

Information for Year 11 Students

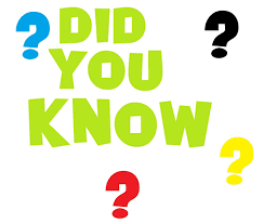


Careers

Information for Students in Year 11

This is an exciting and busy year for you. Not only do you need to concentrate on getting the best exam results you can, but you also need to plan your next steps. The earlier you start to think about this the better.

What you choose to do after Year 11 can have a big impact on your future. The choices you make now will influence how easily you will be able to find work in the future or continue with further and higher education. The main option at this stage is for you 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 monitor and track Year 11's and Year 12's to ensure they all receive an offer of learning in September.



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

How do you decide:

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

Tools & Events that should help:

- TCA Careers Programme — provides a range of information and experiences to help you plan a career pathway.
- Kudos — IT platform which you 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 you are considering A Level's, you will continue to study 3 subjects that you took at GCSE in greater depth or you can choose new ones. You can study A Level's at a 6th Form or College. You have the option to take 3 broad subjects you are interested in to keep your career options open or choose ones you need for a specific career or university. You also have the option to combine a BTEC qualification with A Level's. A Level's 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 you want to be involved in, such as hair & beauty, brickwork, carpentry, engineering etc. You can only enrol on one course. The length of the course will last between 1 and 2 years, depending on what level you 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 could you 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.



**Where will we
take you?**

College pathway:



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

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

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

When considering where to study, you should think about travel. Travelling to Kings Lynn or Peterborough will mean getting up earlier and a longer day. If you choose to study in Kings Lynn, when the course is offered at Wisbech, you can not claim help paying for travel. Each college have 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 College
of West Anglia



Peterborough
College



**Easton
+ Otley
College**

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. You'll 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 your time) and around 7 hours (20% of your time) studying towards your 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 you 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. You need to check the requirements before applying, so read the advert carefully.

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

The process....

You need to do your research **BEFORE** the Christmas holidays. To help you make a plan, you 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 you will have the opportunity to explore career pathways and look at different qualification options. If you have a clear career goal in mind, you will be advised how to reach it, bearing in mind your predicted grades and course availability. Where you are unsure, more than one route can be explored. If you need additional support further sessions with Mrs Smith can be arranged. You will complete at least one application and this is agreed with you. 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 me throughout their time at TCA and please pop by the Careers Desk in Little Eden if you have any questions or worries about your next steps—I am here to help. However, when it comes to your Year 11 appointment, it is important that **YOU HAVE PREPARED** for our meeting and have looked at the courses you would like to apply for.

I look forward to meeting you and helping you plan your next steps!

Mrs S Smith - Careers Leader, Thomas Clarkson Academy

Year 11 Careers Interview — Considerations

During your interview we will check:

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

- **Your grades are appropriate for sixth form or College:**

Grades — are you getting mostly 6's / Distinctions or above — the odd 5 is ok but should not be in the subject you wish to continue studying?

- **The subjects you wish to study can be accommodated:**

Subjects — are the subjects you want to study offered at A Level? Remember you need to choose 3 subjects.

- **Will your chosen subjects 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 your chosen career.

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

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

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

Remember, when you 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 you think you will get higher grades by taking a college course, that could be a better route for you.

- **Your grades are appropriate for the level of course :**

Grades — we will look at the course requirements and match them to your predicted grades

- **The vocational course is right:**

Course — we will look at the courses and match your 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 your 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 your options open is a good thing and ensures that if you don't quite get the grades you need, or the apprenticeship you have applied for — you still have a route to your career goal.