblies for you to watch with your child.

### **SEN Support**

If your son/daughter has additional needs, they may require extra help with decision-making and transition planning. This will be managed by the schools SEN team, please contact them directly if you feel your son or daughter needs further support.

### **External support**

Outside school, many organisations can offer information, help and support. Most parents start with the organisations below but there are many others:

- The 'education and learning' pages at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) have information on young people's choices, financial support for learning and sources of help.
- The National Careers Service at <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> has careers information, advice, practical tools, guides and a helpline. Young people and their parents can speak to a qualified adviser by contacting the helpline on 0800 100 900. It is open from 8am to 10pm seven days a week. There is a call back service for people using a mobile.
- The apprenticeship website at [www.apprenticeship.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeship.org.uk) have a Parents section which answers common questions that parents have about apprenticeships and why they could be right for their children.

## Money matters

16-19 year olds whose financial situation might stop them from continuing in full-time education or training may qualify for financial support. Whether your child qualifies depends on their personal circumstances. They can find out more from the careers office or through the website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## Finally,

- Please encourage your son/daughter to find out as much as they can about their options and to consider the consequences of their choices
- Research various colleges, book online for their open events.
- Gently challenge any choices that concern you
- Encourage them to have a back-up plan!

All students, including those applying for an apprenticeship must have applied to college by the end of the Autumn term. Students applying to Peter Symonds have a slightly earlier cut-off date of 14th December at 4pm. We encourage all students to have a back-up plan and to apply to at least two colleges.

## Glossary of some useful acronyms:

**A LEVEL** Advanced Level - two year course (Year 12/Y13)

**T LEVEL** Technical Qualification- two year course (Year 12/Y13)

**BTEC** Business & Technology Education Council

**CEIAG** Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

**DfE** Department for Education

**FE** Further Education

**GCSE** General Certificate of Education

**HE** Higher Education

**RPA** Raising of the Participation Age

**WRL** Work Related Learning

## Useful Websites

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

<https://sacu-student.com/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2020/sep/05/the-best-uk-universities-2021-league-table>

For further information about your son/daughter's Post 16 options please contact Mrs Katie Bruce, Careers Leader on 02380 692679 during school hours, or email [careers@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:careers@wyvern.hants.sch.uk)