



## Careers and Post-16 Pathways

There are five college pathways for students after leaving school. These being:

- International Baccalaureate
- A Levels
- T Levels
- Vocational courses and
- Traineeships / Apprenticeships.

Students can also move into employment that includes training.

College is the most popular choice for students so it is important that they consider their preferred learning style when researching college courses and know about all the options available to them.

**International Baccalaureate ...** An internationally recognised alternative to A Levels, accepted and highly regarded by all universities (including Russell Group and Oxbridge) and employers worldwide. Students choose six subjects; Maths, English, a Science, a Humanity, a Language and a Creative subject studying three at a Higher Level and three at Standard Level. The programme also includes a core programme which is an Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge and CAS (creativity, activity and service). Students will need at least six GCSEs in the 9-5 range and the motivation to study a variety of subjects. As a recommendation it is advantageous to gain a grade 6 in subjects that have been studied at school and wish to be continued. Please see <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/> for more information. The IB is a two year course that is exam based and can be studied locally at both Bridgwater & Taunton College, Taunton Campus and Exeter College.

**A Levels ...** Usually focus on academic subjects. A Levels include a wide range of subjects including some studied at GCSE and also new ones. A Levels are highly valued by employers and universities and provide opportunities for further study and careers. Like GCSEs, exams are taken at the end of the two years' study. Generally, students will need at least five GCSEs at grades 9-4 and may need a grade 5 or above in the subject a student may wish to take at A Level. This varies so students will need to check this by referring to the college course entry requirements. A Levels are a two year course that are exam based and can lead on to a degree or an apprenticeship, can be studied locally at Bridgwater & Taunton College, Exeter College, Petroc & Richard Huish College.

**T Levels ...** Technical Level qualifications are a new qualification, launched in Sept 2020. The content for each T Level has been developed in collaboration with employers and business to help student's gain the skills and knowledge needed to progress to highly skilled employment, higher technical qualifications, higher apprenticeships or university. Aimed at those students who know what particular area of work they wish to undertake, one T Level is equivalent to 3 A levels. It is a two-year course which brings the classroom and the work place together as it includes a 45-day work placement. Currently available in Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction, Digital Production, Design & Development, Education & Childcare and Health & Science (Nursing). Please see [www.gov.uk/dfes/t-levels](http://www.gov.uk/dfes/t-levels) for more information. T Levels can be studied at Bridgwater & Taunton College, Exeter College and Petroc.

### Vocational qualifications ...

Like BTECs vocational qualifications are more practical and include coursework, assignments, written tests, some formal examination and work placements. Vocational courses are aimed at a particular area of work and Diplomas and BTECs are ideal for students with a vocation in mind and who have a practical and hands on learning style. These qualifications can also lead on to a degree or an apprenticeship. Can be studied at Bridgwater & Taunton College, Exeter College, Petroc & Richard Huish College and Somerset Performing Arts Centre for Education (SPACE).

**Apprenticeships / Traineeships** ... Combining practical training in a job with study.

**Apprentices** ... working alongside experienced staff whilst gaining job-specific skills and earning a wage. Students study towards a related qualification (usually one day a week) and will need to find an employer who is willing to offer them an apprenticeship. Students will need to ask family, friend's or anyone who might be able to offer an apprenticeship or contact businesses to enquire if they would be likely to have an apprenticeship vacancy and apply to colleges for apprenticeships. To help search for an apprenticeship register at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> and if you're really interested create an account so that you can get regular alerts about new opportunities. Can be studied at Bridgwater & Taunton College, Exeter College, Petroc & Richard Huish College.

**Traineeships** ... A pre-apprenticeship programme that supports students who would like to be an apprentice but may lack confidence and experience and the required grades. Students attend extra tuition in classrooms, gain work experience and receive support to secure an apprenticeship.

### **Careers Resources**

The following websites provide useful information:

**Careerpilot** [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk) is a free site that helps you plan future study and work. Take a look at the different careers that each subject can lead to.

### **The National Careers Service**

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk) provides information, advice and guidance across England to help with decisions on learning, training and work. The service offers confidential and impartial advice and is supported by qualified careers advisers.

**Russell Group website** [www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk) which gives advice about essential or useful A Level subjects required for certain degrees aiming to apply to one of the more prestigious universities.

**Barclays Life Skills** - <https://barclayslifeskills.com/>

**Start** – complete the START programme which will provide you with a variety of career ideas and should link to interest and skills. [www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk)

### **Local Colleges**

Follow our local colleges on social media to get a feel of what it's like to be a student studying there, look out for opportunities to visit such as Open Evenings and Taster Sessions as it's important to see inside the building and meet the staff before you apply.

- Bridgwater & Taunton College - <https://www.btc.ac.uk/>
- Exeter College - <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/>
- Petroc - <https://www.petroc.ac.uk/>
- Richard Huish College - <https://www.huish.ac.uk/>
- The Somerset Performing Arts Centre for Education (SPACE) - <https://www.thespacesomerset.co.uk/>

The last two years at school are important ones, students should be focussed on achieving the best grades that they can and take time to consider all of their options.

If you want to talk through the options with me or run an idea passed me please get in touch [chunt@courtfields.net](mailto:chunt@courtfields.net).

Smiles

Miss Hunt