Your future is our business!
No career out of bounds!

A guide for Year 11 students at Trinity Academy

POST-16 OPTIONS

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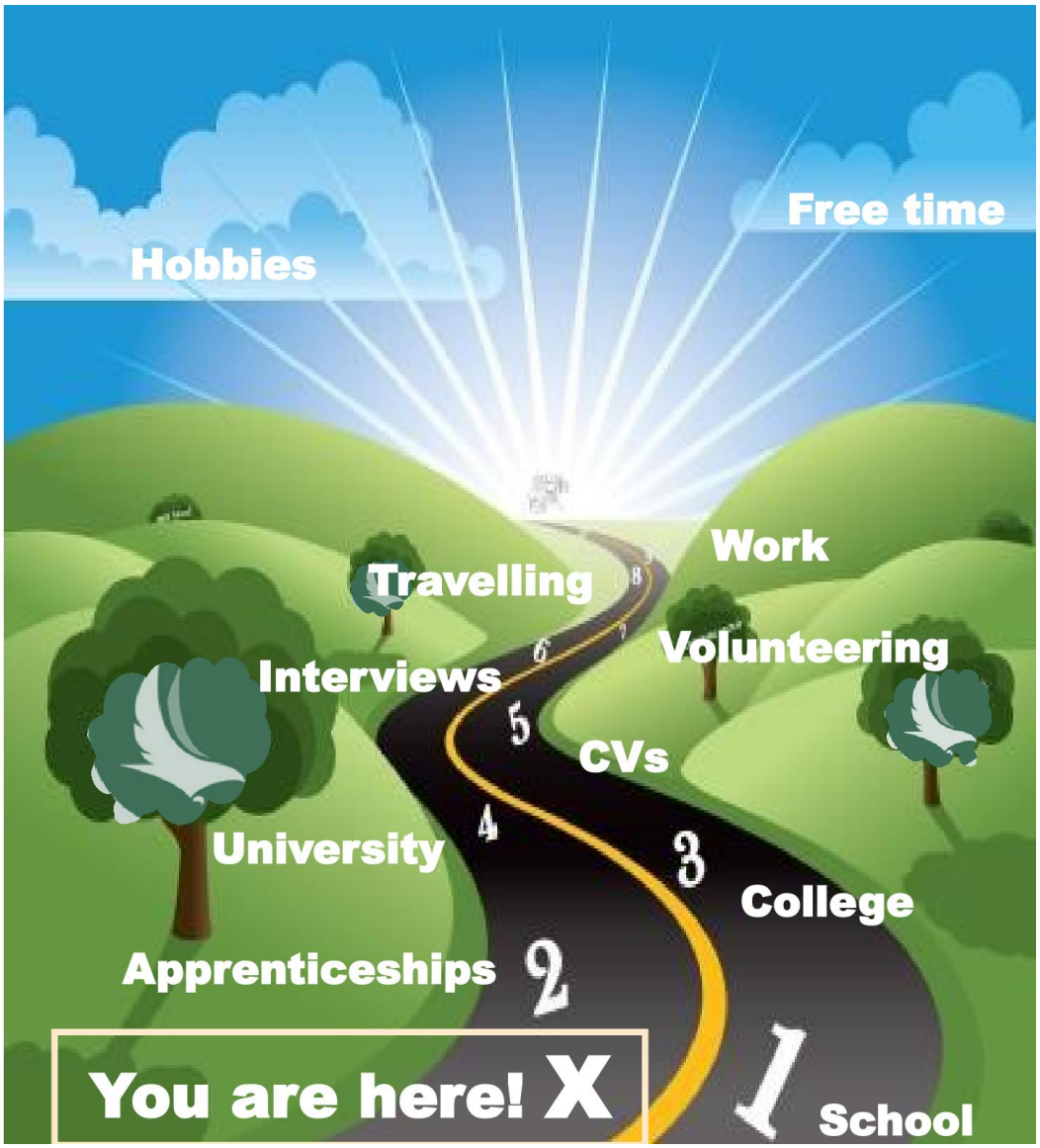
How does it all work?



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Post-16 Education: What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

Full-Time Study

This could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

Apprenticeships

This involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

Traineeships

This is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement; you will also work towards Mathematics and English qualifications and get support with finding an apprenticeship.

Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering

This could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

T Levels

These are new courses which started in September 2020, they follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the contents meet the needs of industry and prepares students for work. Students spend 80% of the course in the classroom learning the skills the employer needs and the other 20% in a meaningful industry placement, where they put these skills in action.

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Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study:

Traditional A-Levels – Subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art.

Alternative A-Levels – Subjects like Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science.

BTEC L3 Diplomas – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project which can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

Entry Requirements – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A level Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

LOCAL SIXTH FORM COLLEGES

Trinity Academy	**01405 813000**	**www.trinity-academy.org.uk**
Doncaster College	**01302 553553**	**www.don.ac.uk**
John Leggott College	**01724 282998**	**www.leggott.ac.uk**
New College	**01302 976777**	**www.ncdoncaster.ac.uk**
Selby College	**01757 211000**	**www.selby.ac.uk**
North Lindsey College	**01724 281111**	**www.northlindsey.ac.uk**

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Trinity Academy Sixth Form

With a wide range of academic and vocational courses on offer, we are confident that you will find courses to equip you for your future. To accompany this, we run a large variety of enrichment, work experience and trips as well as career preparation activities to support your academic qualifications.

We have high expectations of our students and insist students have a positive work ethic, excellent attitude, attendance, punctuality, and behaviour records. If you have these attributes, you will succeed at Trinity Academy Sixth Form.

Making the right choice about where to continue your studies after Year 11 is a very important decision. Trinity Academy Sixth Form is a steppingstone to your future, and it is vital you choose the place that is the right fit for you.

The pathways we offer are:

A Level Pathway (2-year course)
This route gives you the opportunity to study 3 A Level subjects and requires a minimum of 5 GCSE passes mostly at grades 9 to 5 (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics at grade 4 or above. These courses are assessed with final exams at the end of the 2-year course.

Combination Pathway (2-year course)
This route gives you the opportunity to pick 3 subjects but allows you to mix A Levels with Vocational courses and is a very popular pathway for many students. This pathway requires a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at 9 to 5 (or equivalent). English and Mathematics at grade 4 or above is expected.

Vocational Pathway (2-year course)
This is a Vocational only route where you will study 3 BTEC or CTEC qualifications and you will need a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at 9 to 4 (or equivalent). English and Mathematics at grade 4 or above is expected.

Level 2 Pathway (1-year course)
On this course, you will study a range of Level 2 qualifications blended with community-based placements that you source yourself. This will help you move onto your chosen career to lead into Vocational Level 3 courses. Typically, you will have achieved GCSEs at mostly grade 4 to 3. This route allows you to study GCSE Mathematics and/or English Language alongside other BTEC courses.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Gillatt or a member of the Sixth Form Team.

Colleges and Training Providers

Colleges and Training Providers aim to provide every opportunity to ensure you achieve the right skills and qualifications. They offer a wide range of specialist skills and facilities and usually offer BTECs or vocational qualifications which focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which can include:

Army Foundation College, Harrogate – Junior Soldier training and other pathways – https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/our-schools-and-colleges/afc-harrogate/

Askham Bryan College, York – Courses in Animal Care, Agriculture, Equine Studies, Horticulture and Engineering – https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/

Bishop Burton College, Beverley - Courses in Agriculture, Animal Management, Equine Studies and Floristry - www.bishopburton.ac.uk

UTC Doncaster – Specialise in Engineering and also offer A-Levels - https://www.doncasterutc.co.uk/

Learning Curve Group - Health and Beauty, Doncaster – Courses in Beauty Therapy, Professional Make-up and Sports Massage - Learning Curve Group | Hair, Beauty and Barbering

Requirements:

Entry Level/Level 1 – Can require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade).

Level 2 – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3/D or above.

Level 3 – Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above.

After you have completed your course, you may be able to move on to further courses at the next level, higher education, an apprenticeship, or employment.

How do I pay for post-16 education and training?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help students from low-income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

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Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

Useful Links:

https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/raising-the-participation-age

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships – Involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship). Apprenticeships must be at least one year long, and all apprentices must be paid a minimum of £7.55 per hour (although many companies pay more!). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries including **Engineering, Graphic Design, Software Development, Hair and Beauty and Catering** (and can be started as soon as an individual turn 16 and has left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand).

Apprenticeships come in four different levels:

- **Intermediate/Level 2** (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Mathematics/English at GCSE.
- **Advanced/Level 3** (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+.
- **Higher/Level 4-5** (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires Level 3 or A-Levels.
- **Degree/Level 6-7** (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar.

Traineeships – Opportunity for students aged 16-24 who do not have the relevant qualifications, experience, or skills to start an apprenticeship but are interested in progressing on to one in the future. Traineeships involve a programme of up to six months of study, including a work placement, qualifications in Mathematics and English and support with finding a job or apprenticeship once the course is completed. Students are not paid.

Local Apprenticeship Information:

ASK ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS **https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk**

GO CONSTRUCT **https://www.goconstruct.org**

Amazing Apprenticeships **https://amazingapprenticeships.com**

Other useful links:

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships
- http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/

Post-16 options process: How does it work?

Year 11 students should begin applying for their post-16 options after they have had their pathway assemblies, taster days and their first progression interviews when they will be seen by a member of the sixth form team. The application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year. Here is a projected timeline:

- October: Sixth Form Open Evening
- October: Careers Fair
- December: 1st Progression Interview with Miss Gillatt Head of Sixth Form/Miss Laurence Assistant Head of Sixth Form
- March: 2nd Progression Interview with Miss Gillatt Head of Sixth Form/Miss Laurence Assistant Head of Sixth Form
- July: Sixth Form Taster Day
- August: GCSE Results Day – Place confirmed, or options re-assessed.

It is important for students to assess all of the different pathways available to them after Year 11. It is also important for students to have more than one option. When making important post 16 decisions, students are faced with many factors which can change or completely disregard their decision.

Trinity Academy Sixth Form – Students who want to join Trinity Academy Sixth Form will be seen by a member of the sixth form team during the progression interview process. They will then be sent an offer, which will detail what the grade, attendance and attainment requirements are by the school. Application is online via the website.

There are different ways for students to apply for sixth form, college and apprenticeships which can be seen below:
Other Sixth Form and College Websites – Some colleges have online application forms on their websites.
Google Forms – Some colleges/sixth form colleges use google forms from their website as an application form.

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Entry Requirements: What do I need to get in?

New grading structure	Current grading structure
A* A	9 8 7
 5 4	B C
D E F G	
3 2 1	
U	U

The recent changes to the GCSE grading system have confused some people so take a look at the information below to make sure you know what grades you might need to get at GCSE in order to move on to your chosen destination after Year 11.

Key Points:

A grade 4 is a standard pass, while a grade 5 is a strong pass.

Only around 2-3% of students will achieve a grade 9, making it a little higher than the old A*.

Although the new grades don't exactly match the old grades, colleges will mostly view them as follows:

9-7=A*-A, 6=B, 5-4=C, 3-1=D or below.

Vocational qualifications like BTEC and VCERT match up with GCSEs as follows:

L1= GCSE grades 1-3 (Pass-Distinction)

L2= GCSE grades 4-9 (Pass-Distinction)

Most colleges, sixth form and apprenticeships accept the BTEC qualifications, as do 95% of Universities, including Russel Group and Oxford.

Do your research!

No matter what you read online, it is important to check all information carefully. Although the Department for Education have stated that a Grade 4 will be considered the official 'Pass Mark' for students (https://www.tes.com/news/new-gcse-pass-lowered-grade-5-4-dfe-u-turn), not all colleges or universities may agree with this. For example, Kings College London and UCL both now ask for a Grade 5 at GCSE in English and Mathematics as part of their entry requirements, but Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool (all Russell Group universities) still consider Grade 4 the equivalent to a C.

Use ALL of the information available!

As stated above, different post-16 and post-18 pathways may ask for different entry requirements depending on the course and/or college. For example, some apprenticeships require only GCSE English and Mathematics at Grade 3 (D) and above, while some sixth form colleges ask for a Grade 5/6 (high C/B) in the subject students want to take up from GCSE to A-Level. Using the following websites can help you to find the exact entry requirements you need:

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UCAS - www.ucas.com/further-education

Labour Market Information - Employment sectors: South Yorkshire Labour Market Information - South Yorkshire MCA (southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk)

OfS Uni Connect Programme

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Qualification Level Guide

L6	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 + L6)
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)
L5	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc) / HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc) / HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)	Higher/Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 + L5)
L4	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma
L3	A-Levels	L3 Diploma / Extended Diploma (BTEC or other) / Access to HE courses	Advanced Apprenticeship (NVQ L3)
Entry Grades Needed:	Usually 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher, including Maths and English	5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually at least 3-5 GCSEs (but sometimes no formal qualifications)
L2	GCSEs (grades 9-4)	L2 National / BTEC Diploma / Functional Skills	Intermediate Apprenticeship (NVQ L2)
Entry Grades Needed:	None	3-4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually none, although sometimes GCSE Maths and English and a skills test
L1	GCSEs (grades 3-1)	L1 Diploma / Functional Skills	Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None (sometimes basic Maths and English)	None
Entry Level 3	Key Stage 3	E3 Diploma (Foundation)	–
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None	-
	School / 6th Form	College / Further Education	Apprenticeships

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How do I make my final decision about post-16?

Making a decision about where to go after Year 11 can be tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams, so it is important to consider the following factors which can help with decision making:

- **Where can this option take me in the future?** If you are thinking about a destination after post-16 such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress onto these pathways.
- **Use websites like: Which University** (www.u/niversity.which.co.uk/) or **Success at School** (www.successatschool.org/) to find out whether the course you want to do after Year 11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do afterwards or speak with staff at the sixth form, college or apprenticeship you are applying to in order to get further details!

For example:

- If you want to study Dentistry at university, you usually need to take A-Levels in Chemistry and Biology/Mathematics/Physics.
- Some universities do not accept BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (although 95% do!)
- Apprenticeships have varying entry requirements – some ask for 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above while others ask for 2-3 A-Levels.

- **What will studying this option be like?** Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you. Why not…

  - Speak to sixth form or college staff and students at one of the many Open Days or Open Evenings that take place throughout the year – the websites for each sixth form or college will have these dates on but you can also use www.opendays.com/ to help make your search easier!

  - Research more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organisation can provide you with while you are studying e.g., help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, assistance from the careers team to help you move on after finishing your course etc. Sixth form and college websites have all the information you need!

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Want to get prepared over the summer holidays?

UCAS Progress

Search for courses you are interested in doing after Year 11 and check the entry requirements.

www.ucas.com/further-education

Amazing Apprenticeships

Online resources to help you navigate the fast-changing world of apprenticeships and vocational education.

www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Careerpilot

Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships, and university.
www.careerpilot.org.uk

LifeSkills
Created with BARCLAYS

Improve your employability skills and start recording your experiences in a CV.

www.barclayslifeskills.com

start

Online resource that will help your child connect with their future career potential, develop their employability and help them to explore future career and study options at school or at home.

www.startprofile.com

National Careers Service
Helping you take the next step

Use the tools to help you with your choices on careers, training and work. Whatever your situation, there's something to help.
https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Don't forget – The Useful Information Section on the Trinity Academy Careers website has lots of links to more websites and lots more on the subject of Careers.

If you want any more information on careers, please speak to Mrs Anderson or Mrs Garnett. All year 11 students will have a 1:1 Careers Appointment with either Mrs Anderson or Mrs Garnett.