

## Lyndon School Careers and Post 16 Information Sheet

As you begin your final year of study, we believe it is vital you are equipped with the appropriate information, advice and guidance to support you to prepare for your next steps.

We hope that this information sheet together with the school website, @LyndonCareers Twitter account and the termly Careers and Post 16 newsletter will help you to make informed decisions with regards to your progression.

### **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

All young people are now required to stay in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. You can choose to study full-time in school, college or with a training provider; full time work or volunteering if combined with part-time education or an apprenticeship.

Any young person who does not achieve a level 4 in Maths and English at school, will have to continue to study these subjects up until the end of their 18th birthday and this will be alongside the above choice of study.

### **What are my basic options?**

Options	What they offer
Sixth Form College	Offers a broad range of subjects so suits students who wish to continue studying more academic subjects or those who are unsure what they want to do in the future <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Levels</li><li>• BTEC courses (mostly at level 3)</li></ul>
FE College	Offers more vocational courses so suit students who have an idea what sort of careers they want to go into <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BTEC courses (all levels)</li><li>• T Level courses (new courses from 2020)</li><li>• A Levels (some also offer a limited number of A Levels)</li></ul>
Apprenticeships, Employment or Pre-Apprenticeship/training course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apprenticeships - Suit students who are ready to enter employment. Apprenticeships can be competitive so we strongly suggest that students also have a college back-up offer</li><li>• Employment with training/qualifications</li><li>• Opportunities to continue part-time courses or training courses with support in finding apprenticeships</li></ul>

### **Key questions to ask yourself**

- What am I good at?
- Where would I like to be in 5 years?
- What do I need to get me there?

Do plenty of research to ensure you are choosing the right course. Think about what you are good at and enjoy and be realistic with your grade expectations. By choosing the right pathway, you are more likely to be successful in gaining the qualifications that will take you onto your next steps whether this be employment, university or further training.

**Remember - whether you go onto further study or an apprenticeship / employment, school will always be asked to provide a school reference so make sure you maintain high attendance, good behaviour and attitude to learning as these are things that will always be looked at before any offers are made.**

## **Course types and levels**

These depend on what GCSE qualifications you are likely to achieve.

What GCSEs am I likely to achieve?	What level can I start at?	Apprenticeship Level	A Levels	BTECs	T Levels
Mostly Level 6 or above	Level 3	Advanced	Yes	Yes	As these are new qualifications entry levels are set by individual providers
Mostly Level 4 and Level 5	Level 3	Advanced	Most colleges will also require some Level 6 grades or above	Yes	As these are new qualifications entry levels are set by individual providers
Mostly Level 3	Level 2	Intermediate / pre-apprenticeship	No	Yes	As these are new qualifications entry levels are set by individual providers
Mostly Level 2 or below	Level 1 or Entry Level	Intermediate / pre-apprenticeship	No	Yes	As these are new qualifications entry levels are set by individual providers

## **More about your options**

### A Levels

A Levels are challenging academic qualifications that prepare students for either university or apprenticeships/employment. Most students select 3 A Level subjects and study these for 2 years with examinations at the end. When picking A Level subjects and combinations, think about subjects that you enjoy and are good at as well as researching any careers that you are considering. Some careers or university courses ask for specific A Level subjects so research is important. You can check out university entry requirements at <https://www.ucas.com/>

Some of our local providers that offer A Levels are:

Solihull Sixth Form College, Birmingham Metropolitan College, Joseph Chamberlain College, St Peters Sixth Form, Cadbury College, South and City College, Arden Academy, Tudor Grange Solihull, Alderbrook Sixth Form plus others

### BTECs

BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. They combine practical learning with subject and theory content. There are many BTEC qualifications to choose from and the levels range from entry level through to professional qualifications at level 7. The highest level for a school leaver is Level 3 and a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma is equivalent to 3 A Levels and will enable students to go onto university or apprenticeships. As with A Levels, it is important to do your research and if you are thinking about going to university, check out entry requirements on <https://www.ucas.com/>

Some of the local providers that offer BTEC qualifications are:

Solihull Sixth Form College, Solihull College, UCB, South and City College, Birmingham Metropolitan College, Joseph Chamberlain College plus many more

## Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a real job which combines practical on the job training with study. With an apprenticeship you will be paid a salary and gain a qualification. As an apprentice you will work alongside experienced staff, gain job specific skills and earn a wage and other benefits. You are also given time to study for your qualification. **Apprenticeships can, however, be highly competitive so we always suggest that you also apply to college and have a college offer as a back-up.**

## T Levels

T Levels are new courses that have been developed in collaboration with employers and business so that students learn the skills required by industry and are prepared for work. T levels are a mixture of classroom-based learning and on the job training. These qualifications are relatively new so only a small number of colleges are offering them.

Some of the local providers that will be offering T Levels are:

Solihull College, Dudley College, Access Creative College, Halesowen College

## Labour Market Information (LMI)

Local LMI will help you to understand information about the labour market in your area. You can use this information to identify the types of jobs available, future trends, average earnings and the skills and qualifications that you will need to make good and sustainable career decisions.

Did you know that in Birmingham and Solihull, most jobs are in Wholesale and Retail, Health and Social Care, Administration, Education and Manufacturing whereas there are fewer jobs in Mining, Quarrying and Utilities, Real Estate and the Arts and Entertainment?

Growth sectors are Health and Social Care, Life Sciences, Food and Drink Services and Professional and Financial Services.

Some of our biggest employers are Cadbury, Mondelez, National Express, RBS, NHS

*\*Data obtained from ONS and Gov.UK August 2020*

## **What you should be doing now?**

Task	Resources / People who can help	Timescale
Go to college open events to find out more about the facilities and courses on offer	Most colleges require you to book or register to attend their open events. This can be done on the college website.	This term and ongoing
We suggest you apply to more than one college and you apply before Christmas, ideally around November time.	Complete online applications on the college website. Solihull college also do paper applications. See Mrs Carey for one or if you want help applying	This term
References/ Attendance and Punctuality	Colleges do write to school for a reference and they will ask for <u>attendance and punctuality</u> so please ensure that you keep this as low as possible.	Ongoing
School have purchased the careers package JED to help you with your careers research. You can access JED via the	The current password for JED can be obtained from Mrs Carey	Ongoing

website <a href="http://www.careerssoft.co.uk">www.careerssoft.co.uk</a> (Click JED and sign in).		
Have a look at some of the different jobs available. For career ideas and information, you could have a look at some websites that have video clips and information about lots of different careers.	Useful Careers Websites: <a href="https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk">https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a> (UCAS allows you to research University courses and find out more about entry requirements) <a href="https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices">https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices</a> (advice about A-level choices)	This term and ongoing
Find out more about apprenticeships. Although most apprenticeships will be advertised from around March onwards, some of the larger companies have their schemes open for applications earlier.	Use the national site to help you at <a href="https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices">https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship">https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship</a>  <u>It is important to apply to college as a back-up.</u>	Ongoing
Back-up plan	Discuss your ideas with friends and family and make sure you have a back-up plan just in case your first choice doesn't go as planned	Ongoing
Need any help?	See Mrs Carey if you need further support, a careers interview, help with applications, interviews or CVs	Ongoing

**Useful Careers websites**

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

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

<https://icould.com/>

<https://www.goconstruct.org/>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

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

<https://chas.careerssoft.co.uk/jed/Login.aspx>

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/>

<https://www.ucas.com/>

<https://www.solihullforsuccess.com/>