

Pathways Options - Session 3 Support

In Year 11, young people have to make a decision about how they will continue their education after completing their GCSEs. These are the main pathways the students will choose from:

1. A Levels
2. BTECs
3. Apprenticeships
4. T-Levels

Each pathway will suit different types of learners, have different entry requirements and application processes as well as shaping your future career in different ways.

Your role as a coach is not to be an expert and exactly plan out their next steps. This moment of choice can be very intimidating and confusing, so being there for your student to support them and start exploring the pathways available is incredibly important.

This is general guidance to help you understand the Post 16 Options available to your young person and gain a little insight into how they will choose their pathways after GCSE.

If you need any additional support, please speak to your Programme Manager or join our Coach Drop Ins on [Teams](#) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm

This website is also really helpful in finding out more information [here](#)

[Providers of Post 16 Options](#)

Please click [here](#) to see the current list of Further Education Providers for our young people.

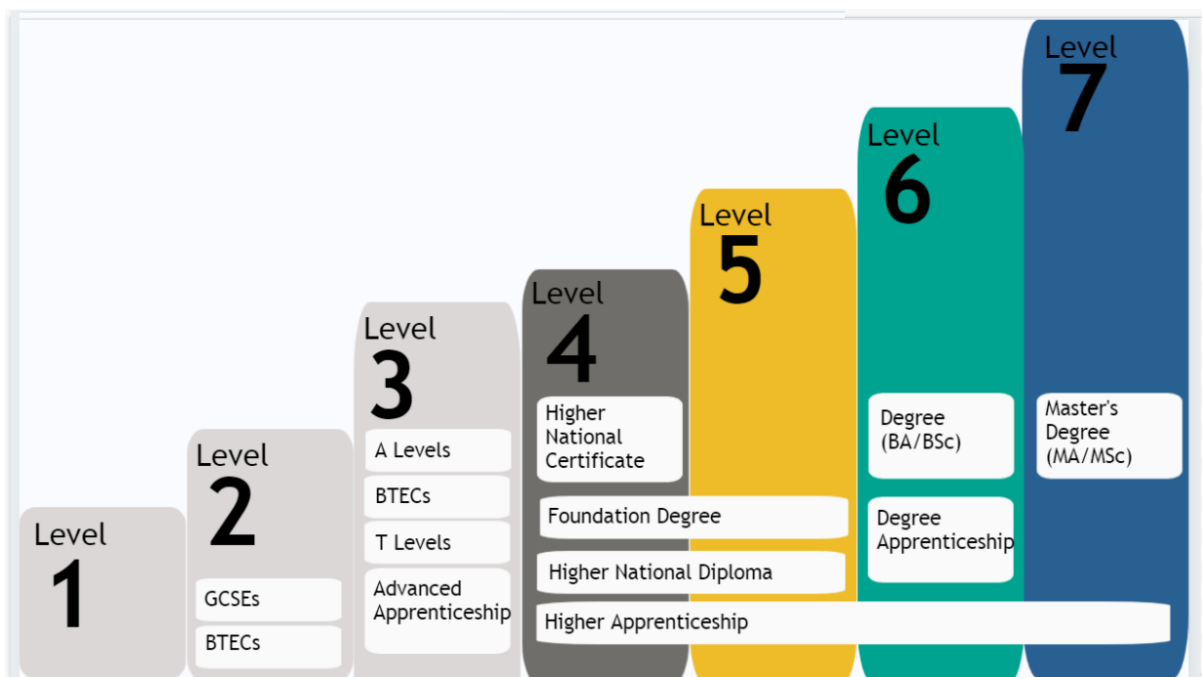
It is important to research and explore the local provisions in their London Borough

GCSE grades and Levels

Here is a breakdown of the current GCSE grading system and what it means in relation to the older letter system that you may be more familiar with. Your pupil is likely to be achieving grades 3-5 and therefore going to do vocational or applied courses rather than A Levels.

GCSE Grades	
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E F
1	
U	U

GCSE students will be working at a Level 2 and looking to 'level up' with the Post 16 option choice. Below is a breakdown of what level each qualification equates to.



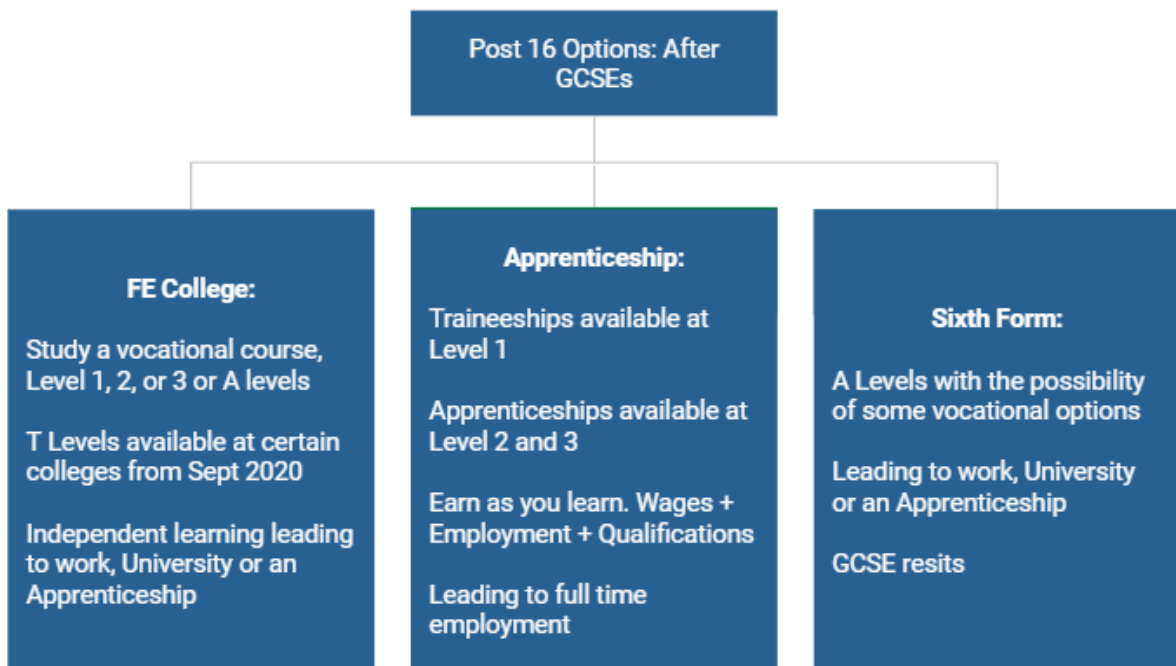
Post 16 Pathways

Where can you learn?

When choosing where to study at Post 16, there are plenty of options to suit every learning style:

1. Sixth Form (either at current school or different school)
2. FE College
3. Workplace or other work-based learning

It's important to research all the options available and think about what would best suit your student so they don't miss out on opportunities that suit their needs and goals



	FE College	Sixth Form
How long?	2/3 years depending on whether you start at Level 1, 2 or 3	2 years of academy study at Level 3
What can I study?	Variety of vocational courses. Some may also offer A Levels Many colleges offer apprenticeships and can help you find an employer to train with	Variety of A Levels with some Sixth Forms offering BTECs or other vocational qualifications Most Sixth Forms require students to study a variety of subjects
Learning / Assessment	Vocational style of learning with emphasis on practical learning and coursework	Academic style of learning with exams and some coursework
Entry Requirements	5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above are general entry requirements	5 GCSEs at 4 or above are the general requirements
What's life like?	Independent learning environment, new teachers, new classmates, new location and travel arrangements	More freedom/ independence that school but still familiar environment with teachers you already know and some students you already know

What can you study?

There are many options to study after GCSEs but can be simplified into the following:

Applied Learning

These qualifications combine practical learning with developing knowledge and skills. You can continue onto further education, training or employment or you can go to university.

These will most likely be BTECs

BTECs

- BTEC Firsts are available from entry level to level 3 (equivalent to A Levels). Many are well regarded by universities, FE colleges and employers.

What are the entry requirements?

- Entry requirements vary depending on school or college or particular BTEC course you are interested in

What could I study?

- They are designed for young people interested in particular sectors like: art and design, business, engineering, media. ICT, hospitality, public services, sport and tourism

Technical Qualifications

These qualifications are great for those who know what sort of job they want to do. These are more practical, involve work experience and offered in wide range of subjects and careers.

These will most likely be Apprenticeships and T Levels

T Levels

- T Levels are designed in partnership with businesses and employers to give you the skills and knowledge to succeed in the workplace
- Will be 80% classroom and 20% work based

Where and when can I study a T Level?

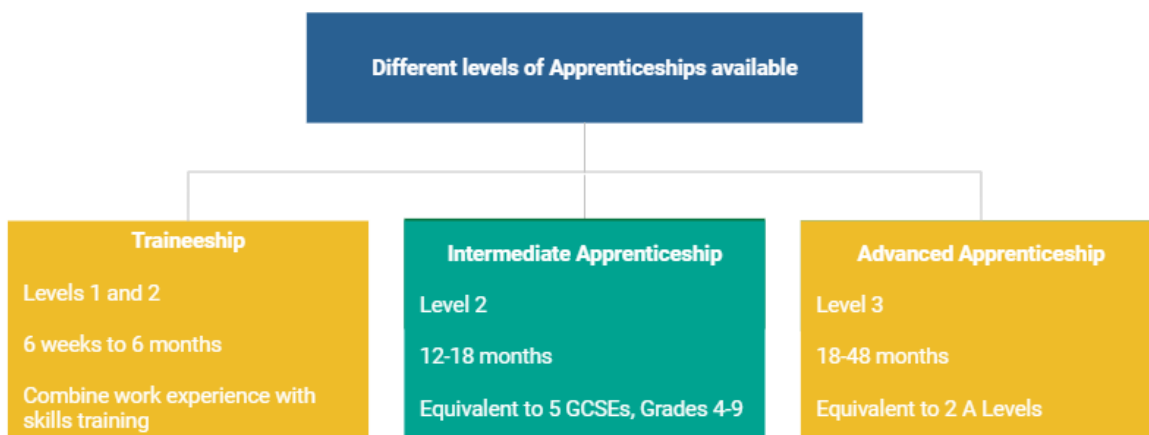
- T Levels will be available at selected colleges and schools
- They are across different courses like: healthcare, accounting, finance, maintenance, engineering and education

Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship is a real job with hands-on experience, salary and full training whilst you work
- 20% of your time is spent at FE college or training provider

When and what level are apprenticeships?

- There are different levels of apprenticeships available with individual entry requirements, course length and average salary
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Academic Qualifications

If you want to continue studying your favourite subjects or thinking about university, you may want to complete academic Level 3 qualifications.

These will most likely be A Levels.

A Levels

- A Levels are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training or work

What grades do I need?

- At least 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4

Who are they for?

- If thinking about going to university, most higher education courses require specific A Levels
- If you're not sure about your future career, a selection of A Levels is a good way of keeping your options open

