



ORCHARD MEAD
CAREERS

POST 16 PARENT GUIDE



*Together we can make a
positive difference*

2025/2026



Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Careers Lead, I'm delighted to be working with you and your young person as they approach this important stage in their education journey.

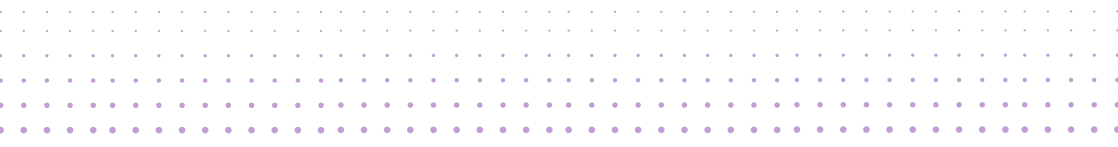
Year 11 is a pivotal time, filled with key decisions that will shape your child's future beyond school. Whether they're considering college, apprenticeship, sixth form or other routes, this year lays the foundation for their next steps. That's why it's more important than ever that we work closely in partnership to support and guide them through the process.

We are committed to providing high-quality, impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance. From one-to-one support and workshops to careers fairs and employer encounters, your young person will have access to a wide range of opportunities to help them make informed and confident decisions.

Your involvement as parents and carers is vital, and we look forward to working alongside you to ensure your child is fully prepared for life after Year 11.

If you have any questions or need support at any point, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warm Regards,
Miss Griffiths - Careers Leader



Post-16 Information

The decisions your young person makes after Year 11 are more than just the next step

— they're the foundation for everything that follows.

The choices they make now can shape their future opportunities, opening doors to exciting careers, higher education, and personal success.

They should be thinking about:

- The type of qualification that will support their long-term goals
- Whether they learn best through classroom study or hands-on, practical experience
- And most importantly, which subjects or areas truly inspire them

Now is the time to explore, reflect, and plan with purpose. With the right choice, your young person won't just take their next step — they'll take a leap toward a future they can be proud of.

By law, **all young people in the UK must continue in some form of education or training until the age of 18.** This does not necessarily mean staying in school full-time—there are several flexible pathways available.

Young people can choose from a variety of routes, depending on their interests, career goals, academic performance or ways of learning.

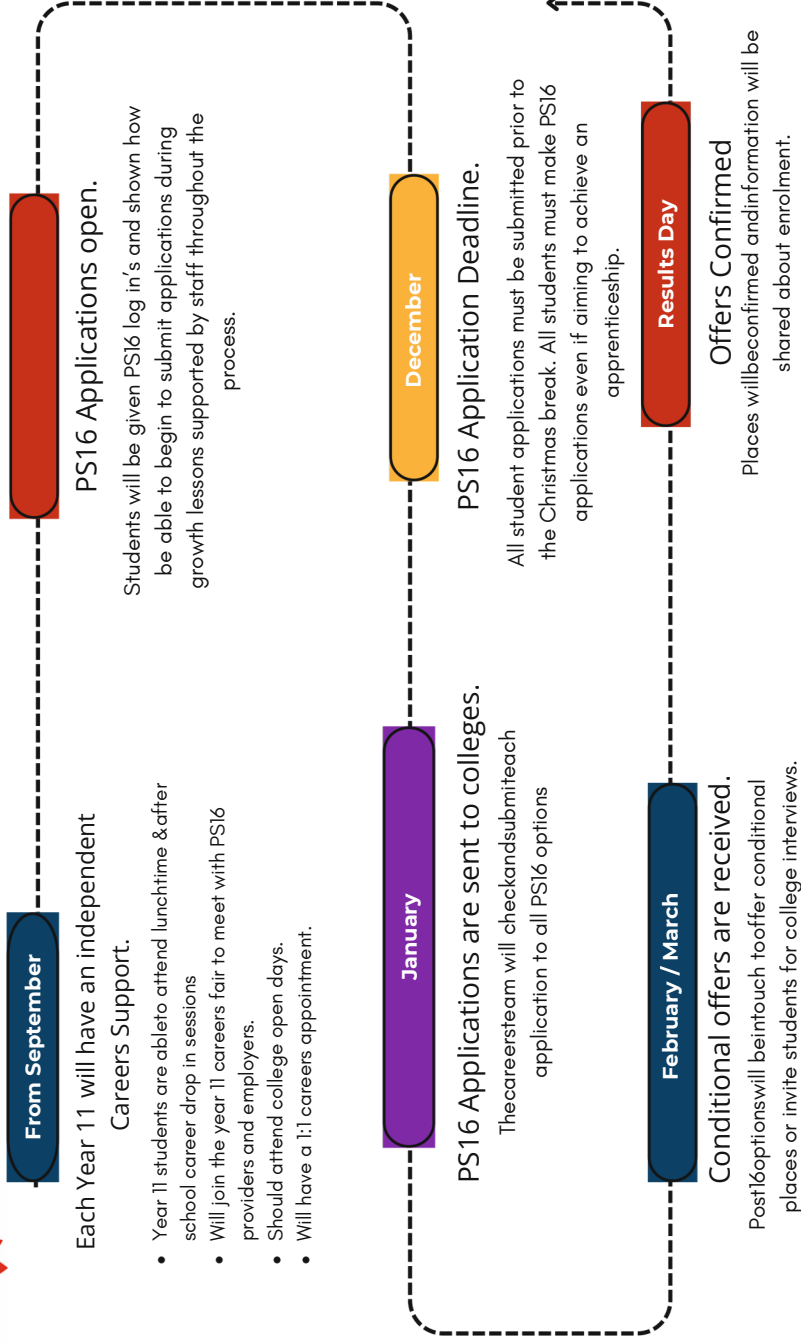
- A Levels
- BTECs
- T Levels
- Apprenticeships

If the young person hasn't achieved the required results at GCSE, they can do an internship or traineeships to get the experience to progress.

These help develop skills, build confidence, and provide valuable experience to move on to an apprenticeship, college course, or employment.



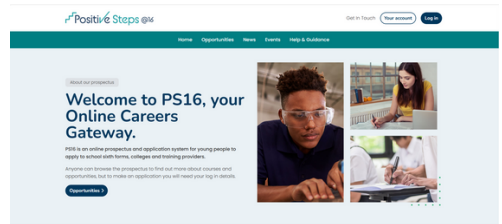
Application Timeline



Application Process

Our year 11 students will be applying for their post-16 options using an online application system called PS16. This platform allows young people to apply to multiple colleges through one central application.

The home page of the student site.



During Growth sessions students will be given login details (username and password) to access the system. They will have to complete the following:

A screenshot of the PS16 profile completion page. The page is titled "This is all about you, Amid." and instructs users to complete each section. There are eight sections arranged in a 2x4 grid: Personal Details, Address, Health, Parental Details, Qualifications, Personal Statement, Equality and Diversity, and Work Experience. Each section has a status bar indicating "Complete" and an "Update details" button.

The Career and Growth team will support young people through the entire process, ensuring they understand how to use the system and are applying before deadlines.

We will also update their predicted grades and school references on their behalf, which will be submitted through the system.



Post 16 Options

	Apprenticeship	A-Levels	BTEC	T-Level
	Earn while you learn. Full time employment with 80% work and 20% training. Learn industry specific skills and knowledge.	Academic, limited coursework (depending on subject) with exams at the end of each year.	Practical based, with coursework and limited exams	Classroom academic learning, with 45 days of practical placement in 2nd year.
How long?	1-3 years	2 years	1 - 2 years	2 years
Levels?	2 3	3	1 2 3	3
Entry Requirements	No formal requirements. English & Maths - Grade 4 and above. Job interviews and applications.	5-7 GCSE's at 5 or above, additional requirements for specific subjects.	2 GCSE's at and above. 4 GCSE's at 3 and above. 5 GCSE's at 4 and above.	5 GCSE's at 4 or above, some transitional courses for 3/4 GCSE's at grade 3.

If you have any questions on your Post-16 options or the qualifications you can take, please reach out to the Orchard Mead Careers Team.
Miss Griffiths - L.Griffiths@orchard-tmet.uk

Students will use the predicted grades from the most recent Mock to inform their decisions. These grades will be updated in December based on their Year 11 mock results. **Please note this will be the final update.**

It's important to know that some colleges and sixth forms require a Grade 5 or above in Higher English, Maths and/or Science. Please check PS16, the colleges or sixth form websites, or speak to the careers team to confirm their specific requirements.

All students are required to apply to a minimum of three colleges or sixth forms. (Including those wanting to apply to an apprenticeship later in the year) This increases their chance of securing a place that suits them best and gives them more choices, flexibility and options to find the right path for their goals.

A-LEVELS



- An A-Level, is an in-depth study of a subject over two years with multiple exams at the end of year 13 to test knowledge.
- Learning mostly takes place in the classroom. Students take three A-Levels.
- For students wishing to go on to university, UCAS points are awarded for up to three A-levels. Points range from 16 to 56 points depending on the grade achieved.

There are many more subject choices at A-Level than GCSE, so it's possible they might choose a subject they haven't studied before. If they find they don't enjoy the subject as much as they'd hoped, most schools or colleges allow them to make changes towards the end of the first term. Students usually need at least a GCSE grade 6 in their subject choice, if it's something they have studied before, although exceptions can sometimes be made.

CLASSROOM LEARNING

2 YEARS

BTEC'S



- BTECs at Level 3 are a similar standard to A levels with a focus on vocational subjects. Study takes place over a two year period and is a combination of both practical and theory.
- Knowledge is tested through coursework and a final examination (comprising 40% of the total grade)

For those wishing to go to university, subsidiary diplomas offer the same opportunity to earn UCAS points as A-Levels. UCAS points for BTEC diplomas and extended diplomas are double and trebled respectively. If your child prefers learning through practical application, they will more likely do better taking BTECs than A-Levels. However, some universities have a preference for A levels over BTEC, so if your child has their heart set on a specific university or course, it's worth checking entry requirements to see whether this will influence their sixth form choices.

Practical Learning

Work
Experience

1 - 2 YEARS

T-LEVELS



- T-levels are new, government-backed, career focused qualifications for 16- to 19- year olds.
- They're equivalent to three A-levels and are also backed by businesses, who helped to design the courses.
- Each two-year course has been designed with employers from multiple sectors and combines classroom study (80%) with a 45-day industry placement (20%) to prepare your child for the world of work, or further study like a higher level apprenticeship or university.

The industry placement is designed to help your child: find out more about the career opportunities open to them build essential skills, such as teamwork and communication, for their future employment put their skills and knowledge into practice in the real world of work and build contacts with employers This understanding of the real world of work is incredibly valuable. As well as helping your child to make more informed choices about their career pathway, they will gain experience that employers look for when it comes to hiring.

Classroom learning

45 days Practical Placement

2 YEARS

APPRENTICESHIPS



- Apprenticeships are real jobs which include learning elements which might take place at university, college or an education provider.
- Apprenticeships were developed to help address the skills shortage in UK businesses.
- They provide a way of combining learning with on the job training to build professional skills transferable from one organisation to another.

Sixteen year olds can start an apprenticeship at Level 2 (fewer qualifications required) or Level 3 (5 GCSEs required). There is no Level 1 as enrolling on an apprenticeship requires demonstrating a certain ability. Students with no qualifications can take on a traineeship or internship to help them achieve the necessary skills to start an apprenticeship. Most apprenticeships work towards one or more qualifications. These qualifications correspond to the level of apprenticeship. Advanced apprenticeships (level 3) provide qualifications equivalent to 2 A-Levels. Level 3 qualifications may include National Certificates, National Diplomas or NVQs which will open up choices once your child is 18.

Employment (On the job Training)

**Education /
Qualification**

1- 3 YEARS



Post 16 Local Providers

Apprenticeship

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk>

Apprenticeships are applied for through the employer with your CV and application, you could then be invited for an interview and given the role.

Although you may be able to discuss the training provider with your employer, this is their choice.



BTEC



A- Levels



BEAUCHAMP COLLEGE



SMB College Group
One of the family



Beauchamp City
Sixth Form



THE CITY OF
LEICESTER
COLLEGE

T-Level



SMB College Group
One of the family



And More.....

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ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Colleges and Post-16 options requirespecificminimum attendance entry requirements in addition to GCSE gradesor theirpoliciesoutlinespecificexpectations. Therecan be exemptions to this such as medical reason, see the careers team for support.



90%



97%



93%



BEAUCHAMP COLLEGE

96%



95%



KEY DATES

- **Friday 17th October** - Year 11 Careers Fair
- **October** - PS16 Login details are given during Growth sessions
- **November** - Year 11 information evening, joined by Post16 providers
- **December** - Application deadline for all students
- **January** - Year 11 Mock Interviews

Support is available for all students all year including career drop in sessions, personal statement support and career appointments.

College & Sixth Form Open Events 2025

College	Date	Time
Ashby Sixth Form	Saturday 1st November	12.30pm – 3pm
	Thursday 6 th November	5pm – 7pm
	Saturday 15 th November	10am – 12.30pm
Beauchamp City Sixth Form	Saturday 1 st November	10am – 2pm
Beauchamp College	Saturday 8 th November	Check website for details
BMC College Stephenson Campus	Saturday 15 th November	9.30am – 1pm
BMC College - Brooksby Campus	Saturday 11 th October	9.30am – 1pm
	Saturday 13 th December	9.30am – 1pm
BMC College - Melton Campus	Weds 12 th November	5.15pm – 7.15pm
Bosworth Academy (The Oaks)	Thursday 30 th October	4.30pm – 7pm
Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	Thursday 16 th October	5.30pm – 7pm
Cedars Martin Sixth Form	Wednesday 30 th October	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Charnwood College	Weds 6 th November	TBC - Check Website
Countesthorpe Academy	Thursday 6 th November	4.30pm – 6.30pm
DeLisle College	Thursday 31 st October	6pm – 8pm
English Martyr's 6 th Form	Thursday 16 th October	5pm – 7pm
Gateway College	Thursday 6 th November	5pm – 7pm
	Saturday 8 th November	10am – 1pm
Iveshead School	Wednesday 2 nd October	4pm – 7pm
Leicester College (all campuses)	Tuesday 30 th October	5pm – 7.30pm
	Saturday 15 th November	10am – 1pm
Loughborough College	Saturday 4 th October	9.30am – 1pm
	Saturday 8 th November	9.30am – 1pm
	Saturday 6 th December	9.30am – 1pm
Lutterworth College	Thursday 2 nd October	TBC - Check Website
Maplewell Hall School	Tuesday 1st October	4pm – 6pm
Melton Vale Sixth Form	Saturday 11 th October	11am – 3pm
NWSLC – Wigston Campus	Thursday 16 th October	5pm – 7.30pm
	Saturday 15 th November	10am – 1pm
St Pauls Catholic School	Thursday 6 th November	4.30pm – 6.30pm
The Hinckley School Sixth	Wednesday 6 th November	5pm – 8pm
Wigston College	Tuesday 4 th November	5pm – 7.30pm
WQE	Saturday 1 st November	9am – 3pm

Please check times and dates on each college website beforehand as changes may occur! Details of Open Days are advertised on individual College websites and many are now asking you to pre-book your place.

CAREER DROP IN SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

FOR STUDENTS:

During lunch on Tuesday and Thursdays in the library.
Please sign up at the careers desk prior to attending.

FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS:

Every Wednesday, starting 29th October 3:20pm - 4:20pm

These sessions are a great opportunity to ask questions seek guidance, or get support with next steps and future planning. These sessions can provide guidance on:

- PS16 Applications
- Career and course selection
- Application checks
- Personal Statement support.
- CV support.
- Any career related question.

**TO SIGN UP PLEASE EMAIL THE CAREERS LEAD
LGRIFITHS@ORCHARD-TMET.UK**

Contact Information

 **0116 241 3371**

 **<https://www.orchard-tmet.uk/>**

 **LGriffiths@orchard-tmet.uk**

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