

A Guide to Education & Training Options



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Useful resources to help research options Post-16



Raising the Participation Age

Young people are now required to remain in education, training or employment (with accredited training) until their 18th birthday.

North Somerset Council has a number of duties in relation to supporting the participation of young people into education, employment and training.

To track young people aged 16-17 to see how they are progressing and to support those young people who are NEET (not in Education, Employment and Training) or signpost to appropriate agencies.

Can provide:

- 1:1 support for young people who are unemployed and aged 16-17.
- Help to find work, training, apprenticeships or college courses.

Key stages from Year 8 – Year 11

Careers Education

Schools are under a duty to secure independent careers guidance for pupils in years 8-13 on the full range of education and training options, including apprenticeships.

Year 8 and 9

Years 8 and 9 are really important for young people as this is the time they have to make choices about the subjects they wish to study at GCSE level.

A new grading system for GCSE exam results is being introduced from summer 2017. Eventually, all GCSE exams will be graded from 1 to 9 rather than the current A* to G, with 9 the highest grade. Grade 4 will be equivalent to grade C on the previous system.

For information regarding GCSE and A Level Reforms:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-gcse-reform>

Work Experience

Work experience is a great way of developing the important employability skills that young people will need when they enter the world of work.

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Some schools will offer young people the opportunity to take part in work experience and college taster days.

Whilst young people are able to do work experience they are not able to work full time for paid employment until after they have left compulsory education at the end of year 11.

They may be able to do some part time work, please see the link below for more detailed information about how many hours young people can work whilst they are at school.

Child Employment Guidelines - <https://www.gov.uk/child-employment/restrictions-on-child-employment>

Options post-16:

School leaving age - The school leaving age depends on where you live.
England

Young people can leave school on the last Friday in June, if they are 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

They must do one of the following until they are 18:

- Stay in full-time education at school or college or home education
- Stay in part-time education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours per week
- Work-based learning such as apprenticeships or traineeships

Qualifications:

Some courses require specific GCSE's. For those students who do not already have GCSE Maths/English at A*-C there will be a requirement to retake GCSE or Functional Skills in English or Maths.

Depending on GCSE results there are different level courses: Pre-Entry, Entry Level; Level 1; Level 2 & 3. The more you study the higher up the levels you can progress. **Check entry requirements with different FE institutions as they vary.**

- **Level 2** course for example at Weston College require a minimum 4 GCSEs, grade D or above or a Level 1 course.

Some common examples of qualifications:

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- **VRQ is a Vocationally Related Qualification** - the focus is on the student demonstrating they know how and why to carry out a skill.
- **A Levels:** (Level 3 course) need a minimum of 5 GCSE grade A-C: usually to include English & Maths. These could be new subjects or those studied at a GCSE but at a higher level. Some A Levels have additional grade requirements.
A Levels can keep options open if unsure about career ideas.
A Level reforms means that they will now take 2 years with exams in the final year.
AS levels take one year linear from September 2015. They will still exist, but as a stand-alone qualification.
- **BTEC** is a vocational qualification that brings together practical and academic study in a subject, involves practical, controlled assessment and written work.
Extended Diploma – (Level 3 course) covers for example: Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Performing Arts.
Entry requirements minimum 5 GCSEs at Grade A-C.
BTEC's are graded as Pass, Merit & Distinction. Equivalent to 3 A Levels and worth UCAS points for Higher Education.
- **International Baccalaureate** – (Level 3) is ideal for those highly motivated, academic students who have an interest and ability across a wide range of subjects.

Research and Application Process:

Colleges offer activities and taster sessions covering different occupational areas. They encourage young people to sign up for activities to try out and explore what is on offer.

Colleges and 6th forms offer open evenings throughout the academic year. It is an opportunity to look around, ask lots of questions and see what range of courses are offered.

Applications:

Ideally, once a student reaches Year 11 they should start applying to colleges/6th forms by December of the academic year to secure a place. Late applications are accepted. Applications can be made on-line or by post as a paper copy usually found in the back of a prospectus or download a copy off the website.

A young person can apply to more than one FE Institution and for more than one course if they are undecided. See the college or 6th form websites or contact them direct for more details of any events.

The Colleges/6th forms will invite a young person for an interview, and offer a conditional place depending on exams results. Young people are advised to accept the place they are

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offered and wait until the GCSE results in August to take up that offer. In the meantime they should continue to study hard.

Most colleges will have **welcome** days in July for prospective students to meet tutors and other students. Young people are advised to attend the “welcome” day to help them to get familiar with the college setting.

Schools and Further Education Institutions:

Bath College - www.bathcollege.ac.uk

Backwell Sixth Form – www.backwellschool.net

Baytree School - www.baytreeschool.co.uk

Bridgwater College – www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Broadoak Mathematics & Computing College – www.broadoakcollege.org.uk

BTE Academy (Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy) – www.bteacademy.co.uk

Churchill Academy Sixth Form - www.churchill-academy.org.uk

City of Bristol College – www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

Clevedon Sixth Form - www.clevedonschool.org.uk

Gordano Sixth Form - www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Hans Price Academy – www.hansprice.org.uk

Nailsea Sixth Form - www.nailseaschool.com

NSTEC (North Somerset Enterprise & Technology College) – www.nsetc.n-somerset.sch.uk

Priory Community School - www.priory.n-somerset.sch.uk

Ravenswood - www.ravenswoodschool.org.uk

SGS (Filton College) – www.sgscol.ac.uk

St Katherines Sixth Form - www.st-katherines.n-somerset.sch.uk

Westhaven – www.westhavenschool.org.uk

Weston College – www.weston.ac.uk

Worle Community School - www.worle.n-somerset.sch.uk

Child Benefit when your child turns 16 and continues in education until age 19:

Child Benefit stops on 31 August on or after your child’s 16th birthday if they leave education or training. It continues if they stay in approved education or training, but you must tell the Child Benefit Office.

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You'll be sent a letter in your child's last year at school asking you to confirm their plans. <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19> for more detailed information.

16-19 college bursary fund to help with education costs.

<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/overview> - for more detailed information as certain criteria/eligibility rules apply.

A bursary is money that can be used to pay for things like course clothing, books and other equipment, transport and lunch on study days.

Further Education institutions have student and welfare support, Additional Learning Support, 16-19 college bursary fund, concessionary bus passes for students, and much more.

Whether you choose a traineeship or apprenticeship will depend on your age and qualifications.

Traineeship

A course with work experience that gets young people ready for work or progress into an apprenticeship.

It includes help with English and Maths (if you need it) and can last up to 6 months.

Traineeships are unpaid but most pay travel and meal costs. The 16-19 Bursary Fund may help – dependent on circumstances.

Apprenticeships

Are an opportunity to work for an employer, earn a salary, gain relevant workplace skills and experience, achieve National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) and related industry qualifications. They take between one and four years to complete.

The learning provider can be a college, training organisation or university, and they look after the rest of the training. An apprentice can complete off-the-job training on day release (attending one day a week) or over a succession of days in a short period (block-release). Many apprenticeships do not require any day release to college.

For an apprenticeship at Advanced level, most employers want level 2 or level 3 qualifications including level 2 maths and English, or a pass in literacy and numeracy tests. If a young person has A Levels, or level 3 vocational qualifications, and decide not to go to university, they can still do an apprenticeship. Or they can do a Higher Apprenticeship that can take them all the way from level 4 study to a full degree whilst working.

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Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels.

| Name | Level | Equivalent educational level |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Intermediate | 2 | 5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C |
| Advanced | 3 | 2 A level passes |
| Higher | 4,5,6 and 7 | Foundation degree and above |
| Degree | 6 and 7 | Bachelor's or master's degree |

Look on the apprenticeship vacancy website. Produce a CV. Contact local employers, relevant training providers or ask family/friends for any possible opportunities.

Apprenticeship Vacancy website:

Remember to look/register with the apprenticeship vacancy website.

<https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/>

Check daily.

Apply for vacancies ASAP.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-write-a-winning-apprenticeship-application> - How to write a winning apprenticeship application:

Apprenticeship reforms: From September 2017 all apprentices will be starting on one of the new apprenticeship standards. To find out more about the reforms please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-changes>

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It is always good to have a backup plan

Useful websites:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> - National Careers Service - job profiles for careers information

www.plotr.co.uk - Careers advice that is useful, inspiring and tailored to young people. Play the free careers advice Game, explore detailed career profile hubs - then take next steps

www.careerpilot.org.uk - Your choices at 14, 16 and 18, explore different job sectors and how you can study and work at the same time - even to university level

<http://www.careersbox.co.uk/> the national online careers film and video library.

www.icould.com/buzz - buzz test help with career ideas that may suit your personality.

Flexible Learning | Home Study - to study by open learning and home study:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/courses/typesoflearning/Pages/flexiblelearning.asp>

Volunteer work - <https://do-it.org/>

Higher Education:

www.ucas.com Research universities and entry requirements for higher education.

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www.open.ac.uk/ - The Open University offers flexible part-time study, supported distance and open learning for undergraduate and postgraduate courses and qualifications

<http://www.bestcourse4me.com/> - This site lets you compare information on university courses and possible career paths,

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/> - Compare official course data from universities and colleges

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance> - student loans, or student grants for tuition fees, bursaries, grants, and paying back loans.

www.gap-year.com - Taking a **gap-year** or career break.

www.prospects.ac.uk - If I have a degree what can I do with it, + information about gap year, internships, year in industry.

www.fulbright.org.uk/ - Scholarships for studying in the USA and UK. Government-supported, official source of information on applying to American universities for British students.

Special Educational Needs:

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/children-young-people-families/send-local-offer/local-offer/>

The local offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families, including:

- services from local agencies, early years settings, schools, health and care services
- how to find the services you need
- who to contact to access them
- how to tell us if things don't go to plan

<http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk/> - Providing the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIAS) for Parents/Carers of Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) and for Children & Young People with SEND.

Details of the services that the *council* provide and support:

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www.n-somerset.gov.uk/

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/children-young-people-families/>

Information about becoming a foster carer for North Somerset, access to information, support and advice for foster carers, including member area:

<http://fostering.n-somerset.gov.uk/>

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

Information about becoming a foster carer: <https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers/becoming-a-foster-carer>

North Somerset Council

Tel: 01275 884443

Email: yes@n-somerset.gov.uk

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