



Supporting your child with their Post 16 options

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You can get in touch with the Careers Department at Bristol Met by emailing our Careers Lead, Mrs Larkin, at gemma.larkin@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
- [National Careers Service](#) - Post 16 options
- [CareerPilot Parents zone](#) – Choices at 16

The main options are also summarised below:

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, T 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 at Level 3. 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.

The Government are currently in a process of reforming the available post-16 qualifications, with many different types of qualifications currently available whilst new ones are introduced before others are phased out. Please read the guide below to help understand the difference between them.

A Levels	T Levels
• Level 3 qualification. You usually take 3 different A-Level subjects. • <u>Minimum</u> entry requirements are 4 x GCSE's at grade 4 and above, including maths and english (higher for some courses). • Choose subjects 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. • Accepted by Universities.	• Level 3 qualification, which is equivalent to 3 A levels. • Entry requirements typically 5 GCSE's at grade 5 and above, including maths and english. • Foundation T Level available in some places with lower entry requirements. • 80% classroom learning, 20% industry placement. • Gain quality work experience with multiple employers. • Mixture of assessment types – not just exam focused. • Suits people who have an interest in a particular job area/role. • Accepted by <i>many</i> Universities.

AAQ (Alternative Academic Qualification)	V Levels
• Level 3 qualification, equivalent to one A Level • Usually taken alongside 2 A Levels • Mainly science, healthcare & computing subjects available • Academic study route - but may have lower entry requirements • Accepted by Universities	• New for 2027 – currently unclear how many will be available in our area. They are gradually replacing level 3 BTECs/diplomas • Level 3 qualification • Can be taken alongside other qualifications • Work-relevant pathways with practical assessments as well as exams
Diplomas & BTEC	Apprenticeships
• 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. • Level 3's are being gradually replaced by V Levels.	• 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.

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. Which is available online here: [Bristol Post-16 Directory 2025-2026](#) (the 2027 directory due to be published October '26)

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 Sixth Form College	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		
Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) sixth form	https://www.bccs.bristol.sch.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=19	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.
CLF Post 16	https://post16.clf.uk	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
Digitech	https://digitechstudio.school.co.uk/	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

North Bristol Post 16 (Cotham and Redland centres)	https://www.nbp16c.org.uk/	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. Application deadline: Friday 6 December 2024
St Mary Redcliffe and Temple Sixth Form	https://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk/sixth-form	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. Application deadline: 9:00am, Monday 9 December 2024
Trinity Academy	https://www.trinityacademybristol.org/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=30	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. Application deadline: Friday 10 January 2025
MH6 (Montpelier)	https://montpelierhigh.e-act.org.uk/mh6-sixth-form-2/why-choose-mh6/	MH6 Sixth Form is an exciting co-educational Sixth Form in central Bristol. MH6 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.
Training Providers and Specialist Colleges		
Access Creative College	https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/bristol/	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.

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.
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How to apply

Applications to post-16 are **not** made through the local authority – instead you must apply directly to each provider via their website.

You will need:

- Student personal details
- At least one parent/carer details
- Details of any SEND needs or diagnoses
- Predicted GCSE grades (this can be found on the student's latest report)

Once an application has been made, you will be contacted by the provider with further information. Some may require an in-person or telephone interview, before accepting the application. Read through all information sent by the providers carefully, and ensure all deadlines and appointments are kept.

It can be useful to check through the admissions policy for sixth forms which are attached to secondary schools e.g. St Mary Redcliffe and Bristol Cathedral School. These typically are very oversubscribed and have different policies on how places are allocated.

Sixth Forms may have deadlines by which applications must be submitted. Most colleges and other post-16 providers do not close applications, but you may be placed on a wait list if the course is already full when you apply. Therefore, **we encourage all applications to be made by the end of term 2.**

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 more may be added.

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.

2026 events			
Academy	Date and Day	Time	Notes
Digitech Studio School	Tuesday 15 th September	4-6pm	Year 10 & Year 12 open evening
City of Bristol College	Saturday 3 rd October	10am - 1pm	
St Brendan's Sixth Form College	Saturday 3 rd October	9.30am - 1.30pm	
Boomsatsuma	6 th -8 th October*	*See notes	*Date is dependent on area of interest
BCFC Robins foundation	Tuesday 6 th October	6.30pm - 7.30pm	
MH6 Sixth form (Montpelier)	Tuesday 6 th October	5.45pm - 8pm	
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	Wednesday 7 th October	4pm – 7.30pm	
CLF Post 16	Thursday 8 th October	4.30pm - 7.30pm	
SGS College	Saturday 10 th October	10am - 3pm	All campuses
St Mary Redcliffe	Tuesday 13 th October	4pm - 6pm	
Access Creative College	Saturday 17 th October		Book time on website.
Trinity sixth form	Tuesday 20 th October	5pm - 8pm	
Olympus Trust: Abbeywood	Tuesday 1 st November	5.30pm-7.30pm	
Olympus Trust: Bradley Stoke	Wednesday 2 nd November	5.30pm-7.30pm	
Olympus Trust: Winterbourne School	Thursday 4 th November	5.30pm-7.30pm	
St Mary Redcliffe	Wednesday 4 th November	4pm - 6pm	
BCFC Robins foundation	Wednesday 11 th November	6.30pm - 7.30pm	
SGS College	Saturday 14 th November	10am – 3pm	All campuses
City of Bristol college	Thursday 19 th November	5.30pm - 7.30pm	
Boomsatsuma	5 th /12 th December*		*Date is dependent on area of interest
2027 events			
Academy	Date and Day	Time	Notes
City of Bristol College	Saturday 16 th January	10am - 1pm	
SGS College	Wednesday 17 th March	5pm - 8pm	All campuses

CLF Post 16	Wednesday 20 th January	4.30pm - 6.30pm	Info evening
BCFC Robins foundation	Tuesday 2 nd February	6.30pm - 7.30pm	
City of Bristol College	Wednesday 10 th March	5.30pm - 7.30pm	
BCFC Robins foundation	Tuesday 4 th May	6.30pm - 7.30pm	
City of Bristol College	Saturday 19 th June	10am - 1pm	

Further advice on Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is applied for in the same way as any other job. They are available in many sectors, and at different levels ranging from Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE), to Level 7 (masters degree). Apprentices spend 80% of their time learning on-the-job, and 20% of their time with a training provider such as a college.

Apprenticeship vacancies can be found in the following ways:

- 1) Gov.uk website is the most comprehensive source of vacancies, students should register to create an account using their personal email address. Link here: [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#)
- 2) Job sites such as Indeed.com and Reed.com
- 3) Direct searches on company websites. Some national employers only advertise this way, such as the NHS. These large companies often have a lengthy application process and may open applications in the autumn of 2026 for a 2027 start.
- 4) Word of mouth through friends or family contacts.

Students can expect to have to send off a CV or fill in an application form. There may be telephone or virtual interviews, in-person interviews, assessment days and skills-tests.

Apprenticeships are a suitable alternative to attending full-time college, giving young people the chance to learn real-world skills and gives them a solid start to their career. However, they are competitive and should not be seen as an easy alternative to college. We always recommend students apply to at least one full time college course as a back-up, in case they are not successful in securing an apprenticeship.

The Amazing Apprenticeships website is a comprehensive source of information and advice: [Amazing Apprenticeships | Explore Vocational Education & Apprenticeship Opportunities](#)

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		

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