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This information sheet provides lots of information about education and training options in your area, with the aim of helping you to make informed decisions.

We recommend that every student applies to at least 2 post-16 providers so that they have a plan A and a plan B. We would also recommend that any student who wants an apprenticeship after SVS also apply for a college course or 6th form as a plan B.

There are 3 main types of qualifications that you can take at schools or colleges post-16:

A-Levels, T-Levels and BTECs. There are also other vocational qualifications, such as NVQs or other training options that might be taken with Apprenticeships.

Understanding levels: Post 16 qualifications range from Level 1 to Level 3. A-Levels and T-Levels are at Level 3. Other vocational qualifications might start at level 2. Your GCSE estimated grades will help to guide Y11 students as to which level or type of course might be the best one(s) for you to consider and I would always recommend students have an 'aspirational choice' and a 'safe choice' (similar to how university choices are done).

T-Levels – Gloucestershire's **Cirencester College** has been at the heart of these pioneering Level 3 qualifications. Some subjects are now also offered at **Gloucestershire College** and **SGS College**. They are a 2-year technical study programmes designed in partnership with employers that combine class room training and a 45+ day (or more) industry placement. There are a selection of T-levels that include subjects as diverse as Accounting to Adult Nursing, Horticulture to Business Management and Broadcast Production to Engineering. These courses have been devised in close contact with employers to ensure that students have the practical skills as well as the technical knowledge to ensure they are 'work ready'.

Entry requirements: T-Level courses generally require 5 GCSEs at grades 4 or above including Maths and English Language. Check carefully as entry requirements vary and some subjects require additional or higher grades in certain GCSEs.

A-Levels – these are Level 3 qualifications that are studied across 2 years. They are broad academic subjects which may be familiar from GCSE study or may be new subjects not studied before, such as Economics or Law. Most students study 3 A-Levels plus an additional qualification like EPQ or completing DofE Gold etc. Some university courses will expect students to have studied certain subjects at A-Level so it is best to check some degree course entry requirements before deciding which subjects to take. You can do this through a course search at www.ucas.com A-Levels can be taken at all school 6th forms, as well as Cirencester College and Hartpury College.

Entry requirements: as a general rule of thumb you usually need a grade 5 / 6 or above at GCSE in the subject or in a related subject to study at A- Level. Maths and Science often requires a grade 7+. Check carefully with individual providers as entry requirements vary.

BTECs – these are practical-based, vocational qualifications. They can be studied at a college or some school 6th forms and they provide the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a field or subject. BTEC Level 1 & 2 are equivalent to GCSEs and Level 3 is equivalent to A-Levels. Students may be able to progress from a L1 or 2 through to a L3, normally over a 3-year period.

In addition to the above, colleges like Cirencester College offer Foundation Year courses for T-Levels, or Upgrade Study Programmes. These are for students who are not quite ready for T-Levels or A-Levels and include work experience, GCSE resits, project qualifications.

We are extremely lucky in Gloucestershire to be served by a wide variety of colleges, all of which have different strengths and focuses. From Hartpury's Countryside Management course through to SGS's Forensic and Criminal Investigation course, as well as a wide range of A-Levels and T-Levels at Cirencester College, no matter what your passion there are Post-16 courses to aid you to get your dream job. Please click on the below college name to be taken to their website.

During the summer holidays Y10s need to research the different colleges and decide if they are interested or not in any of the courses they have to offer – please note Gloucestershire College and SGS College have different campuses e.g. in Cheltenham, the Forest of Dean and Bristol, so you need to check the location carefully.

[Berkeley Green UTC](#) – Berkeley Green is a 'University Technical College' that offers courses starting in year 10 and in year 12. They are a specialist engineering and computing centre and they offer A-Levels and BTECs in physics, maths, DT, computer science/computing and engineering. You will need to book onto their open days and register to find out about courses and apprenticeships – check their website for details of dates and to book.

[Cirencester College](#) – You will need to book onto their open days and register to find out about courses and apprenticeships – check their website for details of dates and to book. Based at the heart of the South Cotswolds town of Cirencester, Cirencester College is a specialist sixth form provider offering the widest choice of post-16 subjects in the region, including A-Levels, T-Levels, BTECs/vocational courses and Apprenticeships.

[Gloucestershire College](#) - You will need to book onto their open days and register to find out about courses and apprenticeships – check their website for details of dates and to book. Apply for courses by March to get your first choice of venue for post-16 courses, remember not all of Gloucestershire College sites are in Gloucester.

Gloucestershire College is a Further Education College that offers T-Levels, BTECs/vocational courses and Apprenticeships. As well as offering courses to 16-18 year olds, the college also offers part-time and online courses for adults.

[GET](#) - Gloucestershire Engineering and Training Centre – Open evening is normally in February. Book online. GET offers training for apprenticeship providers (employers) in the area in the field of Engineering.

[Hartpury College](#) -

You will need to book onto their open days and register to find out about courses and apprenticeships – check their website for details of dates and to book. Hartpury College offer Level 2 and 3 courses in vocational areas such as Sport, Agriculture, Animal Management/Science and Public Services. They also offer A-Levels and Apprenticeships.

[MPCT](#) – The Military Academy in Gloucester is a unique training college that helps 16+ year olds develop their fitness, vocational qualifications, and employability skills to help prepare for employment, including rewarding careers in the British Armed Forces. Please see their website for more information on what this college has to offer and contact them to arrange a visit.

South Gloucestershire & Stroud (SGS) College – You will need to book onto their open days and register to find out about courses and apprenticeships – check their website for details of dates and to book.

SGS College is a Further Education College that offers T-Levels, BTECs/vocational courses and Apprenticeships. As well as offering courses to 16-18 year olds, the college also offers part-time and online courses for adults.

Sixth Forms (Schools)

Just as Gloucestershire has a wide range of colleges it also has a wide range of school Sixth Forms, each one having its own strengths and offering unique opportunities. Not all sixth forms are the same, and therefore please make sure you visit as many open-days as possible. Please click on the links below to be taken to their website and to find up-to-date information on their open-days and taster sessions. Students will be given a list of providers and their open days early on in Year 11.

Please double check open evening dates and times, entry requirements and subjects offered on the provider's website. The below information is a guide only and is always subject to change.

All Saints Academy (Cheltenham) – A Christian Academy offering a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3, as well as a Level 2 Key Skills course. Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you are on. See website for details.

Archway School Sixth Form (Stroud) - Offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3. General entry requirements are: 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English, Maths, and the subject to be studied (where relevant). Higher grades are required to take certain subjects at A-Level.

Balcarras School (Cheltenham) – Offers a range of A-Levels and a small number of vocational courses at level 3. The minimum requirement for entry to the sixth form is 2 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s in full GCSE courses. These must include a grade 5 or above in both mathematics and English language or literature. In addition, many A-level subjects will require a specific grade in that particular subject at GCSE.

Cheltenham Bournside School (Cheltenham) – Offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3. Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you are on. See website for details.

Chosen Hill School (Gloucester) – Offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3. Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you are on. See website for details.

Churchdown School (Gloucester) – Offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3, as well as GCSE resit classes. Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you are on. See website for details.

The Crypt School (Gloucester) – Offers A-Levels only. General entry requirements are a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grade 6 or above. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

Denmark Road Sixth Form (Gloucester) - Offers A-Levels only. General entry requirements are a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grade 6 or above. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

Holmleigh Park Sixth Form (Gloucester) – Offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3. Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you are on. See website for details.

Katherine Lady Berkley School (Wotton-under-Edge) – Mostly A-Levels and a small number of level 3 vocational options. General entry requirements are a minimum of 3 GCSEs at grade 5 and 2 GCSEs at grade 4 or above. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

Marling Sixth Form (Stroud) – Offers A-Levels only. General entry requirements are a minimum of 38 points across best 6 GCSEs. The numerical grade is used as the point score. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

Pates Sixth Form (Cheltenham) – Offers A-Levels only. General entry requirements are a minimum total points score across their best 8 GCSE grades of 57 points. Minimum predicted grade 7 in the

subject to study it at A-Level. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

[Ribston Hall Sixth Form](#) (Gloucester) – Mostly A-Levels. General entry requirements are Five full course GCSEs at Grade 6 or higher. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

[Sir Thomas Rich's Sixth Form](#) (Gloucester) – Offers A-Levels only. General entry requirements are a minimum points score of 50 across your best 8 GCSE subjects. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

[St Peter's RC High School](#) (Gloucester) – Offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC subjects at level 3. Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you are on. See website for details.

[Stroud High School Sixth Form](#) (Stroud) – Offers A-Levels only. General entry requirements are a minimum points score across your best 8 GCSE subjects. Check the website for details of individual A-Level subject requirements.

One-to-One Careers Appointments



Independent and impartial careers guidance is provided by Dawn Salmon, a professional careers advisor, who visits the school once or twice a week during term time to meet with students individually and to give group talks. We try to arrange at least one appointment during KS4 for every Severn Vale student.

If you would like to book a careers appointment please email careers@severnvaeschool.com

Your Career Adviser can support you in the following ways:

- Listen to your ideas / thoughts about your Post 16 Options
- Support you to better understand your strengths, likes and dislikes and how these relate to careers
- Help you to understand all of the education and training pathways available
- Help you to research careers, post 16 and post 18 options and entry requirements
- Create a plan of action so that you're clear about what needs to happen next

To support our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their GCSE options and next steps after school, we are fortunate to have Unifrog (an award-winning, online careers platform) as our main careers information tool. The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups.

Each student (Years 7-11) has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child with their careers choices throughout their time at Severn Vale. Please sign up using the form code **SVRVP**arents at www.unifrog.org/code

You are able to search by favourite school subject or by job and Unifrog will give you more information around careers and the qualifications needed to succeed.

Work Experience

While Severn Vale School's Y10 Work experience usually takes place in the last week of July however work experience is not limited to this one week in July nor is it limited to just Y10s. We encourage students from Y10 and Y11 to also have a placement in the summer holidays as well as taking advantage of the weekend 'insight into industry' days that are offered by local companies and the GROWS network.

Please keep an eye out for current work experience / insight into industry days that are advertised throughout the year.

See the Work Experience Information Sheet for further information about finding a Work Experience placement.

Students wanting to be

Doctors

Vets

Lawyers

Engineers

Are expected to have a number of work placements by the time they apply to university

Here is a guide for those starting year 11 in the next academic year:

July -September (end of Year 10 / into Year 11) - There are lots of school Sixth Forms and Colleges in Gloucestershire and so using the summer holidays to whittle them down to a shortlist may well be a sensible first step in deciding where to go after Severn Vale School. Why not begin researching via Unifrog or 6th Form / Colleges own websites? Aim to compile a short-list of Post-16 choices by the end of September, having checked first that your GCSE estimated grades are on target to meet the course requirements. Following this you need to apply to attend a selection of open-days / open evenings (**Top tip** - If applicable - remember to research what student bursaries are available for you to apply for e.g. travel bursaries).

Sept - November - Attend at least two College or Sixth Form open-days. Most colleges have 2 or more open events a year, while most Sixth Forms only have one a year and so you do need to get organised early. Please note you will find many of the popular colleges open-days get full early. (**Top tip** - Severn Vale School will be issuing all students with a list of open-days at the start of September but some are already being advertised and may even be full in September!

Flexi-Learning Day - Severn Vale School usually take all of Year 11 off timetable for the day to allow them to visit a Post-16 destination of their choice and have a 'taster' of one or more subjects/courses. Transport will be provided by Severn Vale School, however as students are only able to visit one venue, it is important that students choose carefully. As well as getting to see the facilities, an open day is a great opportunity to find out more about the different courses on offer from those who teach and study it - current students and academic staff. (**Top tip** - For many students choosing a college or sixth form is a bit like buying a house - and so you may well find that you end up going with your gut feeling and choosing the college or sixth form that feels like it could be your home for the next 2 years. Remember what is right for your friends might not be right for you).

November – December - January - Submit applications to College / Sixth Forms (**Top tip** - you can submit multiple applications and can also accept courses at more than one provider, and you do not need to decide on where you are going until GCSE Results Day in August).

December – Complete, via Unifrog, your Post-16 destination form, remembering to include a Plan A and a Plan B – this information will allow us to be able to review all of Year 11s applications and do a check on suitability and ensure all of Year 11 have the balance right between being aspirational and attainable.

January - February - Some schools have a later open days and application dates - so look out for these later events and application windows (normally only a few weeks).

January - July - If interested, apply for apprenticeships via either Unifrog or Find and Apprenticeship website [Find an apprenticeship \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](https://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

August- GCSE results day - decide on which Post-16 place you are choosing and contact them to confirm your place / enrol. Turn down your other options.