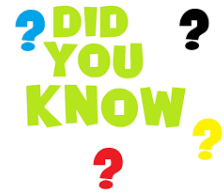


Information for Parents / Carers of Year 11 Students



Careers

Information for Parents/Carers For Year 11 Students



This is an exciting and busy year for Year 11 students. Not only do they need to concentrate on getting the best exam results that they can, but they also need to plan their next steps. The earlier students start to think about Post 16 options the better.

What they choose to do after Year 11 can have a big impact on their future. The choices they make now will influence how easily they will be able to find work in the future or continue with further and higher education. The main option at this stage is for them to continue in full-time education, or go into an apprenticeship or some form of accredited training. It is the Government's recommendations that all young people continue in some form of learning till they finish Year 13. The Education and Skills Act 2008 legislated to raise the age of remaining in education or training to 18 years. This is to ensure every young person has the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and qualifications that enable them to progress onto higher education, employment and of course adulthood. Cambridgeshire County Council track Year 11's and Year 12's to ensure they all receive an offer of learning in September.

The things they need to consider are the types of qualifications they would like to achieve, what style of learning suits them, whether that is classroom based or more practical learning, most importantly what do they enjoy. There are many options out there for them to choose from.

How do they decide:

- They should think about what subjects they are good at and enjoy studying.
- Do they have a career in mind which would need certain qualifications?
- Have they done their research?

Tools & Events that should help:

- TCA Careers Programme — provides a range of information and experiences to help them plan a career pathway.
- Kudos — IT platform which they can use to explore careers.
- Websites: www.UCAS.com, www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>
- Careers Interview – with Mrs Smith, Careers Leader (Sharon.smith@thomasclarksonacademy.org)
- Careers talks, college & sixth form Open Days, careers fairs and events, work experience opportunities.



Post 16 Options:

There are 3 Main Pathways:

- **A Levels** – If they are considering A Levels, they will continue to study 3 subjects that they took at GCSE in greater depth or they can choose new ones. They can study A Levels at a 6th Form or College. They have the option to take 3 broad subjects they are interested in to keep their career options open or choose ones they need for a specific career or university. They also have the option to combine a BTEC qualification with A Levels. A Levels take 2 years to complete. The entry requirements are 5 GCSE's at usually grade 6 in your chosen subject.
- **Vocational qualifications**—These are usually offered by colleges and offer industry specific courses related to the job role they want to be involved in, such as hair & beauty, brickwork, carpentry, engineering etc. They can only enrol on one course. The length of the course will last between 1 and 2 years, depending on what level they start at. Each course will offer a combination of both practical and theory. Knowledge is usually tested through ongoing course work and sometimes a final examination.
- **Technical qualifications**—Again these are offered by colleges and are known as T Levels, they are a new 2 year programme designed with employers to ensure young people achieve the skills industry wants. They will include technical knowledge and practical skills specific to the chosen industry/occupation. They will involve a mix of classroom learning and practical work experience including a 45 day on-the-job work placement. They are equivalent to 3 A Levels.
- Apprenticeships/Employment/Traineeships.

Where will we take you?

Where could students study:

- Thomas Clarkson 6th Form – A levels or A level / BTEC combination, (other sixth forms are available— please check their websites for information on entry requirements and the A Level options they offer);
- College—College of West Anglia (CWA) - www.cwa.ac.uk; Peterborough College - www.peterborough.ac.uk; Easton - <https://www.easton.ac.uk/>; Cambridge Regional College — www.camre.ac.uk
For TCA students the colleges that offer the easiest transport routes include CWA & Peterborough.
- Apprenticeships – www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship;
- The Armed Services.

Why not attend TCA's Post 16 Open Evening for more information – come and join us to see the subjects we offer. We would encourage you to visit other sixth form and college open evening events too.

College pathway:

There are a number of vocational courses that offer industry recognised qualifications, which means they can go straight into employment or apply for apprenticeships after they have completed their course. Alongside a vocational course they may need to complete Maths and English Language qualifications if they do not obtain a GCSE grade 4 or equivalent. They will be required to attend college 3-4 days a week. They only study one course.



There are different levels of college courses. Entry requirements should be checked for specific courses on college websites as these can vary.

Generally the levels are:

Level 1 – 3 GCSEs at grade 2 or above

Level 2 – 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including Maths & English Language

Level 3 BTEC & T Level – 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including Maths & English, *please note some courses may ask for a grade 5 in Maths & English

Some courses are linked to local employers, for example Anglian Water deliver a Level 2 Engineering course at the College of West Anglia (Wisbech campus). As part of the course they are offered a work placement and a guaranteed interview to join their apprenticeship scheme at the end of the course, provided it is completed. These courses are competitive.

For some courses they must start at Level 2, for example Professional Cookery or Hairdressing, so that they learn the basic techniques first, where as for other courses, such as Business or Nursing & Paramedic, they could apply directly for the Level 3, if they meet the grade requirements.

Applications for college are made online. They can apply to more than one college or for more than one course, but they **must** attend the interview. At the interview tutors will offer them a conditional place, which they can then accept. If they do not accept the place it **will not** be held for them. Places offered by CWA can be accepted by logging in to the student portal. They **can** hold offers till GCSE results day, when they have to confirm which course they wish to enrol on – at this point **they must pick one**.

When considering where to study, they should think about travel. Travelling to Kings Lynn or Peterborough will mean getting up earlier and a longer day. If they choose to study in Kings Lynn, when the course is offered at Wisbech, you can not claim help paying for travel. Each college has their own arrangements to support students travelling to their campuses. Financial support is usually available for transport, equipment and meals for those families in receipt of means tested benefits.

Keep a look out for College open events over the coming months.

The Armed Forces

They have a huge variety of apprenticeships to choose from starting at Level 2.



Getting the most out of life is about getting the right balance and that's what the Army provides. To join the Army, you need to meet a set of basic requirements. These include telling us about your age, nationality, health and fitness. The Army will also ask you about your education and qualifications, but this is to help to find the right role for you. You can still join the Army if you have no formal qualifications. The Army is always recruiting, and there are a wide range of roles available for both officers and soldiers. For more information go to www.army.mod.uk



RAF Apprenticeships are award winning. You'll gain new qualifications whilst earning and you are guaranteed a job at the end of it. A career in the RAF is about discovering your natural talent and working out together what makes you feel valuable, productive and happy. From the chefs to the jet pilots they send out on full stomachs, the RAF is full of ordinary people, just like you. Further information can be found at www.raf.mod.uk



A job in the Naval Services means adventure, comradery and lifelong prospects. No two days are the same, you could be policing the world's oceans or delivering humanitarian aid when natural or man-made disasters strike, or you could be deployed in combat. No matter what job you do, you'll be a key part in operations around the world. Offering careers in welfare, aircrew, logistics and engineering. For further information visit their website at www.royalnavy.mod.uk

Apprenticeships/Traineeships/Employment pathway:

Apprenticeships offer 'real' work study by combining on the job training and classroom learning. They will be employed to do a real job, earning a wage and other employee benefits, whilst studying for a nationally recognised qualification. The apprenticeship is usually made up of around 30 hours a week (80% of their time) and around 7 hours (20% of their time) studying towards their qualification. The training element can be completed at college one day a week, or block release or through the company's own training programme. To apply for an apprenticeship they must respond to an advert from an employer. These can be found:

www.theaimgroup.co.uk

www.indeed.co.uk

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Apprenticeships take between 1-5 years to complete, depending upon the level of apprenticeship.

There are different levels of apprenticeship, intermediate (Level 2) and advanced (Level 3/4/5) and even Degree Level. They need to check the requirements before applying, so read the advert carefully.

Apprenticeships are limited and very competitive. If they want an apprenticeship they should also apply for a college course as a back-up.

The process....

They need to do their research **BEFORE** the Christmas holidays. To help them make a plan, they will have a number of opportunities to get further information, for example assemblies with CWA or AIM Apprenticeships, using Kudos, careers information on the Year 11 teams site and tutor sessions.

Between Christmas and Easter students will receive a 1-2-1 interview with Mrs Smith— a qualified careers adviser at TCA. During this interview they will have the opportunity to explore career pathways and look at different qualification options. If they have a clear career goal in mind, they will be advised how to reach it, bearing in mind their predicted grades and course availability. Where they are unsure, more than one route can be explored. If they need additional support further sessions with Mrs Smith can be arranged. They will complete at least one application and this is agreed with them. Considerations looked at as part of this process can be found at the back of this booklet.

Final words from Mrs Smith....

Any student can book an appointment with Mrs Smith throughout their time at TCA and please encourage them to pop by the Careers Desk in Little Eden if they have any questions or worries about their next steps—I am here to help. However, when it comes to their Year 11 appointment, it is important that **they HAVE PREPARED** for the meeting and have looked at the courses they would like to apply for.

I look forward to meeting your child and helping them plan their next steps!

Mrs S Smith - Careers Leader, Thomas Clarkson Academy

Year 11 Careers Interview — Considerations

During their interview we will check:

Studying A Levels — this route enables them to take 3 subjects:

- **Their grades are appropriate for sixth form or College:**
Grades — are they getting mostly 6's / Distinctions or above — the odd 5 is ok but should not be in the subject they wish to continue studying?
- **The subjects they wish to study can be accommodated:**
Subjects — are the subjects they want to study offered at A Level? Remember they need to choose 3 subjects.
- **Will their chosen subjects help them reach their career goal?**
Entry requirements — we will look at UCAS (university entry requirements) or apprenticeship requirements to ensure they do not block a route to their chosen career.

If above can be satisfied they should apply to study A Levels at their chosen sixth form or college.

If their grades are borderline — mostly 5's and the odd 6 — they should apply for a BTEC Level 3 or T Level course at college as back-up.

Studying at college — they choose one course but will get 3 grades at the end of their Level 3:

Remember, when they complete a Level 3 or T Level qualification you get 3 grades at the end — the same as if you had studied 3 A Levels. These grades are accepted by universities — so if they think they will get higher grades by taking a college course, that could be a better route for them.

- **Your grades are appropriate for the level of course :**
Grades — we will look at the course requirements and match them to their predicted grades
- **The vocational course is right:**
Course — we will look at the courses and match their career choice to the available options
- **Will your chosen course help you reach your career goal**
Entry requirements — we will look at UCAS (university entry requirements) or apprenticeship requirements to ensure you do not block a route to their chosen career.

Applying for an Apprenticeship

We will look at the websites that advertise vacancies and advice will be given on applying, CV's & covering letters. Students will be advised to have back-up plan and this will normally be either A Levels or a college course.

Remember: keeping their options open is a good thing and ensures that if they don't quite get the grades they need, or the apprenticeship they have applied for — they still have a route to their career goal.