



Supporting your child with their Post 16 options

What options does my child have for post 16?.....	1
What are the potential changes happening to Post 16?.....	2
Post 16 providers in the local area	2
Our advice to students when choosing their post 16 options.	6
What can you and your child be doing now to prepare?	6
Post 16 Open Events.....	7
Guide to the different qualification levels:	9

You can get in touch with the Careers Department at Bristol Met by emailing careers@bma.clf.uk

All students in year 11 will have a 1:1 guidance meeting with a careers advisor to talk about their future plans and to create a personal action plan.

What options does my child have for post 16?

There are a range of options available to your child once they leave Bristol Metropolitan Academy. What they go on to do depends on their achievements, interests, values, and preferences.

We recommend the following websites for information on the options available:

- [Bristol.gov.uk - Your choices after 16](http://Bristol.gov.uk)
- [National Careers Service - Post 16 options](#)
- [CareerPilot Parents zone – Choices at 16](#)

The main options are also summarised below:

Vocational Qualification – BTEC	Apprenticeships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available at Level 1, 2 or 3. • Can be taken alongside A Levels or as an extended qualification on their own. • Offer practical learning programmes that relate to specific job roles or employment sectors. • They suit people who prefer coursework to exams. • Normally they use a range of different assessment methods (E.g., observations, and work-based assessment) instead of final exams. • BTEC Extended Certificate level 3 is equivalent to 1 A-level. • BTEC Diploma level 3 is equivalent to 2 A-levels. • BTEC Extended Diploma level 3 is equivalent to 3 A-levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work based learning, available at Level 2 or Level 3 qualifications. • 80% industry placement, 20% classroom learning. • Students need to have a clear idea of what they want to do, as the qualification is job specific. • You must find and apply to them in a similar way to applying for a job. • They can be very competitive, so students must be resilient and able to show what sets them apart from others. • Application processes vary but it is a good idea to have a CV prepared before applying.
Vocational Qualification – T Levels	A-levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fairly new level 3 qualification, which is equivalent to 3 A levels. • 80% classroom learning, 20% industry placement • Suits people who have an interest in a particular job area/role. • Only a small number of subjects offered in Bristol currently. • The current government plan is that these will gradually take over from all other vocational courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A level 3 qualification. You usually take 3 or 4 different A-Level subjects. • Choose a subject you enjoy at GCSE or try a new subject such as Law or Psychology. • Usually assessed at the end of two years by final exams - you need to be good at independent study, revision, and exams. • If students want to go to university in the future, there are still some courses and institutions that only accept A levels (and you may need specific A-level subjects too).

For students on track to achieve five GCSEs between grades 9-4:

If your child achieves a minimum of five GCSEs grade 9-4, including English and Maths, they should be able to progress on to a Level 3. This gives the greatest amount of choice for post 16 and includes A-levels, vocational qualifications, and apprenticeships. However, you should check with each provider as some may ask for higher grades. Level 3 courses usually take 2 years, and all options lead to higher education options.

For students who may achieve fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4:

If your child does not achieve five GCSEs grade 9-4 then they will be unable to study A levels. However, there are a range of level 2 and level 1 vocational qualifications they can study. These qualifications typically last 1 year, after which your child will be able to move onto higher level courses.

If your child doesn't achieve a grade 4 in English and Maths by the end of year 11, they will need to continue to study this alongside their main course at post 16.

What are the potential changes happening to Post 16?

You may have seen reports in the news about changes to the Post 16 offer across the UK. There were plans to remove the funding for some vocational qualifications. This has been paused pending a review. This means that Post 16 providers may or may not be able to offer certain vocational qualifications from September 2025.

More information is due to be available in December.

Students looking at BTEC courses may need to consider alternative options.

Our advice for any students considering BTEC courses is to speak to the department teams at the Post 16 open days to get the most up to date information about what that provider offers and is planning.

Post 16 providers in the local area

There are a wide range of providers in Bristol and the surrounding area that your child can apply to. The below list summarises some of the most popular post 16 providers with our previous students.

For a full list of the post 16 options available this year you can look at the Bristol Post 16 directory. The directory for this year is available online here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/8172-bristol-post-16-directory-2025/file>

You can find out information about each provider on their website or by visiting at an open day or evening.

Name	Website	About us snapshot (in their own words)
Colleges		
City of Bristol College (7 centres across Bristol)	https://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk	City of Bristol College is one of the South West's largest further and higher education colleges. At City of Bristol College, we offer something for everyone in an inclusive and friendly learning environment. Our courses include A Levels, technical and vocational courses, apprenticeships, and pre-entry level courses
SGS College (Closest to Bristol are the Wise and Filton campuses)	https://www.sgscol.ac.uk	At SGS College, we strive to provide clear, high-quality professional and technical routes into apprenticeships, employment and self-employment as well as to Further and Higher Education alongside robust academic routes. To support progression, we provide high-quality career pathways in each of our departments through Intermediate, Technical, Academic, Higher and Professional qualifications and have an extensive Apprenticeship offer
Sixth Form Colleges		
St Brendan's	https://www.stbrn.ac.uk/	St Brendan's Sixth Form College is the only specialist Level 3 provider in the Bristol Bath-South Gloucestershire area and is an educational home to over 2000 students. The College provides a diverse range of over 60 different A-level and Level 3 Applied General courses to 16–18-year-olds, as well as bespoke programmes which focus on employability, critical thinking and other enhancement opportunities. In addition, the college has an Access to Level 3 programme for students who have the ambition to study at Level 3 but have not yet met the entry criteria to do so.
Sixth Forms		

Areté Sixth Form (St Bede's Catholic College)	https://www.stbedesc.org/page/?title=6th+Form&pid=10	<p>The Arété Sixth Form at St. Bede's Catholic College is specialist in providing Level 3 A Level courses. A number of students join us from other schools and we welcome applications from students already studying at St. Bede's as well students from other schools and colleges. At Arété we strive for academic excellence by enabling students to achieve their full potential, combining academic work with an extensive co-curricular programme. The college has a distinctive culture and climate where staff actively promote a love of learning and intellectual curiosity. Closing date for applications: 13th January 2025</p>
Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) sixth form	https://bccs.bristol.sch.uk/sixth-form/	<p>The community at BCCS Sixth Form is warm, friendly, and inclusive. Our first priority is to ensure that all students are valued and supported. We offer more than 20 A-levels, our curriculum is growing fast, with Economics, and Sociology added. Students typically take three A levels, with many choosing to do the Extended Project Qualification alongside their studies. They have not released their application deadline yet, but last year it was in early January.</p>
Bristol Free School (BFS) Sixth Form	https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/sixth-form-welcome	<p>Bristol Free School Sixth Form is a centre of excellence for Post-16 education which opened in September 2016. It provides an outstanding curriculum in brand new facilities shaped and developed by our students; which include exclusive social, study, sports and leisure spaces. Application deadline: Monday 9 December 2024</p>
CLF Post 16	https://post16.clf.uk	<p>The Cabot Learning Federation Post 16 is an independent provision hosted by John Cabot Academy. We offer high quality facilities including a new dedicated Post 16 building and access to the latest subject technologies (e.g. a state-of-the-art Design Centre and sports complex). We offer an inclusive and broad programme offer for students, across a full range of A level and Vocational qualifications. Our committed professional team of subject experts are leading practitioners and experienced in delivering first class teaching, guidance and support</p>
Digitech	https://digitechstudioschool.co.uk/	<p>Digitech is a small studio school that delivers a specialised curriculum for progression into the creative digital and high-tech sectors. Digitech is perfect for coders, designers, creatives, film makers, innovators and entrepreneurs of the future. It is important to us that students have high quality experiences of employability. This includes working alongside employers in school and in work experience</p>
MA.16 (Merchant's Academy)	https://www.merchantsacademy.org/221/welcome-to-ma16	<p>MA.16. a modern, dynamic, student centred sixth form provider, allowing you the freedom and independence to follow a personalised academic pathway towards your goals and aspirations, whilst offering the pastoral support and care fundamental to student wellbeing and achievement.</p>

North Bristol Post 16 (Cotham and Redland centres)	https://www.nbp16c.org.uk/	<p>The North Bristol Post 16 Centre is a highly successful collaboration between Cotham and Redland Green Schools. We welcome students from schools all over Bristol and the surrounding areas into our vibrant, diverse, and industrious community. Here, every young person is challenged and supported to make excellent progress before moving on to secure and ambitious future pathways.</p> <p>Application deadline: Friday 6 December 2024</p>
St Mary Redcliffe and Temple Sixth Form	https://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk/sixth-form	<p>St Mary Redcliffe and Temple is an 11-18 school with a large 6th form offering a big choice of A Level courses. The 6th form is based in its own building but has access to specialist facilities for creative and science subjects in the main school building. We are committed to high achievement for students of all abilities, to building a strong sense of community and to developing well-rounded students who have a strong concern for issues of social justice and equality.</p> <p>Application deadline: 9:00am, Monday 9 December 2024</p>
Trinity Academy	http://www.trinityacademybristol.org/sixth-form/	<p>If you want to be academically challenged, pastorally supported, and have access to the richest of co-curricular experiences, Trinity 6th Form is the place for you to develop Head, Heart and Soul. We are the sister school of the oversubscribed Bristol Cathedral Choir School. We offer over 20 A level courses and encourage our students to take an EPQ. Alongside our outstanding offer of traditional A levels, the school specialises in Music and the Performing Arts.</p> <p>Application deadline: Friday 10 January 2025</p>
V6	https://www.v6bristol.org/	<p>V6 Sixth Form is an exciting co-educational Sixth Form in central Bristol. V6 is Montpelier High School's post-16 provision in a purpose-built post-16 Centre on Cheltenham Road. We are sponsored by the University of Bristol and the Society of Merchant Venturers providing unrivalled opportunities and benefits for our students. We provide an inspirational environment enabling students to flourish and achieve their personal ambitions.</p>
Training Providers and Specialist Colleges		
Access Creative College	https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/bristol/	<p>Access Creative College is the UK's first choice destination for school leavers who want to follow their passion for a career in the creative industries. We encourage you to think outside the box with the help of tutors, industry guests and creative work experiences. Assessment is based on practical project work rather than exams. Our ex-students include, Ed Sheeran, Jess Glynne, Rita Ora and JP Cooper.</p>
Bristol Bears Hitz	http://www.bristolbearsrugby.com/our-community/programmes/hitz/	<p>HITZ uses rugby's core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline & sportsmanship to support young people to make positive changes in their lives. HITZ helps participants to change their lives through gaining qualifications and developing their personal skills, life skills & employability skills to support that young person into further education, training, or employment. Hitz supports young people with a variety of barriers in their life to unlock their full potential.</p>

Boomsatsuma	https://www.boomsatsuma.education/	At boomsatsuma, we're doing education differently. Our mission is to close the gap between education and industry and get you work-ready in your dream creative career. As the leading post-16 education provider for creatives in the South West, boomsatsuma has the tools and expertise you need to develop into the full package and get noticed. With real briefs, real deadlines and real expectations, you'll be taught by some of the most impressive, creative professionals in the UK; delivering project-based learning to get you ready for the real world.
Bristol City Robins Foundation	https://www.bcfc.co.uk/robins-foundation/post-16-courses/	Bristol City Robins Foundation is an innovative sport and education charity whose primary aim is to make an outstanding contribution and impact to the lives of communities across the Greater Bristol region. The Foundation currently offer a wide range of post-16 courses in varying levels such as Sport and Sports Coaching and Development.
Bristol Rovers Community College	https://www.bristolroverscommunity.org.uk/education	Our BTEC Level 3 in Sport offers an excellent opportunity for males and females, aged 16–19, to continue their education in a truly special and unique environment. We combine both our exceptional classroom delivery and our fantastic football programme to provide a positive, inspiring learning environment for all.
Bristol School of Acting	https://bristolschoolofacting.com/	At Bristol School of Acting, we're doing education differently. As one of the UK's newest drama schools, our mission is to re-imagine actor training for the 21st century; to challenge the status quo and train openminded, skilled young actors to apply their voice and identity to a sustainable career in today's industry. Courses in Bristol: Acting and Musical Theatre.
Military Preparation College Training	www.mpct.co.uk	MPCT – Military Academies is a unique training college that helps 16–25-year-olds develop their fitness, vocational qualifications, employability, numeracy, and literacy skills to help prepare for employment, including rewarding careers in the British Armed Forces. Each military academy forms part of a network of over 35 academies across England and Wales.
Next Level (Apprenticeships)	https://www.nextleveltraining.uk.com/	We offer Apprenticeships in Business Administration, Customer Service, Marketing, and Management Qualifications. With over 30 years in the Business Training Industry, we have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience that has resulted in us being market leaders within the training sector.
On Site (Apprenticeships)	www.onsitebristol.co.uk	On Site Bristol have been supporting the construction industry in Bristol with their apprenticeship needs since 1996. We offer construction apprenticeship training programmes in 7 key 'On Site' trades.
Reflections Hair Academy (Apprenticeships)	www.reflectionstraining.co.uk	Reflections offer a range of high-quality Hairdressing and Barbering Apprenticeships, study programmes and traineeships. We offer work-based learning which means learners are based in a salon, earning money whilst attending training sessions at Reflections on a regular basis.

Our advice to students when choosing their post 16 options.

When thinking about their post 16 options, we recommend students think about:

- **Their preferences**
 - What subjects do they enjoy? What are they good at?
 - How do they learn best? E.g., in a classroom or practically?
 - What type of environment is going to suit them? Will they thrive in a big busy environment, or will a smaller environment suit them better?

- **Their future ideas**
 - Have they thought about what they want to do in the future and looked at what is going to get them there?
 - Have they looked at all the routes they can take to get there?
 - Is there anything that they **need** to continue along their chosen path (e.g., do they have to take particular subjects at A-level, or choose particular units in their BTEC). If your child has a clear idea of what they want to do after Post 16, we recommend looking at the entry requirements or criteria for this and then working backwards to post 16 options.
 - If they don't know what they want to do in the future, have they looked at what others who have studied the course they are looking at have gone on to do? Does it sound interesting to them? Most courses give information about what their students have gone on to do after they have completed their course.

- **Practical matters**
 - What are the entry requirements? How does that compare to their predicted grades?
 - Where are places located? How long does it take to get there and how will they make the journey.

What can you and your child be doing now to prepare?

1. Use websites and other resources to start to research your child's career interests and journey. Good websites to look at are:
 - <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>
 - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>.
2. Check provider websites and attend open events for any options your child is considering. Attending these events allows them to get a feel for the place, meet tutors and ask any questions they have.
3. We recommend all students try to make at least 2 applications for post 16 before we break up for Christmas. Students can attend the careers after school sessions for help with applications.
4. Some sixth forms in Bristol close their applications around December, so check provider websites to ensure they're not disappointed.
5. If your child is considering an apprenticeship, they should start to think about creating a CV. We also recommend that all students considering an apprenticeship also make an application to at least one sixth form or college to act as a back-up.
6. It is a good idea to apply to multiple places. Your child can then wait to see where they get offers for, attend additional open events and taster days, and then decide once they get their results in August.

Post 16 Open Events

Current known dates for open events are listed below, but for the most up to date information it is best to check each providers website as they may add more dates.

Most providers ask you to book ahead on their website before attending open events. For providers with more than one centre, check you book for the correct location.

Date	Post 16	Additional Info
Tue 17 Sep 2024	Digitech	4:00pm - 6:00pm, see website for more details
Thu 19 Sep 2024	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details
Thu 26 Sep 2024	SGS Filton Campus	A levels only. 5.30pm-8.00pm
Tue 01 Oct 2024	Bristol City Robins Foundation - Open Evening	6:30pm - check website for details
Wed 02 Oct 2024	Bath College	4:00pm - 7:00pm. Book online via their website
Wed 02 Oct 2024	Bristol School of Acting	5:30pm. Sign up online via their website.
Thu 03 Oct 2024	North Bristol Post 16 (Redland Green)	4:30pm - 6:30pm
Thu 03 Oct 2024	St Bedes Sixth Form	
Sat 05 Oct 2024	City of Bristol College - all centres	10am - 1pm
Sat 05 Oct 2024	St Brendan's	9:30 am - 2:30pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Wed 09 Oct 2024	Bristol Cathedral School Sixth Form	Find out more and book online via their website.
Wed 09 Oct 2024	Weston College (All sites)	5:00pm - 7:00 pm. Register on their website.
Thu 10 Oct 2024	V6 6th Form	5:45pm - 8:00pm
Thu 10 Oct 2024	North Bristol Post 16 (Cotham)	4:30pm-6:30pm
Sat 12 Oct 2024	SGS - all campuses	10am-1pm
Sat 12 Oct 2024	Access Creative College	11am - 2pm
Wed 16 Oct 2024	St Brendan's	From 5pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Thu 17 Oct 2024	St Mary Redcliffe	4.30pm - 6.30pm. Book your ticket to attend a talk online via their website
Thu 17 Oct 2024	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details
Week beginning 21 Oct 2024	Boomsatsuma	Find out specific dates for different courses and book online via their website.
Tue 22 Oct 2024	Trinity 6th Form	5.30pm - 7.30pm. Booking is essential. Book online via their website
Tue 22 Oct 2024	CLF Post-16	
Wed 30 Oct 2024	Bristol City Robins Foundation	10:00am - 11:30am.
Fri 01 Nov 2024	Reflections Training Academy	10am -12:00pm and 1:00pm -3:00pm, see website for more details
Sat 02 Nov 2024	Circomedia - Portland Square	10am – 1:00pm. You need to email them to book your place. Find out more via their website.
Tue 05 Nov 2024	Abbeywood Sixth Form	From 5:30pm onwards
Wed 06 Nov 2024	St Mary Redcliffe	4.30pm - 6.30pm. Book your ticket to attend a talk online via their website
Wed 06 Nov 2024	Trinity 6th Form	5.30pm - 7.30pm. Booking is essential. Book online via their website
Wed 06 Nov 2024	Bradley Stoke Sixth Form	5:30pm - 7:30pm. Book to attend online via their website.

Thu 07 Nov 2024	Winterbourne Sixth Form	5:30pm - 7:30pm. Please check website for details.
Thu 07 Nov 2024	St Bedes Sixth Form	
Mon 11 Nov 2024	Bristol City Robins Foundation	From 6:30pm. Open evening. Check website for more details.
Wed 13 Nov 2024	Weston College (All sites)	5:00pm - 7:00 pm. Register on their website.
Thu 14 Nov 2024	St Brendan's	From 5pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Thu 14 Nov 2024	Ashton Park Post-16	
Sat 16 Nov 2024	Access Creative College	11am - 3pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Thu 21 Nov 2024	City of Bristol College - all centres	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Thu 21 Nov 2024	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details
Sat 23 Nov 2024	Bath College	10:00am-1:00pm please book via website
Sat 23 Nov 2024	SGS - all campuses	10am-1pm
Week beginning Mon 16 Dec 2024	Boomsatsuma	Find out specific dates for different courses and book online via their website.
Wed 15 Jan 2025	Weston College (All sites)	5:00pm - 7:00 pm. Register on their website.
Sat 18 Jan 2025	City of Bristol College - all centres	10am - 1pm
Thu 23 Jan 2025	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details
Sat 25 Jan 2025	SGS - all campuses	10am - 1pm
Tue 04 Feb 2025	St Brendan's	From 5pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Wed 05 Feb 2025	Weston College - South West Skills Campus	Apprenticeship open evening. 4pm - 7pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Wed 05 Feb 2025	Bristol City Robins Foundation - Open Evening	6:30pm - check website for details
Wed 12 Feb 2025	Bath College	4:00pm-7:00pm - please book via website
Wed 19 Feb 2025	Bristol City Robins Foundation	10:00am-2:00pm. Taster Session
Wed 05 Mar 2025	Bath College	4:00pm-7:00pm. Find out more and book online via their website.
Wed 12 Mar 2025	City of Bristol College - all centres	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Wed 12 Mar 2025	Weston College (All sites)	5:00pm - 7:00 pm. Register on their website.
Thu 13 Mar 2025	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details
Wed 09 Apr 2025	Bristol City Robins Foundation	10:00am - 11:30am. Taster Session
Thu 01 May 2025	SGS - all campuses	5.30pm-8.00pm
Thu 01 May 2025	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details
Tue 06 May 2025	Bristol City Robins Foundation - Open Evening	6:30pm - check website for details
Thu 29 May 2025	Bristol City Robins Foundation - Taster Session	10:00am-11:30am
Sat 14 Jun 2025	City of Bristol College - all centres	10am - 1pm
Thu 26 Jun 2025	Bristol Rovers Community College	7pm at the Memorial Stadium - see website for details

Guide to the different qualification levels:

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION		
	Work-based	Vocational	Academic
8	Level 8 NVQ	Level 8 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 8 NVQ Doctorate	Level 8 Award, Certificate, Diploma Doctorate
7	Degree Apprenticeship Level 7 NVQ	Level 7 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 7 NVQ Master's Degree Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma	Level 7 Award, Certificate, Diploma Master's Degree Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
6	Degree Apprenticeship Level 6 NVQ	Level 6 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 6 NVQ Degree with honours Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma	Level 6 Award, Certificate, Diploma Degree with honours Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma
5	Higher Apprenticeship Level 5 NVQ	Level 5 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 5 NVQ Higher National Diploma (HND) Foundation Degree	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
4	Higher Apprenticeship Level 4 NVQ	Level 4 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 4 NVQ Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
3	Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 NVQ	Level 3 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 3 National Certificate, National Diploma Level 3 NVQ Tech Level (T Level)	AS Level A Level
2	Intermediate Apprenticeship Level 2 NVQ	Level 2 Award, Certificate, Diploma Level 2 National Certificate, National Diploma Level 2 NVQ	GCSE: grades 9-4 Level 2 Essential Skills Level 2 Functional Skills
1	Traineeship Level 1 NVQ	Level 1 NVQ Level 1 Award, Certificate, Diploma	GCSE: grades 3-1 Level 1 Essential Skills Level 1 Functional Skills
ENTRY	Entry level Award, Certificate, Diploma Functional Skills Essential Skills Skills for Life		

(Image taken from careers.startprofile.com)